

MARCH 25, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met Wednesday afternoon with Turkish Foreign Minister Sabri Caglayangil who is in Washington to return an earlier visit by Secretary of State Kissinger to Turkey and to consult with other Administration officials, including the Secretary of Defense, and with Congressional leaders. Turkish Ambassador Esenbel, Secretary General of the Turkish Foreign Ministry Elekdag, Director General of the Turkish Foreign Ministry for International Security Affairs Ambassador Yavuzalp, Secretary of State Kissinger, U. S. Ambassador to Turkey William Macomber and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Brent Scowcroft participated in the meeting.

As you may recall, Foreign Minister Caglayangil participated in the meetings between the President and Turkish Prime Minister Demirel at the time of the NATO and Helsinki summits last year. Wednesday's meeting provided a welcome occasion to discuss bilateral and international issues of interest to the United States and Turkey. In this connection, there was a very useful and positive exchange of views on U. S. -Turkish security issues, the status of the U. S. -Turkish bases negotiations and developments relating to Cyprus.

The President and Foreign Minister noted the long-standing ties of friendship and alliance between the United States and Turkey and agreed on the importance of building on and strengthening this relationship.

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