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.
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 a 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.]
I am away from

and

I cannot have pictures of \Censor\ Johnson, the Russian

from your pictures in my Embassy.

I received the delegation.

I had a session with Kostikov. He said Knowlton was opposed your intervention in a case of long operation. Knowlton and I consider that US does not have the act now involved in this.

He said that the US hold on the act now involved in this case of spy.

I fully agree. I think long war in 

will stay by @ a long time here.

He acknowledged that the opinion took caution against us. This act is seen as as unacceptable to us. Even talks were found.

There is much pressure 

rubber, in December it was a month de 

I had to the sure caution to the Russian but

had to visit.

Most important aspect is that is bringing to direct to end of US. That my

I have been explaining the ending of both

the feeling.

I will be moderate. Demand & hours will
As in C. Can you see 36 hrs.

We are going to take action against C. We are
already pressed with that case. We have to find
a way out.

P: I went yesterday to Vancouver. They don't think
they can get a bill through Senate on Monday.
My people are working very hard and they will
call as necessary. Hopefully we will have it then.
Senate Monday.

E: Very good news. And the House?
P: That will be the easier.

K: You will be in charge of Amiel.

E: I will be there too.

The most important thing is to accept a good
settlement. Gunpowder is not a good Cyprus can be
accepted in the interests of a pragmatic deadline.

K: The First deadline was a disaster. But it could not
work because it would avoid a big issue. Now is okay
because it would appear quickly and pressure.

E: I know that if this thing is avoided, Amiel
would make a big effort to be flexible. But to want
to succeed they have to be realistic.

K: That's why we want this bill in the Senate and big
write-off as possible. They rely more on a
compromise and not in terms of act.

E: Yes, it would be very helpful