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VII D-3/1



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy

No. 1791

Ankara, August 12, 1947

SECRET

Subject: Presentation by United States, British and French Embassies of the note concerning the German Assets Program in Turkey to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

W. A. ...
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

AUG 27 1947

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's telegram no. 640 of this date stating that the British, French and American Embassies today presented their respective notes concerning the German assets program in Turkey to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A copy of this Embassy's note, together with the French translation thereof, which corresponds to the note presented by the French Embassy, is enclosed herewith.

For further information regarding the background of the note, the Department's attention is invited to this Embassy's despatch no. 1788 of August 12, 1947, entitled: "Conversations concerning German Assets and Related Subjects Between Representatives of the Turkish Government and Representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, and France, and Final Report Thereof".

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador

Herbert S. Bursley
Herbert S. Bursley
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

1/ Embassy's note to

800.515/8-1247

CE/A

ACTION
CORRESP
TO:
DB
NEA
1/
18 FS
1000P
2 REPLY
1788
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Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 1791 dated August 12, 1947, Ankara, Turkey, subject: "Presentation by United States, British and French Embassies of the note concerning the German Assets Program in Turkey to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

No. 1667

Ankara, August 12, 1947

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and has the honor to refer to the Embassy's note of March 27, 1946, to the Ministry's reply in its note of September 23, 1946, and to the Embassy's note of April 18, 1947.

As a result of conversations which have taken place between representatives of the Government of Turkey on the one hand and of the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and France (hereinafter referred to as "the three Governments") on the other hand, it appears that an understanding can now be reached by the four Governments in reaffirmation of the principles of restitution of looted property and of the liquidation of German property in Turkey so as to remove any possible risk of that property's being used to support renewed German aggression. It also appears that further conversations will be needed in connection with the question of the disposal of the proceeds of the liquidation. Accordingly, the Government of the United States of America, in concert with the Governments of the United Kingdom and France, proposes for the agreement of the Government of Turkey the following:

I.

The Government of Turkey will publicly announce its adherence to the Inter-Allied Declaration on Axis Acts of Dispossession of January 5, 1943, to the Gold Declaration of February 22, 1944, and to Bretton Woods Resolution VI. Simultaneously with the public announcement, the Government of Turkey will take the following measures:

(A) Ensure that victims of German spoliation shall obtain the free restitution of their property found in Turkey in whatever ownership and whether acquired in good or bad faith.

(B) Effect restitution to the three Governments, for the account of those countries occupied by Germany during the war of monetary gold of which they were despoiled, and of any other monetary gold demonstrated to have been looted by Germany and acquired by Turkey. Claims shall be barred which have not been presented by the three Governments on behalf of such countries within

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comes into effect. Restitution will take place in London, Paris, or New York, at the option of the Government of Turkey. The three Governments, in consideration of restitution, will hold harmless the Government of Turkey from any claims arising from transfers by or for account of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey to third countries of any gold in respect of which restitution shall have been made.

(C) Require all persons, both real and juridical, subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of Turkey, to declare to the Government before October 15, 1947, all property of whatever nature in their possession or control in which the former German state or German nationals, exclusive of those resident in Turkey have an interest.

(D) Bring within the present blocking provisions of Turkish law, all property declared under (C), and any other German property, or property held or controlled on German account, which may be uncovered through any other means.

(E) Take title to, sell or transfer to suitable non-German interests, all German property of whatever nature. The paramount objective in the disposition of German properties will be the elimination of all forms of German ownership, control, or influence, and accordingly, property will not be sold to German nationals or to persons of any nationality who do not furnish, under penalty of forfeiture of the property or of any deposit paid, adequate assurances that they are not acting for, or in collusion with, or under option given to, any German national. The proceeds of German property, liquidated in accordance with the foregoing provisions, will be held as provided in III below.

II.

In preparation for the further conversations provided in III below, the Government of Turkey shall require all persons, both real and juridical, subject to its jurisdiction, to declare to the Government before October 15, 1947, all losses of or damage to property or other claims against the former German state or its nationals arising out of or during hostilities.

III.

Without derogating from the position stated in the first reservation of its note of September 23, 1946, which has been

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Government of Turkey will make no disposition of the proceeds of liquidation of German property in settlement of Turkish claims and losses pending final agreement on this subject with the three Governments. Conversations for the purpose of arriving at such an agreement will be initiated between the three Governments and the Government of Turkey following the receipt of the declarations required under I (C) and II above, in any event, not later than December 1, 1947.

REF ID: A661247

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