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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY ANKARA

753
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

May 29, 1957
DATE

REF : Embassy telegram 2258, March 29, 1957.

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	REC'D	OTHER
	NEA 4	DEF 2 RUM 2 4115 E-4 EUR 4 ICA-10 L-2 P-1
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SUBJECT: Turk-German Relations.

SUMMARY

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Turk-German relations have been marked recently by the state visit to Turkey of President Heuss from May 5 to May 13 and by the visit of the German industrialist Alfred Krupp, who arrived May 15 and is still in the country. Those visitors appear to mark a goal in the re-establishment of historic close relations between these two countries, which reportedly date back to the middle of the 18th century. The Turkish people appear to welcome this development unreservedly and seem again to have utmost faith in "German efficiency". These visits have been marked by the announced German invitation for approximately 270 technical and farm youth to study their professions in Germany, by the German ratification of an agreement to purchase DM 700,000,000 worth of ammunition from Turkey, and by Krupp being awarded a series of important contracts for industrial construction work in Turkey.

German-Turk friendship appears to be a historic fact. German Embassy personnel note with pride that the first German military training mission arrived in Turkey during the middle of the eighteenth century and was succeeded by subsequent military missions until approximately the beginning of the second World War. Since the West German Government regained its independence following World War II, there has been an obvious effort by both countries to re-establish their historic close ties. This was first noticeable with the exchange of visits in 1954 between Chancellor Adenauer and Prime Minister Mondros. In late 1955, the German Minister of Defense Theodor Blank, accompanied by General Heusinger, visited Turkey. Then, in early 1957, Blank's successor as Minister of Defense, Josef Strauss, was the next high ranking German guest to arrive in Turkey (Embassy telegram 2252). And in April, Chancellor Adenauer, when returning to Germany from Iran, stopped off for a few hours' tour of Istanbul with Prime Minister Mondros as his guide.

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All of these German visitors have been most generously received by the Government. The movements of each have been reported extensively in the press, which also wrote warmly worded editorials about German-Turk friendship. There seems to be little doubt of popular approval in Turkey of those signs of German-Turk ties. For example, the Consulate General in Istanbul reports that in contrast to local reaction to visits by dignitaries from other countries there was no criticism of the elaborate reception given President Heuss. Without doubt, the Turks again appear to have the utmost faith in "German efficiency" and "German ability to get things done".

President Heuss arrived in Ankara on May 5, accompanied by a party that included Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano and Major General Fritz Reinhardt. As was true for the remainder of the visit, the German visitors were greeted by a large display of flags, specially erected decorative pylons along the streets, and large sidewalk crowds. At the first of the numerous state occasions, President Bayar spoke approvingly of the ~~UNIQUE~~ close cultural, historic and economic ties that have existed between the two countries. Continuing, Bayar expressed the hope that "the artificial border unjustly dividing Germany will soon be lifted" and added that the adherence of Germany to NATO had strengthened the effectiveness of West European defense. President Heuss replied in a similar vein and also complimented NATO. During the next few days, Heuss was named an Honorary Citizen of Ankara, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by Ankara University. Heuss on his side awarded the German Medal of Merit to a group of twenty-one Turks, which included the Acting Minister of Defense Samed Ergin, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Etem Kenderas, the Secretary General of the Turkish Atomic Energy Committee Nuri Korum, and one of the leaders of the Freedom Party, Lubilo Eto, who had been a former Minister of Commerce and Industry. Heuss also participated in the opening of the German Cultural Library in Ankara.

After spending three days in Ankara, Heuss, accompanied by Bayar, went to Istanbul where the round of festivities continued. While in Istanbul, Heuss was taken on a one-day trip on the Presidential yacht Savarona, which included a visit to Bursa. The guests flew back to Germany on May 13 from Istanbul.

It is understood that Foreign Minister Brentano arrived prepared to carry out an exchange of general ideas with Turkish leaders. It is also understood that he was accompanied by a senior representative of the German Ministry of Finance to assist in discussing some German-Turk financial problems, and in particular those concerning arrangements. However, on the third day of the visit, Brentano was forced to return hurriedly to Bonn in order to defend his Ministry's annual budget before the German Parliament.

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(No evidence has been received indicating that Brentano's early departure was cause for annoyance to any Turkish officials.) The only substantive work he accomplished appears to have been the signing of a Turk-German cultural agreement. While this document was widely publicized in the local press as opening a new era of Turk-German relations, German Embassy personnel depreciate the agreement's importance. His attitude results partly from the fact that the agreement probably will not be ratified by the German Parliament until sometime early in 1958 because of the forthcoming German elections, and that instead of the agreement's actually providing for such programs of exchanging students and professors, the agreement merely provides that a commission consisting of three Germans and three Turks will formulate plans on how to implement the "expression of good intentions". However, the authority of this commission may be rather more important than indicated. It is understood that it was agreed that the commission would also be the responsible body to find ways for increasing the flow of German moving picture films and books into Turkey.

However, while here Heuss did announce two arrangements for the exchange of German and Turkish youth. One provides for Turkey to send 150 industrial and technical students to Germany for study, and the second is for 120 farm youths to go for one to two years to live on German farms. In exchange, Germany will send to Turkey during the summer months several delegations of German farm youth. In connection with this latter exchange plan, the Turkish Government has passed a law providing for the establishment of several farms to be operated by the Turkish-German Association in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture. During the GMA debate on this law, the bill's sponsor noted that modern German farm equipment would be used on these farms.

After Heuss had reached Turkey, the newspapers elatedly announced that the German Parliament had approved the agreement providing for Germany to purchase DM 700,000,000 worth of ammunition from Turkey. The fact that Germany was buying finished manufactured goods from Turkey was a considerable boost to Turkish ego. Enthusiasm for Germany was given additional encouragement a few days later with the report that the German Central Bank had received for Turkey's account, as down payment on the above contract, the sum of DM 250,000,000. This down payment was even credited with causing a slight strengthening of the Turkish lira's free market rate.

Editorial comment on Heuss' visit was filled with admiration of Germany. For example, Falih Atay wrote in DUNYA (RPP): "It is not enough to admire the German achievements. One can learn a great deal from it. The President of this industrious nation is now our guest. We welcome him with respect and affection. An extremely useful collaboration can be established between Germany.

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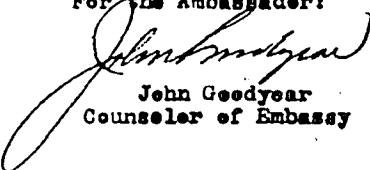
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and a rapidly progressing Turkey." At the same time, in HUR* RIYET (IND) Suikru Kaya wrote: "We are happy to welcome in our country as an honored and esteemed guest the President of the German people, our ancient and noble friends and old allies. The two people have common memories of unhappy times, but it is such bitter memories, rather than happy events that forge unbreakable ties between peoples. Turkish and German armies are again united on the same front. We sincerely hope that it will not be long before the people in the communist dominated Eastern Germany are united with their brethren in the West."

In striking contrast to the Heuss visit, which symbolized cultural, historic ties, Krupp arrived on May 15 and the press presented him as the symbol of German industry and commerce. While there has been considerable comment to the effect that Krupp arrived to exploit the favorable pre-German atmosphere generated by Heuss, German Embassy personnel insist there is no connection, and that even they in the Embassy were taken unaware by Krupp's arrival.

While in Ankara, Krupp has stayed at least part of the time in the Government's official guest house, and he has certainly been received by most prominent Turkish Government officials. According to the press, he has already been awarded an \$80,000,000 contract for the construction of a third furnace at the Karabuk steel mill, and a similar large contract for building an important link in the proposed Turk-Iranian railroad line. In addition, Krupp is reported to be interested in a succession of other Turkish economic development schemes, including the construction of a bridge across the Bosphorus at Istanbul. Some of these Krupp ventures are known to be bona fide results of months of prior negotiations. The reality of some of the other ventures is still unknown. But the general impression given by the press reports is that Krupp and "German efficiency" are combined in providing invaluable help to the development of Turkey's economy. (The economic phase of Krupp's visit will be covered in a separate despatch).

For the Ambassador:


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