

SECRET

Turkey: 4688/10/41

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August 25th, 1941.

*7 EO Tel 4688 of 23/8/54
2 Ankara 20 to EO No. 8 of 24/8/54*

Dear Jerry,

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I enclose herein copies of the two telegrams about supplies for Turkey which I mentioned to you over the telephone. Please treat the references in paragraph 3 of the longer telegram to Staff conversations as being highly confidential.

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Before we approach the State Department on the lines suggested in paragraph 5 of telegram 4688, Campbell would like to know what this matter really amounts to in practice - i.e. if the United States authorities were to agree to our suggestion and to tell the Turks that they would be given priority for war materials immediately after the British Empire, would this in fact mean that the Turks got what they wanted? Or is the position that the supply of available war materials in this country is so limited that the Turks could only get what they wanted if the British Empire countries were to forgo their own claims? Does the difficulty of supplying Turkey really arise from the fact that the United States authorities are being sticky over the grant of export licences, or does it arise from the fact that there are not enough supplies to go around? If the latter is the correct explanation, then the United States authorities may well feel reluctant to give undertakings to the Turks which they can hardly hope would have much real meaning in practice.

If someone in the Supply Council could give us some guidance on these points we should

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14

be most grateful. In the meantime a further complication has arisen from the fact that Colonel Vogel of the Joint Staff Mission tells me that he has been summoned to a meeting this afternoon at the War Department to discuss the question of supplies for Turkey. He anticipates that the War Department are likely to take the line that it is a mistake to send stuff to Turkey at the present juncture. I will see that you are told what happens at his meeting.

(SGD) F.R. HOYER MILLAR