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TELEGRAM

COMPANDANTAL

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ACTION SNM-01

INFO OCT-01 59-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 EUR-12 NEA-08 EA-11 10-04

INR-06 L-02 RSC-01 JUS-01

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SUBJECT: OPIUM PRODUCTION

REF & STATE 188129

IN SUMMARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTELL I DELIVERED PRESIDENT NIXON SORAL MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL NOVEMBER 15 AND PRESENTED TO HIM PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE FARMERS WHO HAVE PLANTED POPPIES THIS FALL TO PLOW UNDER THEIR CROPS AND NOT PLANT AGAIN. IN BOING SO, I EMPHASIZED DAMAGE TO US NATIONAL WELFARE CAUSED BY HERDIN ADDICTION AND POINTED OUT 80 PER CENT OF HERDIN IN US ORIGINATED FROM TURKISH OPIUM. I STRESSED EXTREME: IMPORTANCE THIS SUBJECT AS AGENDA ITEM BETWEEN TURKEY AND US AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING US COULD DO TO HELP TURKEY IN TAKING ACTIONS WE REQUESTED. PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO EXISTING AGREEMENT AND TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "REALISTIC" OBSTACLES TO GOING FURTHER. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO STUDY PROBLEM AND SEE WHAT ELSE COULD BE DONE. END SUMMARY.

2. OPENING MY PRESENTATION. I READ TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL PRESIDENT NIXON'S MESSAGE AS GIVEN REFTEL. AFTER DOING SO: I ELABORATED UPON DAMAGE CAUSED TO US LIFE AND WELFARE BY DRUG PROBLEM AND OUR ESTIMATE THAT 80 PER CENT OF HEROIN IN US ORGINATED FROM TURKISH OPIUM REFINED IN FRANCE. I ALSO STRESSED THAT OUR APPROACH TO TURKEY WAS ONLY ONE OF STEPS WE ARE TAKING BOTH VIS-A-VIS OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND AT HOME. I THEN READ TO PRIME MINISTER (BUT DID NOT LEAVE COPY) PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL AS GIVEN PARA 4 REFTEL. I SAID I REALIZED WHAT WE WERE ASKING

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PRIME MINISTER TO DO WAS "TOUGH" BUT WAS REQUIRED BY SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM.

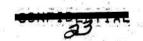
3. DEMIRELEREPLIEDETHAT THE WAS MOST FAMILIAR WITHETHE SUBJECT STARTING FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR HART IN 1967. HE KNEW HUMANISTIC REASONS WHY DRUG ADDICTION SHOULD BE WIPED OUT. PRIME MINISTER STATED: "WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST." TURKISH PROGRAM IS: "REALISTIC ONE." TURKEY HAS OUT BACK POPPE PRODUCTION FROM ELEVEN TO NINE PROVINCES THIS FALL. IF WE HAD TOLD YOU WE WOULD ELIMINATE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE, AREAS WE HAVE CLEANED OUT ARE THOSEIN WHICH SMUGGLING PREDOMINATED. HOW CAN WEETELLESEVERALEHUNDRED FARMERS JUST TO FORGETT THE IR POPPY PLANTINGS? IN MANY PLACES POPPIES ARE GROWN FOR THEIR DIL WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT PARTOF FARMERS! DIET. I UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT NIXON'S VIEWS. YOU IN TURN SHOULD REALIZE DUR PROBLEM. WE HAVE TOLD YOU THE BEST WE CAN DO HOWEVER, I WILL TRY AGAIN. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOUTO THE FARMERS AND ASK THEM TO PLOW UNDER THEIR CROPS, WE CANNOT CONTROL IT. THE POPPIES WILL JUST APPEAR ILLEGALLY. WHERE WE HAVE PROHIBITED PRODUCTION, WEDOO HAVE FACILITIES FOR ENFORCING THE ORDERS.

THAT PRESIDENT NIXON INTENDED TO RAISE IT DURING PRIME MINISTER'S
WASHINGTON VISIT. PRIME MINISTER THEN DWELT UPON TURKISH EFFORTS
TO KEEP OPIUM OUT OF ILLEGAL TRADE. HE SPOKE ABOUT ORGANIZATION
OF POLICE FORCES AND BORDER CONTROLS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN SOME PLACES
MINES WERE PLACED ON BORDER TO PREVENT SMUGGLING. POSSESSION OF
OPIUM IN TURKEY CARRIES EXTREMELY HEAVY PENALTY AND TRAFFICKERS
ARE SUBJECT TO BEING SHOT BY AUTHORITIES.

I SAID WE FULLY RECOGNIZE MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM FOR HIM AND HOW DIFFICULT OUR REQUEST WAS. HOWEVER, I COULD NOT STRESS TOO MUCH HOW IMPORTANT NARCOTICS WAS AS AGENDA ITEM BETWEEN TURKEY AND US. IMPACT OF ADDICTION IN US FORCED US TO GIVE IT THIS IMPORTANCE. I ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING US COULD DO TO HELP TURKEY MEET PRESIDENT NIXON'S REQUEST.

6. PRIME MINISTER SAID PROBLEM WAS NOT JUST ONE OF MONEY WHICH FARMERS EARNED FROM POPPIES. POPPY PLANTING WAS AN INSTITUTION. A WAY OF LIFE FOR CERTAIN FARMERS. DURING CAMPAIGN WHILE VISITING MALATYA AREA HE FOUND SIGNS EVERY HUNDRED METERS ON ROAD FROM AIRPORT SAYING "RLEASE DON'T PROHIBIT POPPY CULTIVATION."

GOVERNMENT IN IT ERADICATION PROGRAM IS FIGHTING HABIT WHICH



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HAS EXISTED FOR CENTURIES.

7. I THEN INFORMED PRIME MINISTER OF VISIT TO ANKARA OF BNDD DIRECTOR INGERSOLL AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR CUSACK. THEY WERE HERE TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON NARCOTICS PROBLEM. I ASKED WHOM THEY MIGHT TALK WITH IN TURKISH GOVERNMENT. PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM. COVERSATION ENDED WITH MY REPEATING ONCE AGAIN IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT TO OUR RELATIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S AGREEING TO STUDY WHAT ELSE MIGHT BE DONE.

8. SUBSEQUENTLY I FOUND OCCASTION DESCRIBE TO MUNIS FAIK.
OZANSOY, UNDER SECRETARY IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, SERIOUSNESS
OF THIS PROBLEM BUT DOD NOT MENTION PRESIDENT NIXON'S MESSAGE
OR PROPOSAL. IZANSOY IN PAS HAS MONITORED ERADICATION PROGRAM
FOR PRIME MINISTER.

9. COMMENT: I INTEND TO SEE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS DONE TO SECURE MAXIMUM TURKISH COOPEATION IN BRINGING HALT TO OPIUM PRODUCTION. I AGREE WITH THOUGH IN PARA ONE REFTEL! THAT PUBLICITY ABOUT OUR APPROACHES TO GOT WOULD ONLY DO DAMAGE TO PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS AND THEREFORE HOPE THAT KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ENTIRE EFFORT, ESPECIALLY OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. WILL BE CAREFULLY RESTRICTED IN WASHINGTON. PRIME MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED BY FARAREACHING NATURE OF PRESIDENT'S REQUEST BUT SHOULD NOW BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH PRESIDENT VIEWS PROBLEM. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH INGERSOLL! I WILL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED. GP-3.

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