

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 093
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7529

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AF, TU, MASS
SUBJECT: TURKISH DIPLOMAT'S VIEWS ON AFGHAN-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. DURING A FAREWELL CALL ON THE EMBASSY BY TURKISH DCM ALP KARAOSMANOGLU, ON SEPTEMBER 14, THE TURKISH DIPLOMAT SUMMARIZED FOR US THE STATE OF TURKISH-AFGHAN RELATIONS.
2. HE DESCRIBED THESE AS HAVING DETERIORATED SINCE THE APRIL COUP. FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN'S CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT TURKEY'S POSITION ON CYPRUS AT THE RECENT BELGRADE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT MEETING HAD VERY MUCH DISPLEASED ANKARA. WHY THE AFGHANS SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A PUBLIC STAND ON AN ISSUE OF NO CONCEIVABLE DIRECT CONCERN TO KABUL WAS PUZZLING, HE SAID. IT HAD ONLY ALIENATED ANKARA, WHILE THE GREEKS -- WITH NO EMBASSY IN KABUL -- ARE PROBABLY UNAWARE OF AMIN'S STATEMENT.
3. IN ASSESSING THE TARAQI GOVERNMENT, MR. KARAOSMANOGLU SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CATEGORIZED IT NOW AS "SOCIALIST" AND "WOULD ADJUST ITS RELATIONS ACCORDINGLY". ANKARA,
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HE SAID, PLACED AFGHANISTAN IN THE SAME CATEGORY OF COUNTRIES AS THE SOVIET UNION, ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES, THE PRC, ETC.

4. THE TURKISH DCM CONFIRMED THAT THE PLAN FOR TRAINING AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN TURKEY IS A DEAD ISSUE. LAST WINTER, THE THEN AFGHAN CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL

AZIZ (REPORTEDLY EXECUTED AFTER THE COUP), ORALLY BROACHED THIS MATTER WITH THE TURKS, BUT ANKARA HAD NOT RESPONDED AS OF THE TIME OF THE COUP. SINCE THEN, THE NEW LEFTIST AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RAISED THE MATTER, NOR IS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, MR. KARAOSMANOLGLU SAID, INCLINED NOW TO PROVIDE ANY SUCH TRAINING. HE EXPLAINED, "THERE ARE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WE HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SUBSTANCE TO AFGHAN-TURKISH RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, EXTENSIVE CULTURAL AND MILITARY TIES EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES UP TO WORLD WAR II. MANY OF THE OLDER GENERATION OF AFGHAN ARMY OFFICERS RECEIVED TRAINING IN THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES, AND A TURKISH MILITARY MISSION SERVED IN KABUL FOR A TIME DURING THE INTER-WAR PERIOD.

6. AT PRESENT, THE TURKS MAINTAIN IN KABUL A VERY SMALL EMBASSY OF THREE OFFICERS, INCLUDING A MILITARY ATTACHE. THE AFGHAN EMBASSY IN ANKARA IS APPARENTLY ALSO SMALL AND HAS BEEN WITHOUT AN AMBASSADOR SINCE THE APRIL COUP. MR. KARAOSMANOGLU HAD NO INFORMATION WHEN A NEW AMBASSADOR MIGHT BE APPOINTED.

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