

SECRET

Mr Hayer Muller

Turkey: 6188/11/41

Secret.

see sep. minute.

Supply to Turkey

We spoke; attached is a record of my discussion in the War Dept: yesterday.

Col: Bundy, with whom I discussed, was the War Plans Division representative at the recent Churchill - Roosevelt conversations.

As regards the decision at X (para 3), there have been further developments since the War Dept: have now informed me that the B. P. C. have issued some instructions that these & other items for Turkey should be deferred. I do not understand this & am following it up; I will keep you informed.

26 Aug:

J. W. V. A. 1.
C. A. C.

Encl. 6 60188/11/4
SECRET

SUPPLY OF MATERIAL FOR TURKEY.

Notes on a Discussion at the U.S. War Department
on Monday, August 25th, 1941.

PRESENT: Col. C.W. Bundy. Lt. Col. F.W. Vogel.
Col. D. Wilson. Maj. R.A. Bramwell Davis.
Major C.D. Silverthorne.

1. A list of items was produced which had been extracted from outstanding demands of material for Turkey. The chief items in the list were as follows :-

Ambulances.

Sets of high-speed equipment for 155 mm. howitzers.

Limbers for 155 mm. howitzers.

Ammunition for 155 mm. howitzers.

Certain other types of Field and Pack artillery

~~and~~ weapons.

Signal equipment.

A long list of miscellaneous items including bedsteads and articles of personal equipment.

2. Colonel Bundy asked the policy of the British as regards supplies for Turkey. I informed him that it was our policy to provide whatever we could for Turkey within the limited resources at our disposal. The chief principle being to maintain a steady flow, even though small, in order to make evident to the Turks our goodwill and our intention to produce material assistance to the best of our ability. I further stated that I understood that the U.S. State Department were in general agreement with our Foreign Office as regards a policy on the above lines.

Colonel Bundy said that he fully appreciated our views and the importance of doing our utmost to retain the goodwill and possible active assistance of Turkey; in this connection he stressed the strategic importance of Turkey to the Middle East and stated that he had discussed this matter in considerable detail with Brigadier Dykes (Director of Plans, War Office) at the recent meeting between the President and the Prime Minister. He further stated that he had asked for a discussion with a representative of the Joint Staff Mission on these items only to be quite certain that in releasing material for Turkey the U.S. Staff were following a policy that coincided with our views.

3. After discussion it was agreed that G.4 Division should be asked to state which of the items in the list under discussion were immediately available without prejudice to other supply, and that these items were to be dispatched as soon as possible. It was thought that ammunition for 155 mm. howitzers could not probably be made available, nor would the field artillery weapons, other than the fittings and limbers for 155 mm. howitzers.

It was further agreed that in the event of difficulty over future lists of requirements for Turkey or elsewhere there should be immediate discussion between us (Joint Staff Mission) and the War Plans Division, U.S. War Department, and that each item in the list should be considered on its merits and a decision made in accordance with availability and within the terms of the policy outlined above (para. 2.)

4. Colonel Wilson asked if we had any further information from London regarding the progress of talks with the Turkish Staffs. I said that we hoped for something on this subject very soon and we would keep them informed as soon as we were in a position to do so.

J.W.V.

Lt. Colonel.

25th August 1941.