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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALTELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR HUMPHREY

Thursday, September 7, 1976

From: Brent Scowcroft *BS*I. PURPOSE

To reemphasize the importance of Congressional approval of the U.S. Turkish Defense Cooperation Agreement and your support for hearings this month on the Agreement before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

II. BACKGROUND

You submitted the US-Turkish Defense Cooperation Agreement for Congressional approval (by Joint Resolution) on June 16, 1976. Since that time no action has been taken in either the House or Senate and no hearings are scheduled. A Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff delegation recently visited Turkey and was unable to make a recommendation concerning when to hold hearings. It appears unlikely that the DCA will be approved before Congress adjourns in October.

The reasons for Congressional inaction include: Greek-American pressure against U.S. military assistance to Turkey, stalemate on the Cyprus issue, the Aegean dispute, and slow progress on the companion Greek DCA. (We had hoped to conclude and submit both agreements to the Congress at roughly the same time in order to dissipate strong opposition to the Turkish DCA, but the Greek negotiators are dragging their feet, in part, perhaps, to add to the difficulties of the Turkish agreement.)

In the meantime, the Government of Turkey continues to ask when hearings on the DCA can be expected. The State Department believes that we should press for hearings with Administration witnesses before the October adjournment in order to offer a positive gesture which the Turkish Government needs for domestic political considerations. Secretary Kissinger testified to this effect in closed session last week. Senator Humphrey's subcommittee has set aside September 15 for hearings on Turkey should the Senator so decide. Senator Humphrey has stated, however, that he is

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4 (b)

White House Guide Lines, Feb. 24, 1983

By *WJL* NARS Date *5/17/88*

reluctant to hold a hearing unless you specifically and publicly request him to do so. (He has suggested that you call a House and Senate Leadership meeting.) While I do not believe a leadership meeting is necessary, I would recommend that you call Senator Humphrey to express your personal interest in Congressional approval of the DCA and your support for the contemplated hearings. This would permit Senator Humphrey to state that he is holding the hearing at the Administration's request. You might also reiterate your support of early Congressional approval and express similar interest in Congressional movement on the Greek agreement when it is submitted for approval.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. It is extremely important to our relations with Turkey and Turkey's future in NATO that the Congress give prompt and positive action on the Turkish Defense Cooperation Agreement.
2. A first important step is that the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Foreign Assistance hold hearings and invite Administration witnesses to testify.
3. The Turkish Government is closely watching developments on the Hill for some signs of progress.
4. On the related subject of the US-Greek negotiations, the Greeks have made a special effort to reconvene the base negotiations after a two week recess, but we are uncertain whether an acceptable agreement is possible within the next two weeks. I will forward this agreement to the Congress for its approval as soon as it is signed.
5. I think it is important to our relations with Turkey that you hold hearings on the Turkish DCA before the end of this session.

Date: September 9, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information): Jerry Jones

Jack Marsh

Max Friedersdorf *M.B.*

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:

Quick Turnaround Pls.

Time:

SUBJECT:

Recommended Telephone Conversation with
Senator Humphrey

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Connor - [initials]

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If you have any questions or if you anticipate a
delay in submitting the material requested, please
telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: September 9, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information): Jerry Jones

- ✓ Jack Marsh
- ✓ Max Friedersdorf

up 9/10

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REMARKS:

Max Friedersdorf - OK
Marsh - OK

OB E/d
RW NS 2

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

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Jim Connor
For the President