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7-18-46

OUTGOING AIRGRAM

CLASSIFICATION

Department of State

SECRET

Classification approved:

NO. A-45

Washington,

April 8, 1948

696

696

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

Reference is made to the Department's telegrams no. 66 of February 12, 1948 and no. 99 of March 5, 1948.

On March 25, 1948 the Department presented an Aide Memoire to the British and French Embassies at Washington which contained a study that had been concluded in the Department concerning steps taken by certain governments with regard to German assets in their jurisdiction. The Department is now prepared to take concluding steps with regard to German assets in certain countries and seeks concurrence of the British and French governments in its proposals. The Aide Memoire (regarding Turkey) stated:

"Turkey requires special consideration. On December 30, 1947 the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented notes to the three Allied Missions at Ankara agreeing to place at the disposition of the three Allied governments any balance of sums realized from German assets after all types of claims of the Turkish government and Turkish nationals against Germany have been satisfied from the German assets subject to Turkish jurisdiction. The Department suggests that the three Allied governments accept the Turkish proposal. The Department realizes that by this action the three Allies probably will receive less than they originally hoped to obtain from the German assets in Turkey. However, inasmuch as no contribution from German assets in the other American Republics can be obtained, and consistent with the Department's recommendations to abandon any effort to obtain a contribution from Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Iceland, Liberia, China and Siam, it feels constrained to treat Turkey in the same manner as nations in like or identical

positions.

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VII D-6/2

OUTGOING AIRGRAM

CLASSIFICATION

Department of State

SECRET

NO. _____

Washington,

A-45 ANKARA

- 2 -

positions.

"The Department would recommend, however, that the three Allies not inform the Turkish government of their acceptance of the aforementioned offer at this time. Rather, it would leave the time of acceptance to the discretion of the three Allied Missions at Ankara as of possible utility in arriving at a satisfactory settlement on the question of looted gold."

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