

Sir Ronald Campbell

You will see from the attached note by Colonel Vogel of the Joint Staff Mission that, perhaps partly as a result of conversations which took place on board H.M.S. "Prince of Wales", the War Department now agree with our view that it is very desirable in order to maintain the good will and active assistance of Turkey from the strategic point of view that the U.S.G. should if possible continue to make war material available for Turkey. Furthermore, I understand from Colonel Vogel that there are certain supplies - though not of the most vital materials - which can in fact be made available to Turkey from this country without interfering with supplies for Britain.

On the other hand, I understand from Colonel Vogel and also Mr. Pinsent that there seems to have been some misunderstanding somewhere on the British supply side regarding H.M.G.'s policy in the matter. Some of our people seem to have been arguing that supplies from this country should not be sent to Turkey. This divergent attitude on the British side - which has been taken despite clear indications from the Embassy both to the Supply Council and the Joint Staff Mission as to H.M.G.'s policy - has naturally rather puzzled the Americans. However, steps are now being taken by the Supply people and the Joint Staff Mission to put matters right.

Mr. Pinsent tells me that he had to refer my letter of August 25th (G188/10/41) to New York and that he has not yet got an answer. He agrees, however, that in view of the information supplied by Colonel Vogel both as to the attitude of the U.S. Army and the fact that there are supplies which can be made available for Turkey, we need not delay taking action on paragraph 5 of F.O. telegram 4688 - especially since Hugessen has since reported that his U.S. colleague and he himself made representations to the S.D. on the subject. That being so, perhaps when you see Mr. Welles and Mr. Hull today you could again remind them of Lord Halifax's earlier representations on the subject and explain that H.M.G. feel that owing to recent developments as explained in telegram 4688 it would be particularly helpful at the present moment if the U.S.G. could give the Turks some further assurance as to the availability of supplies from this country. You might perhaps, as is suggested by London, (with modifications by Hugessen), hint that if the Turks could be told that they would get priority immediately after those countries which are actually belligerent, this would be a help, but I am not sure that we should stress this point. The important thing, I think, is that the American Ambassador in Angora should do all he can

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to encourage the Turks at this moment to feel that they can still rely not only on U.S. sympathy but on their material help as well.

H. H. H. Miller

August 27th, 1941.

See diff. to J.O. No. 3941 ^{-/12} Aug 28.

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