

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Turgut Ozal, President of Turkey
PARTICIPANTS: The President
Turgut Ozal, President
Notetaker: Jane Holl, NSC Staff
DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 9, 1991, 6:39 - 6:49 p.m.
The Oval Office

The President: Hey, Turgut, how are you? (U)

President Ozal: Fine, thank you, George. (U)

The President: Where did I get you. Are you in Ankara? (U)

President Ozal: No, in Marmaris. (U)

The President: Oh, you are lucky. Have you got one minute to let me tell you what the problem is? (C)

President Ozal: Yes. (U)

The President: OK, I'm calling about the question of Cyprus. Let me go through a couple of points. I know this is late, but evidently the preparations for the Cyprus meeting that you proposed have stalled out in discussions between the UN negotiator and Denktash and, as I understand it, the two were discussing a draft framework agreement which embodies compromises that Turkey could accept and other parties. This was the way it was explained to me. (C)

President Ozal: I think the main point, as I understand it, is the Turkish Cypriots would like to see the other side accept political equality and also security measures. As far as I understand, the UN representative did not answer them. (C)

The President: Well, here's the problem. We think that there is real danger that the entire enterprise could be jeopardized if Denktash rejects what has already been worked out in Ankara. I think all other parties have been flexible and so our position is that the UN draft is fair. It promises the Turkish Cypriots the kind of partnership that we all felt was needed and we've all gone out -- including yourself -- on the limb here. I'm wondering if we can just keep this man at the table. An agreement would be good for Turkey, the Alliance, U.S.-Turkish

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relations and clearly for Cyprus. I hate to see the talks derailed. I would like you to talk to Denktash and get him to sit there and try to work this matter out. (C)

President Ozal: I'll do my best. Unfortunately, tomorrow afternoon the Prime Minister is going to Paris. He is going to meet Mr. Mitsotakis. Can I answer you after he talks to Mitsotakis? (C)

The President: If you would let me know. But the big thing is to keep Denktash talking. (C)

President Ozal: Yes. I'm going to invite him to Turkey. He asked to talk to me. Then I will invite him and try to get him to the table. He's not an easy man. (C)

The President: I understand that. Please tell Yilmaz -- give him my warm personal regards -- and if you agree, you might also tell him that I called to ask the two of you to help. I don't want Yilmaz to think I'm going around him. I called for you and for him. I'd appreciate it if you would tell him that. (C)

President Ozal: George, one more point I want to make. We are coming to an election on the 20th. It will be an earlier election than we had estimated. This was decided just last month. Let's assume we are going... (C)

(break in telephone conversation)

President Ozal: We were cut. (U)

The President: I got cut off when you were talking about elections. (C)

President Ozal: You see, the elections will be on the 20th. There may be a problem during the election campaign, but may I suggest the following. I am going to talk to Yilmaz who is going to talk to Mitsotakis in Paris the day after tomorrow. I'll also call Denktash from my place here and try to talk. I will suggest Yilmaz also make some pressure and we will do our best. I will know after I talk to Denktash and Mitsotakis. I'll answer you then. (C)

The President: Thank you very much. Thank you for trying. (C)

President Ozal: Another point. May be you can help us. At the end of this month, there is a European meeting, a meeting of the Turkish European Community Association. If you help us on this matter, which they should start some new programs with Turkey that they propose, but Greece is blocking this and if you put some pressure, maybe that will help us in the election. They are going to make this new program with Turkey. Not membership, just a funding program. We've been waiting almost one and a half years. (C)

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The President: Let me see if we can help, because, you know, our position is that we think Turkey should be a full member. ~~(C)~~

President Ozal: If you are willing, it may help us in the election. ~~(C)~~

The President: We will try hard on that. We'll intervene as best we can. ~~(C)~~

President Ozal: Thank you. (U)

The President: It's been nice talking to you. (U)

President Ozal: Everything is all right. We will work hard. Don't worry. ~~(C)~~

The President: Some time when we get some time, let's talk about Iraq. ~~(C)~~

President Ozal: Yes, there are problems. (U)

The President: Yes. We'll talk. May be next week we can have a conversation. (U)

President Ozal: OK. Good-bye. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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