

**The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “Turkey - Prime Minister Ecevit” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

3979

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ACTION

September 11, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: A. Denis Clift *ADClift*

SUBJECT: Letter from Prime Minister Ecevit Regarding  
the Retirement of General Goodpaster

Prime Minister Ecevit has written the President regretting the retirement of General Goodpaster as SACEUR and expressing approval of General Haig as his successor.

The memorandum for your signature to the President at Tab I forwards Prime Minister Ecevit's letter and summarizes its contents. (The Department of State's forwarding memorandum is at Tab II.)

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

*not in use*

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USEINFORMATION

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Letter from Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit  
Regarding the Retirement of General Goodpaster

Prime Minister Ecevit of Turkey has written you a letter (at Tab A) expressing his regret that General Goodpaster will retire as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. He notes that the "efficient and distinguished services" rendered by General Goodpaster to NATO, as well as the close cooperation he has established with the Turkish Armed Forces, have been duly appreciated in Turkey.

The Prime Minister states in his letter that it would be appropriate for the post of SACEUR to continue to be filled by a general officer from the United States in view of the large US responsibilities in defense of the alliance in general and NATO Europe in particular. Mr. Ecevit adds, with respect to the candidacy of General Haig for SACEUR, that your statement of total trust in the General is assurance enough for Turkey to consider him a suitable candidate for the post. The Prime Minister concludes that his Government's attitude will be guided by these views when formal action is initiated on the nomination, and thanks you for consulting him on the matter.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 10, 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter from Turkish Premier Ecevit

Attached is a letter from Bulent Ecevit,  
Prime Minister of Turkey, to the President  
endorsing General Haig as a suitable candidate  
for SACEUR.

  
George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Letter from Bulent Ecevit.

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TURKISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

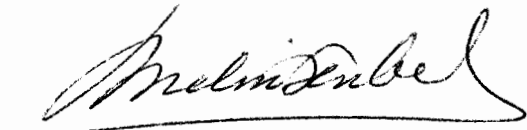
September 9, 1974

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I have the honor to enclose herewith the message of His Excellency Bülent Ecevit, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey to His Excellency Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America in response to President Ford's message concerning the retirement of General Goodpaster.

I would appreciate it very much if this message could be kindly forwarded to its high destination.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Melih Esenbel  
Ambassador of Turkey

Enclosure

The Honorable  
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger  
The Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

His Excellency  
Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United  
States of America

"Dear Mr. President,

I very much regret to learn from your message conveyed to me on August 30, 1974 by your ambassador in Turkey, that General Goodpaster has informed you of his desire to retire from the United States Army and that his request has been agreed to with great regret.

The efficient and distinguished services rendered by General Goodpaster to the North Atlantic Alliance as well as the close and valuable cooperation which he has established with the Turkish Armed Forces, for our common defence, have been duly appreciated in Turkey. Therefore, his expressed desire to retire from his post as SACEUR is very much regretted. No doubt his valuable services for our common cause will always be remembered with gratitude.

In view of the large responsibilities assumed by the United States in the defense of the alliance in general and of NATO, Europe in particular, I believe it will be appropriate and well founded that the post of SACEUR should continue to be filled, as in the past, by a general officer from the United States. As to the candidacy of General Alexander M. Haig as

SACEUR, the reference in your message that he has your total trust and that he has enjoyed the complete confidence of President Nixon and of Dr. Kissinger during his services in the National Security Council is enough assurance for me to consider him as a suitable candidate for the post in question.

My government's attitude will be guided by the above views when appropriate formal action is initiated within the alliance for this nomination.

Thanking you for your kindness in consulting me on the matter, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Bülent Ecevit  
Prime Minister of Turkey"

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
9	10	9	10	20	7403979	Clift

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SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: ECEVIT, Bulent REFERENCE: 7417259 CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

KISSINGER \_\_\_\_\_ COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_ S/S \_\_\_\_\_ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT

SCOWCROFT X \_\_\_\_\_ SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ LOU NO FORN NODIS

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TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Ask Hto to Pres for PM Ecevit endorsing HAIG as candidate for SAC EUR

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION		REC CY FOP	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO	
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT			MEMO FOR HAK (_____)
STAFF SECRETARY			MEMO FOR PRES (_____ <u>X</u> _____)
FAR EAST			REPLY FOR _____ (_____)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			APPROPRIATE ACTION _____ (_____)
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA			MEMO _____ TO _____ (_____)
EUROPE / CANADA	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	RECOMMENDATIONS _____ (_____)
LATIN AMERICA			JOINT MEMO _____ (_____)
UNITED NATIONS			REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ (_____)
ECONOMIC			ANY ACTION NECESSARY? _____ (_____)
SCIENTIFIC			CONCURRENCE _____ (_____)
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			DUE DATE: <u>9/24</u>
NSC PLANNING			COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL			
OCEANS POLICY			
INTELLIGENCE			

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
9/12		HAK	X	Pres for Hto 9-19	
9/15		NACLS		Clift - any further action (see 5:00 note)	
9/15		C		Not Necessary per Scraft	

DISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: 2 FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 20 1974

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