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EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. YOU SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK IN THE MANNER YOU DEEM MOST APPROPRIATE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR PRESIDENT: I AM ISSUING A PUBLIC STATEMENT TODAY TO EXPRESS MY BELIEF THAT THE ACTION BY CONGRESS SUSPENDING MILITARY AID TO TURKEY IS CONTRARY TO THE VITAL INTERESTS OF BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES, AND COULD AFFECT THE POLITICAL STABILITY AND WELL BEING OF ALL THE STATES IN THE REGION. ACCORDINGLY, I WILL BE SEEKING ACTION BY CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE THE RESUMPTION OF OUR MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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3. THE DEEP FEELING WITH WHICH THIS ACTION IS VIEWED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF TURKEY IS WELL UNDERSTOOD IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE TIES WITH OUR TURKISH ALLY ARE HIGHLY VALUED. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I AM CONFIDENT THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO REMOVE THE CAUSE OF OUR CURRENT

CONCERN. I URGE THEREFORE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY JOIN US IN EXERCISING RESTRAINT WHILE MAJOR EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY TO RESTORE MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

4. OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE STOOD TOGETHER AS ALLIES FOR A GENERATION AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WILL BE OVERCOME AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL PROSPER FOR MANY YEARS IN THE FUTURE. -SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD.
END TEXT. KISSINGER

NOTE BY ANALYST: CCO PASS COPY TO OFFLINE FOR PROCESSING.

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT FORD

REF: STATE 26015

1. TUESDAY AFTERNOON (FEBRUARY 11) I MET WITH FONMIN ESENBEL AT LATTER'S REQUEST. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DELIVERY PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT MESSAGE (HEFTEL). ESENBEL SAID THAT TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS BEING SUPPLIED WITH COPY OF THIS MESSAGE BUT THAT HE WAS USING US EMBASSY IN ANKARA AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS THE OFFICIAL CHANNEL TO TRANSMIT THIS REPLY. ESENBEL SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK THIS MORNING AND FOUND HIM DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE ACTIONS THE CONGRESS HAD TAKEN AND BY THE BITTERNESS IT HAS ENGENERED HERE. ESENBEL ADDED THAT "I MUST TELL YOU THAT HE IS REALLY DEEPLY DISTRESSED OVER THE DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN ONE TO THE BASIC RELATIONSHIP."

2. THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S REPLY (DATED ANKARA, FEBRUARY 11, 1975) FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 5TH, 1975. I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES WHO HAVE STOOD AS ALLIES FOR A GENERATION MUST OVERCOME THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. I ASSURE YOU THAT MY EFFORTS WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THAT END, BUT WE CANNOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE

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ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY THE RECENT ACTION OF THE CONGRESS IS NOT OF A NATURE TO RENDER SUCH A TASK EASY.

AS ANTICIPATED, THE SUSPENSION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY HAS CREATED A DEEP FEELING OF GENERAL DISAPPOINTMENT IN TURKEY. THIS DISAPPOINTMENT IS ALL THE MORE PROFOUND SINCE SUCH AN ACTION COMES FROM A COUNTRY ALWAYS CONSIDERED BY TURKEY AS AN ESTEEMED AND ENTRUSTED ALLY AND TO WHOM TURKEY HAS NEVER FAILED TO EXTEND ITS MOST SINCERE COOPERATION FOR THE COMMON PURPOSE OF PEACE AND SECURITY. THE SUSPENSION OF MILITARY AID, WHICH IN ITS PRESENT FORM AMOUNTS TO A COMPLETE ARMS EMBARGO, CAN HARDLY BE CONSTRUED AS COMPATIBLE WITH THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH MUST EXIST BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WHO, IN ADDITION TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SAME ALLIANCE, ALSO MAINTAIN CLOSE BILATERAL COOPERATION FOR COMMON DEFENSE. THIS ACTION NOT ONLY SERIOUSLY WEAKENS THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF TURKEY, TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE ALLIED SECURITY AS WELL, BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, ALSO CREATES A FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION BY CASTING DOUBTS AS TO THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF TURKEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR MUTUAL UNDERTAKINGS.

I HAVE ALWAYS APPRECIATED YOUR EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE CONGRESS TO RESORT TO SUCH AN ACTION. I AM GLAD TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOW SEEKING ACTION BY CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE THE RESUMPTION OF THE SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. YET I MUST POINT OUT THAT THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH HANGED OVER THE FATE OF MILITARY AID DURING THE PAST MONTHS THROUGH CONDITIONAL AND TEMPORARY RESOLUTIONS AND NOW ITS TOTAL SUSPENSION, BESIDES THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IT INVOLVED, HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IN ITS ENDEAVORS TO KEEP UNDISTURBED THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

HOWEVER, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL TRY ITS BEST SO THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES EMERGE FROM THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE ACTION OF THE CONGRESS WITH AS LESS DAMAGE AS POSSIBLE. SINCERELY, FAHRI S. KORUTURK.
UNQUOTE.
MACOMBER

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