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14 April 1980

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, LUXEMBOURG

27/28 APRIL 1980

TURKEY

Brief by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

OBJECTIVE

1. To endorse the agreement reached at the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 March on the need for the Community to discourage the Turks from applying for EC membership.

POINTS TO MAKE (if topic raised by others)

2. Endorse Foreign Ministers' conclusion that Turkish application should be discouraged.

3. Agree that Presidency, Commission and Member States should all speak accordingly to the Turks. Delay should be avoided.

4. (If necessary). Agree that Community should offer further concessions within framework of EC/Turkey Association Agreement, but it must be realistic about how far it can go.

BACKGROUND

References: Nil

Turkish intentions

5. Turkish Foreign Minister told press on 6 February that Turkey was likely to apply for Community membership by the end of 1980. Some reports that the Turks may even apply before June.

6. Turkish intentions nevertheless unclear. Some of Demirel's economic advisers against application. Turks are probably seriously considering an application and meanwhile using this

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possibility to extract increased aid and trade concessions under existing EC/Turkey Association arrangements. Concessions on aid and textiles difficult for United Kingdom.

Community attitude

7. Foreign Ministers agreed on 18 March that Turkish application would be untimely especially in view of Turkish economic situation and should be discouraged. It was agreed that all the Community partners would speak accordingly to the Turks, with Presidency taking the lead. Italians however have not yet acted.

8. Also agreed that effort had to be made to make Association arrangements more attractive.

Political Cooperation

9. A UK proposal originally made in 1978 for a closer political relationship between Turkey and the Nine has been broadly agreed in an exchange of letters between the Italian and Turkish Foreign Ministers. Procedural details remain to be settled and with both the Italians and Turks making heavy weather of them this could still go wrong. The idea is to give a political dimension to the Association Agreement, to reduce Turkish pressures for full membership and to counter-balance the Greek presence in the Nine.

OECD aid package

10. OECD countries are expected to pledge about \$1 billion aid for Turkey at a pledging session on 15 April. UK contribution is £15 million (\$34 million). It will be more flexibly tied than is normal for UK aid.

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