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25 Jul 74 16 00z

Handwritten initials

Action

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~~C R E T~~ 251251Z JUL 74 STAFF

CITE ISTANBUL

TO: IMMEDIATE TEHRAN.

TEHRAN.

RYBAT

REF: TEHRAN

1. REGRET UNABLE ASSIST ON REF PROBLEM. THERE ARE NO RPT NO TURKISH AIRLINES FLIGHTS BETWEEN ISTANBUL AND ATHENS OPERATING NOW OR EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AIR FRANCE WHICH IS ONLY OTHER AIRLINE WITH NORMALLY SCHEDULED DAILY FLIGHTS TO ATHENS FROM ISTANBUL IS NOT OPERATING ON THIS LEG IN EITHER DIRECTION. OLYMPIC AIRWAYS DOES NOT HAVE A FLIGHT BETWEEN ISTANBUL AND ATHENS ON FRIDAYS NORMALLY, AND DOUBT THEY WOULD BE RESUMING SERVICE ANY SOONER THAN THY.

2. LAND ROUTE THROUGH THRACE REPORTEDLY REMAINS OPEN, WITH TURKISH AUTHORITIES MAINTAINING THE GREEK-TURKISH BORDER WAS NEVER CLOSED THROUGHOUT CRISIS. NO EMPIRICAL CONFIRMATION OF THIS, BUT IN ANY CASE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THIS ROUTE AT LEAST UNTIL SITUATION DEFUSES SOMEWHAT MORE (REPORTS OF TURKISH INTENTIONS TO TAKE NICOSIA AIRPORT LAST NIGHT INCREASED POSSIBILITY OF CLASH IN THRACE, BUT SITUATION SEEMS TO BE STABILIZED TODAY.) E-2 IMPDET.

~~S E C R E T~~

Original & 1 -
 1 - RYBAT Chrono