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The Daily Turkish Ultimatum on Cyprus Threatens Talks

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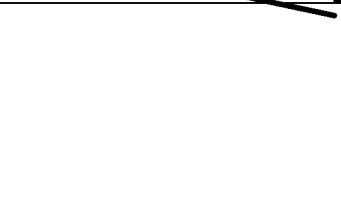
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## Turkish Ultimatum on Cyprus Threatens Talks

Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit, speaking in Ankara last night, said Greece had 24 hours to accept new Turkish proposals for the constitutional future of Cyprus. These proposals would divide Cyprus into small ethnic political units—cantons—but would retain the concept of two autonomous ethnic administrations within a federation. Until yesterday, Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots had insisted on the division of the island into two

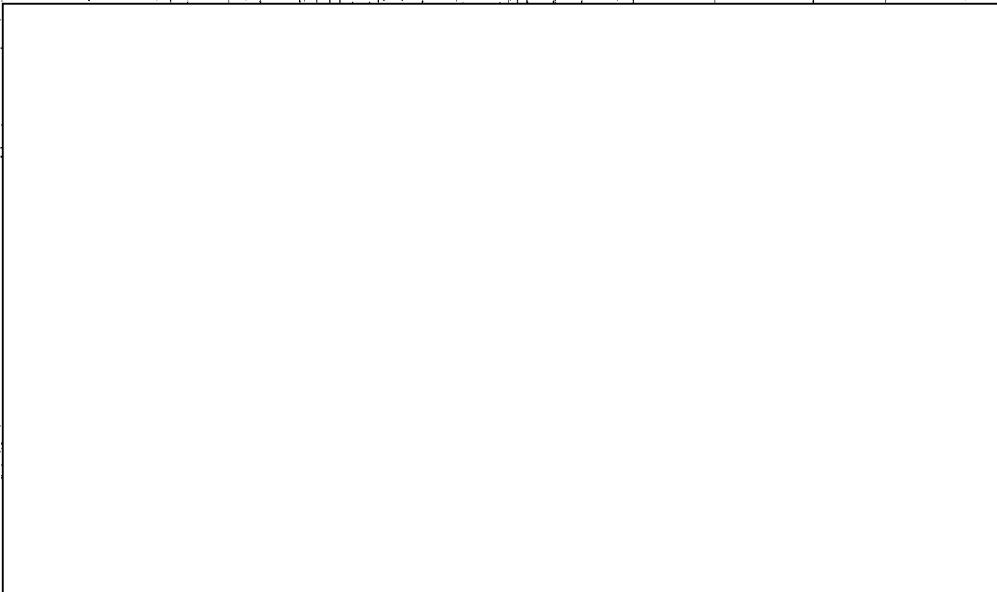
federal states under a weak central government.

Yesterday evening Turkish Foreign Minister Gunes delivered the ultimatum to British Foreign Secretary Callaghan. Turkey must be given immediate administration over its major canton—the area between Kyrenia and Famagusta. Agreement must also be reached to negotiate the size and boundaries of five other cantons—around Paphos, Polis, Lefka, Lanarka

and Karavas—ultimately giving Turkish Cypriots control over one third of the island. Gunes told Callaghan he had “iron-clad” instructions from Ankara to get agreement on these points at the tripartite meeting scheduled for 10 p.m. last night.

Greek Cypriot leader Clerides and Greek Foreign Minister Mavros announced that they would not attend last night’s talks. Callaghan persuaded Gunes to accept a postponement of the meeting until this morning, but Gunes told reporters that, if the Turkish proposals are not accepted at today’s meeting, “the Geneva talks will be over.”

After talking to Gunes and Callaghan  
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# Cyprus . . .

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ghan last night, US Secretary Hartman reported his conclusion that the Turks appear to be bent on breaking up the conference. Callaghan told Hartman that acceptance of the Turkish proposals would mean the end of Clerides and, possibly, a right-wing military coup in Greece. Acceptance was therefore out of the question.

Callaghan further reported that Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash was extremely upset over Turkey's intransigence. Denktash called the mainland Turks "insane," and cautioned Callaghan that the Turkish army would not hesitate to fire even on UN troops if they got in the way.

Gunes explained the Turkish position to Hartman by saying that Turkish politicians can no longer withstand intense domestic popular pressures. He was evasive when pressed on what Turkey would do if Clerides rejects the proposals today.

On the assumption that the Turks have decided to break off the talks, Secretary Hartman suggests three possible Turkish courses of action. They may intend to:

- Initiate unilateral military action.
- Aggravate tensions until an "incident" provides provocation for further military action.
- Threaten to leave NATO or act unilaterally in hopes that they can elicit a strong effort by the US to help them get what they want.

Hartman concludes that the frame of mind in Ankara is extremely dangerous. Either Ecevit is disregarding the negative aspects of the longer-term picture, or he is so weak that popular and military pressures have proven too much for him.

In Nicosia, the UK High Commissioner yesterday continued to express serious concern that the Turks might move militarily. He plans to begin an informal and low-keyed evacuation—to avoid spreading panic among the Greek Cypriots—of British women and children from the Nicosia area. They will be taken to the British base areas and, later, back to the UK.

## Turks Eye Soviets

At home, the Turkish armed forces are still in an advanced state of readiness, but have given no evidence that they plan any immediate military move. Turkish troops in and around Istanbul reportedly were moved into defensive positions on the Black Sea coast last week. The shift may have been a reaction to reports from Athens that the Soviets had pledged to assist Greece if Turkey threatened to invade. The Greeks have since denied that any pledge was received.

Turkish concern about its northern flank has grown as the Soviet Union has seemed to move closer to supporting Greek views on Cyprus and away from an earlier partiality toward Turkey. A high-level Turkish diplomat is being dispatched to Moscow with instructions to allay Soviet concern that Turkey is planning the partition of Cyprus. The mission will also give the Turks a chance to evaluate the Soviet position.

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