MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

President's Meeting with Republican Leadership

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, July 10, 1975

8:00 a.m.

PLACE:

The Cabinet Room
The White House

President: The first item on the agenda is important in the foreign policy field, though it isn't of concern to the Senate because they passed it by the wide margin of 41-40. But in the House the Turkish Aid Bill has run into problems with Brademas, Sarbanes, and the others. But we have had good leadership by Doc Morgan and many others on a possible compromise. It is not the whole loaf of bread, but it does release the sales they already paid for and allows commercial sales and FMS in support of NATO.

Bill's Committee is having hearings today and the bill will be on the floor the middle of next week. AHEPA is campaigning all out. Brademas says he was never consulted on this. He sat right there [points] through two meetings where we discussed exactly what we intended.

There is a deadline. Discussions with Turkey begin on 17 July on bases which are of vital interest to us. [He describes the bases]. You may have seen in the paper a \$700 million economic agreement between Turkey and the Soviet Union. If we don't move, Turkey, at the strategic eastern end of the Mediterranean, will take action to which will basically hurt NATO. The ban has done no good at all.

Broomfield: I would like to compliment you on yesterday's meeting. I heard very good comments from the members on your handling of it. You were especially good with Hayes. You should know this is a Congressional initiative. That is important to remember. Even Morgan agreed to co-sponsor it. We have no consulted with Greece

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and Turkey on this because we are trying to work something out which is of course acceptable but which also is in the best interests of the United States.

Virtually all Republicans in the Committee will support it and we will get it out.

<u>President:</u> I was asked if the Senate would support the compromise. I said I hadn't checked but I thought so.

Case: One can never account for personal quirks but I think so.

Rhodes: I agree with Broomfield. It will come out of the Committee. And I think the bill in this form will pass the House.

<u>Cederberg:</u> One of our problems is that there are lots of people who just always vote against any foreign aid.

Michel: But this is sales, not really aid.

<u>Devine:</u> One thing which worries a number of people is that Turkey has violated the poppy agreement. What about that?

President: That is not accurate. They tried a system for a couple of years which had us reimbursing farmers for not growing poppies. Turkey had domestic problems with that and has now permitted growing, but under government control and with the government controlling the harvesting and processing. Is that right?

Macomber: Yes. At the time the poppies mature to the point the gum runs, the government keeps the farmers out of the fields. The gum then hardens, the government harvests it by machinery and ships it to Europe for mechanized processing.

Anderson: Can we be assured, Mr. President, that Turkey will make concessions if we pass this?

Sisco: As the President has said, Demirel knows full well that the President has gone all out and expects some movement—that there is a commitment to movement if we do something.

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<u>Tower:</u> I think you should make clear that the United States isn't supporting Turkey from altruistic motives. This is pure and simple in the American national interest. And I think we should tell our Jewish friends that it is in Israelis strong interest to keep Turkey on our side.

<u>President:</u> We have talked to Dinitz and the Jewish leaders. I think they understand the situation now. Rosenthal and some others were way out in front last fall but have now seemed to see the light.

<u>Vice President:</u> I wonder. I am not sure that they don't see this issue as once which diverts your attention and Secretary Kissinger's and prevents you both from concentrating on the Middle East issues. So I wonder if they are not stimulating this for these reasons.

<u>President:</u> I must admit I have not seen any objective results from their supposed change of line.

Case: I don't believe they are that Machiavellian. No one in the Jewish community has ever suggested to me that I should not go all out on this issue. I don't think the Vice President is right. Hugh has a sensitive antenna here and I think it would support that.

Vice President: I hope you are correct.

Scott: I think so. The Greeks have sent a very attractive lady member of Parliament over here to work us over. Eagleton has her in tow. [Laughter]

Cederberg: I don't think we should be so sanguine about the chances for this bill. The Greeks are really going all out and it is going to be tough.

<u>President:</u> The point is we have to get it through for our own national interest. We have to keep Turkey a strong NATO ally and we have to maintain our irreplaceable bases there. We are on a time schedule. Talks begin on the 17th and we need House action next week if we are to stop the situation from unravelling.

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