



Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED 3087

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02972 151308Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISC-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACOA-10
 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01
 DODE-00 H-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04
 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 INT-05 FEAE-00 OFA-01 OLOS-05

/119 W

014906

R 151153Z APR 75
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807
 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
 AMCONSUL ADANA
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
 AMCONSUL IZMIR
 USMISSION NATO
 USMISSION USUN
 CINCUSAFE
 EUCOM

UNCLAS ANKARA 2972

F.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
 SUBJ: PRIMIN DEMIREL'S COMMENTS ON TURKISH-GREEK
 RELATIONS AND US MILITARY AID CUTOFF

REF: ANKARA 2945

SUMMARY: TURKISH PRIMIN SOLEYMAN DEMIREL, IN THREE
 SEPARATE STATEMENTS REPORTED IN THE APRIL 15 TURKISH PRESS,
 AMONG OTHER TOPICS COMMENTED ON (A) GREEK-PRIMIN CARAMANLIS'
 REPORTED REMARKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE FRENCH DAILY LE MONDE
 AND (B) THE CUTOFF OF US MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. DEMIREL SAID

UNCLASSIFIED

YY



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02972 151308Z

HIS FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE CARAMANLIS INTERVIEW WAS THAT GREECE HAD CHOSEN THE PATH OF INCREASING THE ALREADY EXISTING CRISIS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE DESCRIBED THE CUT OFF OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS A "HOSTILE STAND" WHICH MUST BE CHANGED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM A TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) REPORTER ABOUT CARAMANLIS INTERVIEW, DEMIREL SAID:

BEGIN QUOTE. I HAVE SEEN THE STATEMENT GIVEN BY GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO LE MONDE NEWSPAPER. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT GREECE INTENDS TO ACT WITHIN EXCEEDINGLY DANGEROUS AND DEVIOUS CALCULATIONS. WHILE ON THE ONE HAND THEY EXPRESS ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS THAT THEY INTEND TO SOLVE THE EXISTING AND AS YET UNSOLVED PROBLEMS BETWEEN US THROUGH PEACEFUL WAYS, WE, TURKEY, HAVE TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSEQUENCES THAT WILL ENSUE FROM THIS STANCE, IF THEY, ON THE OTHER HAND, TAKE DANGEROUS PATHS. THIS STATEMENT OF GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAS A TENDENCY TO DRAG THE GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONS TOWARD A NEW AND IRREVOCABLE CRISIS. EVEN THOUGH WE NEVER WANT TO MAKE SUCH AN ASSESSMENT, WE UNFORTUNATELY FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY OTHER APPRAISAL. WE EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME THAT WE WANT TO RAISE OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE TO A LEVEL SUITING THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. WE ANNOUNCED THAT THE PROBLEMS SPOILING THE RELATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND AWAITING URGENT SOLUTION CAN BE TACKLED WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE AND GOODWILLED APPROACH, IF WE OBSERVE ACTUAL SIGNS THAT THIS THOUGHT OF OURS IS SUPPORTED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE OF A CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE SUITABLE FOR THE CREATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE NECESSARY FOR THE SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS. THE FIRST IMPRESSION WHICH THIS STATEMENT HAS EVOKED IN US IS THAT THE PATH IN

CREASING THE ALREADY EXISTING CRISIS IN THE RELATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IS CHOSEN. IT IS SEEN THAT THIS PATH IS CHOSEN BY GREECE, NOT TURKEY. IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT BETWEEN THE LINES OF HIS STATEMENT WHAT HIS OBJECTIVE WAS IN DOING THIS. IF THIS STANCE DRAGS TURKEY AND GREECE INTO AN INEVITABLE AND DANGEROUS CONFRONTATIO

UNCLASSIFIED



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ANKARA 02972 151308Z

N
AND SUCH A SITUATION ARISES, TURKEY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. IF THE GREEK ARMING OF THE ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN -- WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN A DEMILITARIZED STATUS BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS -- WITH THE PRETEXT THAT TURKEY CHERISHES AGGRESSIVE AMBITIONS, IS AIMED AT THE REALIZATION OF OTHER OBJECTIVES, IT IS OUR DUTY TO POINT OUT THAT GREECE IS MAKING A GREAT MISTAKE OF JUDGEMENT. TURKEY WILL PROTECT HER RIGHTS AND INTERESTS IN THE AEGEAN SEA WITH GREAT CARE AND WILL NOT (RPT NOT) ALLOW THEM TO BE VIOLATED. THE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THESE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS THROUGH TORTUOUS WAYS AND PARTICULARLY THE DESIRE TO EXERCISE PRESSURE THROUGH OTHER STATES WILL SERVE NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN TO GAIN FOR THE CONFLICT DANGEROUS DIMENSIONS. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS ITS DESIRE TO TACKLE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WITH A RATIONAL, COOL-HEADED AND HONEST MENTALITY AND WANTS TO BELIEVE THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, WHO IN THE PAST HAS MADE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GREECO-TURKISH RELATIONS, WILL AGAIN EMBRACE SUCH A POLICY. END QUOTE.

2. DEMIREL, SPEAKING TO JOURNALISTS IN HIS OFFICE LATER IN THE DAY, SAID FURTHER:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE QUESTION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE HAS BEEN DRAWN OUT IN CATEGORIC LINES IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED A CONFIRMATION OF THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE MILITARY BUILD-UP ON THE AEGEAN ISLANDS. HOWEVER, SUCH A BUILD-UP IS NOTHING NEW. THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS. VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENTS GAINS NO ONE ANYTHING. END QUOTE.

3. IN A SEPARATE STATEMENT PUBLISHED BY THE MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY HURRIYET, THE PRIMIN ALSO MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. US MILITARY AID CUT OFF. "WE CONSIDER THE EMBARGO A HOSTILE STAND. IF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS DOES NOT (RPT NOT) LIFT THE EMBARGO, WE WILL INEVITABLY TAKE THE MEASURES NECESSITATED BY THE SITUATION IN THE BILATERAL DEFENSE AFFAIRS OF THE USA AND TURKEY. CERTAINLY THE EMBARGO MUST BE LIFTED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME."

UNCLASSIFIED



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ANKARA 02972 151308Z

B. TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS. DEMIREL SAID TURKEY IS "DECISIVELY OPPOSED" TO GREECE'S INCREASING ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN TO TWELVE MILES, ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF GREECE CREATES A DE FACTO SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN, HE SAID, " HE WHO CREATES A DE FACTO SITUATION FINDS HIMSELF UP AGAINST ANOTHER DE FACTO SITUATION." WITH REFERENCE TO OIL PROSPECTING IN THE AEGEAN, DEMIREL REMARKED THAT TURKEY WOULD FOLLOW HER RIGHTS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND WOULD DO " WHATEVER IS NECESSARY."

C. CYPRUS. DEMIREL REITERATED THAT THE TURKISH POSITION IS A "FEDERATION ON A GEOGRAPHIC BASIS" AND, HE ADDED, "TURKEY CAN NEVER SACRIFICE HER RIGHTS IN CYPRUS."
MACOMBER

UNCLASSIFIED