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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

December 16, 1991

**SIGNED**

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

FROM: JANE E. HOLD 

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey.

Attached at Tab A is the Memorandum of Telephone Conversation which took place on December 5, 1991, between the President and Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey.

Concurrence by: David Gompert 

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I transmitting the Memorandum of Telephone Conversation at Tab A.

That the attached Memorandum of Telephone conversation be filed for the record.

Approve    Disapprove

Attachment

Tab I Sitmann's memo to Pearson  
Tab A Telcon

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC 3.5(B)  
WHITE HOUSE GUIDELINES, AUGUST 28, 1997  
BY JSZ NARA, DATE 8/30/00

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey  
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey  
Interpreter: None  
Notetaker: Jane E. Holl

DATE, TIME: December 5, 1991, 8:00 - 8:10 am  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Mr. Prime Minister, how are you? I just wanted to call and congratulate you on your election and discuss a few things if you have time. (U)

Prime Minister Demirel: Thank you, Mr. President, I'm very happy to hear from you. (U)

The President: Well, a lot has happened since we last met in Istanbul. You've had elections. And I want to tell you, from our view here, I want to congratulate you on the smooth transition and to congratulate you on your new position. In these times of so much change, your experience will serve you well. (U)

I'd like to take up a couple of issues, if you have a moment: specifically, the extension of Provide Comfort II, and the endless discussions on Cyprus. But first I want you to know that the United States greatly values its relationship with Turkey, and we have been expanding that relationship. We look forward to working with you and your government both to broaden and to deepen the historic ties that bind our two countries together.

On Provide Comfort, as you know, we've begun discussions with you and our French and British allies regarding this operation to extend it for an additional six months. This operation has been key as a demonstration of what we see as genuine humanitarian concern as well as an invaluable deterrent to the threat posed by Saddam Hussein. We believe that Provide Comfort forces keep the pressure on that man, and their continued presence throughout the winter, we believe, will prevent refugee flows which would be catastrophic, as I'm sure you would agree. We think Turkish cooperation is of urgent importance to the success of this

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operation, and I feel confident you will give this issue careful consideration. (S)

Then, if I might turn to the Cyprus issue, after which I'd like to hear your thoughts. On Cyprus, I know you share my view that this problem has plagued your relations with Greece -- and at times your relations with other European countries -- for far too long. And so the UNSYG's efforts again to find a framework for agreement has yielded what we think are excellent results. We still have confidence in the UN role. We have felt that the situation had never been closer to a lasting settlement. An agreement would be good for Turkey as well as for the Turkish Cypriots. I know it would be good for Turkey internationally -- you would have to determine the domestic side, but I know the international results would be very good for Turkey. And I want you to know that we're available for discussions. I continue to believe that with good faith efforts on the part of all the parties, the high-level meeting that we've been talking about can still be held sometime early in the next year. (S)

Prime Minister Demirel: First, Mr. President, it's very kind of you to call with these messages. I will give very deep consideration to what you have said. We are just getting started here -- we're just beginning to talk. On the first issue you raise, I will have to get more information. But I want you to be assured that we will keep our relations between us the same. We'll keep our relations intact. They're very good relations -- important to Turkey and important to the United States. In the next couple of weeks, I'll give due consideration to what you have said. (S)

The President: Well, please make it a favorable consideration. But I really called, the main purpose, is to pledge to you our cooperation from here. You know our top team -- Scowcroft and Baker and my top experts -- we have a lot to work in common with you and we intend to work closely with your government, as I said, to move our relationship forward. I agree that it's an important one. I'm thinking of issues such as trade and in Europe. I understand that you are still in transition. Where did I reach you, in Ankara? (S)

Prime Minister Demirel: Yes, I'm in Ankara. I will go shortly to southern Turkey to survey the situation there. And we will get back to you in the next couple of weeks. But we're just getting started. Don't worry Mr. President, we will do the right thing. Thank you for calling me. (S)

The President: Well, we should stay in touch. Good luck to you.  
(U)

-- End of Conversation --

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