

No. 191

611.82/2-254: Telegram

The Ambassador in Turkey (Warren) to the Department of State

TOP SECRET

ANKARA, February 5, 1954—3 p. m.

808. For Acting Secretary and Byroade.¹ Please pass also Wilson, Defense and Stassen, FOA.

Now that the negotiations between the Turks and the Pakistanis are well on their way to a successful conclusion, there are two urgent Turkish problems that require immediate consideration and decision.

1. The short-fall in the Turkish defense budget for this next Turkish fiscal year requires immediate decision. To continue as we have in the past to treat this problem on an annual *ad hoc* basis is not satisfactory. In order to encourage the Turks so to plan their economy that sufficient revenues are available to make their national defense effort self-supporting within the next four years, it is necessary that the United States review the Turkish as well as the American position and establish a general plan on which both we and the Turks can work in order to establish a Turkish military self-sufficiency at a prospective date. Coupled with this problem is the necessity of establishing a machinery of coordination so that successive NATO Commanders assuming responsibility for the land defense of this area shall not change tactical dispositions, particularly with reference to Turkey, beyond the over-all strategic NATO concept as well as the ability of the Turkish Armed Forces to discharge the tactical responsibility that may be placed upon them. Since we are relying upon the Turks to assume leadership in the area not only with respect to the development of the Balkan Tripartite Pact but also in the development of a collaboration of defense that reaches as far east as Pakistan, it is urgently desirable that the Turks should have a maximum degree of confidence in the fact of our planning and the phasing of its execution.²

2. The current negotiations with the Turks on facilities and status of forces for our troops have progressed rapidly in the last six weeks and have now reached the point where only two or three subjects of importance are not yet agreed upon. One of these is the question of criminal jurisdiction. We cannot hope for benefits much beyond those obtained by the Turkish adoption of the NATO statute with respect to criminal jurisdiction. The adoption of this statute, whose submission to the Grand National Assembly is awaiting the conclusion of our negotiations, will in itself require some modification of the Turkish constitution with respect to the exercise of

¹ A handwritten note on the source text reads: "Answer must be cleared with Byroade."

² Telegram 902 to Ankara, Feb. 17, advised the Embassy that "FOA-State-Defense at highest level giving serious study to problem short-fall in Turkish defense budget realizing that problem will persist for several years to come." (611.82/2-2554)