

Ed

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

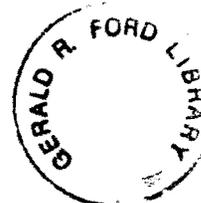
~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Gerald Ford  
 Melih Esenbel, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey  
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
 Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Friday - May 16, 1975  
 10:00 a. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office  
 The White House



Esenbel: I have been away for five months.

Kissinger: He was Foreign Minister during the caretaker government, Mr. President.

[The press came in. Photos were taken, and the press went out.]

Esenbel: I have pictures of three Presidents -- Johnson, Eisenhower and Nixon. I would like your picture in my Embassy.

The President: I would be delighted.

Esenbel: I had a session with President Koruturk before I left. He said how much he appreciated your intervention in the face of Congressional opposition. Koruturk said, "I consider him one of those American Presidents who bases his action on principle -- like Truman." We like a friend who stands on principle so we know who will stand by us in case of difficulty.

The President: I feel strongly about this. I think Congress was wrong and I will stand by you so long as I am here.

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger  
 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(B) (1, 3)  
 AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to determine

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

DECLASSIFIED  
 E.O. 13526, SEC. 3.5  
 NSC MEMO, PARAGR. STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, STATE DEPT. 3/19/04  
 BY lca, MARA. DATE 5/14/04

Esenbel: He is distressed about how Turkish public opinion took the action that was taken against us. This act is seen as unacceptable to us. Even sales of arms we paid for were stopped.

There is much pressure in Turkey -- people saying we are a great nation, we have been humiliated and we must do something. I had to do some criticizing of you to relieve the pressure, but I did my best to contain it.

The most important aspect was the man in the street is beginning to doubt the credibility of the United States. That is very bad. I have been explaining to the leaders of both parties these feelings.

The present government is moderate. Demirel I know well. No one wants to take action against the United States. We are being pushed into that corner. We have to find a way out.

The President: I met yesterday with Senator Mansfield. They think they can get the bill through the Senate on Monday. My people are working on the doubtful ones and I will call them up as necessary. Hopefully we will have it through the Senate Monday.

Esenbel: That is very good news. And the House?

The President: That will after the recess.

Kissinger: The President will be meeting in Brussels with Demirel.

Esenbel: I will be there too.

The most important thing is to restore our good relations. Cyprus is not the problem. Cyprus can be solved -- but not with artificial deadlines.

Kissinger: The February 5 deadline was a disaster. The Greeks wouldn't give because that would avoid an arms ban; the Turks wouldn't give in because it would appear as yielding under pressure.

Esenbel: I know that if this thing is relieved, Demirel will make a big effort to be flexible. But he wants to be able to say the Turkish-American relationship is not in trouble.



The President: That is why we want this legislation through the Senate -- with as big as vote as possible. Then, after the recess and our talks in Brussels, we can get the House to act.

Esenbel: Yes, it would be very helpful.

[The meeting ended.]



P/E summit/K  
16 May 75

E I have a way for 5 mos  
K He was for

Press in  
Press out

E I want some pictures of 3 Pres - Johnson, LBJ, Wilson  
I would like your picture in my Embassy

\* P I would be delighted

E I had a session w/ Korutamb. He said how  
much he appreciated your intervention in a  
face of Cong opposition. Koo said I consider  
him one of those US Pres who know his actions  
on principle - like Truman, one like  
friend who stand on principle so we know  
who will stand by us in case of a by.

P I feel strongly. I think Cong was wrong & I will  
stand by you so long as I am here

E He ~~is~~ declared how public opinion took  
action against us. This act is seen as  
as unacceptable to us. I was ~~sure~~ we paid for  
was stopped.

There is much pressure - saying we a great  
nation, we humiliated & we must do something.  
I had to do some criticizing to relieve pressure but  
I did my best.

Most important aspect was a man in a street  
is beginning to doubt cred. of US. That my  
bad. I have been explaining to a number of with  
parties these feelings.

Pres Govt is moderate. Desired I know well.



as C in C. Give them 36 hrs.

We are unable to take action against US, we are being pushed into that corner. We have to find a way out.

P I went yesterday w/ Mansfield. They ~~say~~ think they can get a bill thru a Senate on Monday. My people are watching me doubtful and I will call as necessary. Hopefully we will have it thru a Senate Monday.

E Very good news. And the House?

P That will be a mess.

K How will he vote in House w/ Daniel

E He will be there too.

The most important thing is to restore our good relations. Cyprus is not a war. Cyprus can be solved - but not w/ ~~artificial~~ artificial deadlines.

K The Feb 5 deadline was a disaster. Greeks wouldn't give because it would avoid a <sup>ban</sup> ~~ban~~; Turks wouldn't because it would appear <sup>yielding</sup> ~~yielding~~ under pressure.

E I know that if this thing is solved, Daniel will make a big effort to be flex. But he wants to be able to say to our relationship not in words.

P That's why we want this by the Senate - w/ big a vote as possible. Then, after news & can talk in House we can get House to act.

E Yes, it would be very helpful.