

Turkey 6188/13/41

*Embassy*  
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THE BRITISH SUPPLY COUNCIL IN NORTH AMERICA

SECRET

TELEPHONE: REPUBLIC 7860



Box 680  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 28th. 1941.

F. R. Hoyer Miller, Esq.,  
British Embassy,  
Washington, D. C.

*Now: see action n 9941-141*

Dear Mr. Hoyer Miller,

*88/10/41*

Mr. Pinsent handed over to me your letter of August 25th. I have made what enquiries I could on the question you raised therein.

I am told that the Turks have had no great difficulty in obtaining export licenses for the small quantities they have purchased for cash, so that any hint that export licenses should be granted on a more generous scale would be rather meaningless. Nor would any hint that Turkish supplies should be given priority next after supplies for the British Empire, be of very much use since our own requirements are so large.

*tacked*

So far as I can see, the prime difficulty is that if all Turkish requirements have to be placed after all British Empire requirements, this will mean in practice that the Turks will get nothing for a long time; for example, in a cable of July 15th, APURS 457, we were instructed to support requests for trucks for Turkey, subject to no interference in shipping our own, Indian and Australian requirements. If Turkey is to get no trucks until all the U.K., Indian and Australian requirements are satisfied, it will be months or possibly years before she receives any such vehicles. The only satisfactory solution from the Turkish point of view would be for the Turks to be given some part of our shipments to the Middle East. They realize that all warlike stores are in short supply; but priority next after the British Empire, in view of the important time element, must be interpreted so as to allow some regular deliveries to the Turks, if it is not to be meaningless.

*94/45/41*  
*94/46/41*  
*94/104/41*

We feel some doubt whether the instructions in APURS 457 are in conformity with the general policy stated in Foreign Office telegram 3627 and 3628 to Washington. We cabled London on August 20th, (PURSA 556) asking for further advice on this, but have so far received no reply. We think that the reply may give

us the opportunity of raising the general question whether the attitude we are taking in practice on supplies to Turkey agrees with our stated policy.

It is of course always possible that the Americans may be able to make an effort and find some of the articles that Turkey requires without affecting deliveries to the British Empire. A little pressure on them in this sense should not do any harm provided we are at the same time making some effort ourselves. We do not know, however, what deliveries are being made from the U.K., though we have indications that they may have been reduced owing to shipping difficulties.

Yours sincerely,

A. Christelow



A.Christelow/mlt.