

March 15, 1963

John W. Bowling, GTI [Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Office of Greek, Turkish, and Iranian Affairs] to Mr. Kitchen, G/PM [Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs], 'General Wood's Visit to Turkey'

Citation:

"John W. Bowling, GTI [Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Office of Greek, Turkish, and Iranian Affairs] to Mr. Kitchen, G/PM [Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs], 'General Wood's Visit to Turkey'", March 15, 1963, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 59, Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Records of the Turkish Affairs Desk, 1958-1963, Box 7, Jupiter. Contributed by Bill Burr and Leopoldo Nuti.
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Summary:

Having accompanied General Wood on the mission to Turkey, Bowling provides Kitchen with a copy of the top secret record of the discussions with the Turkish General Staff (which remain classified). According to Bowling, Wood "accomplished his mission" by conducting the talks with "great skill and vigor": "There will be no stalling on Jupiter removal from the Turkish military." With the Turkish Chiefs of Staff "badly shaken up" by the implications of the Jupiter removal, Wood helped check "the slide in ... morale" by addressing concerns about MAP funds, Turkish participation in Polaris targeting, the selection of a port for the Polaris visit (with Izmir preferred by Turkey), and the disposition of facilities at Cigli.

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Mr. Helseth

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G/PM - Mr. Kitchen

March 15, 1963

CTI - John W. Bowling

General Wood's Visit to Turkey

General Robert J. Wood returned from his trip to Ankara and Paris this morning, arriving in Washington about 7 a.m. I and three members of the DOD/ISA staff accompanied him.

The attached memoranda of conversation (with addenda) have been approved in writing by both sides of the Ankara discussions, and constitute, I feel, a complete record of the discussions. EUCOM has copies (these were reproduced in Paris). I will send a telegram today to McGuire asking him to pass copies to USMC and to Embassy Rome. Of the other two copies of these enclosures, I am sending one to Mr. Wolf in AID, and am retaining one in NEA. Ankara has copies.

Following the second conference, General Wood was asked by MOD Sancar to talk privately for a few minutes. The MOD asked him to do what he could to see that Turkish personnel participated in the targetting of the Polaris force. General Wood told him that this was a SHAPE matter, but that he would look into it. General Wood did so on his return through Paris, and, without going into the technical military details, I can state that it now appears that all reasonable Turkish desires in this direction will be met.

On the question of the selection of a port for the Polaris visit (see Enclosure No. 2 for details) I feel that we in State should put our shoulder to the wheel to get a decision for the selection of Izmir. Informally, we have learned that the Navy doesn't like Izmir because the depth of water at dockside is two feet less than the "security margin" prescribed for the Polaris sub. If this is the case, the sub could of course be anchored out in harbor and the distinguished visitors could be taken out to it in a launch. It would probably be more, not less, impressive anchored out there than tied up at a dock with all kinds of security precautions. While we shouldn't refer to these details, I suggest that you consider what we can do in the way of phone calls or memos to DOD to help General Wood, who will be applying pressure there today.

It is notable that if we had attempted to fight out Cigli facilities

disposition guidelines

GROUP 2

Exempted from
automatic downgrading
by

John W. Bowling

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Authority

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disposition guidelines here in Washington, we would still be haggling among ourselves and with the Turks six months from now. There are times when the only way to settle a problem is to send one man to the spot with full authority.

It seems to us that General Wood accomplished his mission. There will be no stalling on Jupiter removal from the Turkish military. As for the longer range, it was clear to us that the Turkish military had been badly shaken by possible implications of the Jupiter removal. I believe that General Wood by his visit succeeded in checking the slide in Turkish morale vis-a-vis U.S. intentions. I have no way of knowing whether or not the improvement will be only temporary. Much depends on future U.S. policies and actions.

General Wood conducted his talks with great skill and vigor. His presentation was marked by careful psychological analysis of the Turkish personalities involved and by an excellent sense of timing. All of us were and are most grateful for the speed and dedication which was displayed by State, AID, and DOD in obtaining White House clearance for two essential elements of the General's position on March 11, following our departure from Washington. General Wood consulted at length in Ankara with the U.S. Ambassador and with U.S. military elements in Turkey.

In Paris, en route to Ankara, we were told forcefully by General Lemitzer of Turkey's importance to NATO, of the danger of a serious break in Turkish morale, and of the necessity for the U.S. to act positively to maintain Turkish confidence in the U.S.

cc: (with enclosures) - AID - Mr. Wolf
NEA - Mr. Talbot

cc: (without enclosures) - RPN - Mr. Coaroy
AID/NEA - Mr. Kaufmann
GTI
DOD/ISA - Gen. Wood
EUR/NE - Mr. Meloy

NEA:GTI:JWBowling:bmb

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