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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Smith, Curt, Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1992

OA/ID Number: 13889
Folder ID Number: 13889-025

Folder Title:
Ozal Departure, Washington D.C., 9/25/90

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	18	29	1	5

(Smith/Garmey)
September 19, 1990
4 P.M.
TURKEY

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OZAL DEPARTURE
SOUTH PORTICO
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1990

It has been a great pleasure to welcome President Ozal to the White House. On behalf of each American, I salute your leadership and courage. You have indeed proved the old Turkish proverb: "Friendship is like good wine. It gets better with age." //

It is true that in the past, the United States and Turkey have sometimes differed. It is also true that over the last two days, our talks have been cordial // as befits good friends. And marked by respect and candor // as befits allies and equal partners.

That solidarity has never been more apparent than since, seven weeks ago, Saddam Hussein marched into a peaceful Kuwait - - violating all norms of international order. //

Since then, the United States has sought to contain and repel Iraq's naked aggression. / Aided by the United Nations and allies like Turkey -- telling all the world: We will oppose those who would use force to replace the rule of law. //

From the earliest stages of this struggle, Turkey has led the international condemnation of Iraq. You promptly shut off the pipeline of Iraqi oil that travels through southeastern Anatolia. / You were among the first to endorse the U.N. embargo of Iraqi goods. / Your troops have bolstered the armed force now

firmly in place in the Gulf. // On a personal note, Mr. President, I continue to rely on the almost daily communication that the two of us have shared. //

In short, Turkey has served as a protector of peace -- rallying to its friends when those friends are imperiled. In the United States, we know that friendship is a two-way street. So recently, I sent Secretary of State Baker and Secretary of the Treasury Brady to thirteen Nations -- securing over \$18 billion in international assistance. Much of that assistance will be directed toward Turkey -- because America intends to stand by those who have stood by it. //

In that spirit, we look forward to expanding the ties -- political, economic, cultural, and military -- which link our countries. // I think, for instance, of the progress we have made toward an historic textile pact expanding trade: I hope we will soon sign such an agreement. And as you know, we are close to arranging a sale of F-16's to Turkey. // We know that the security of Turkey will bolster the stability of the Middle East. So in addition, we continue to support Turkey's application for EC status. //

I began with a Turkish proverb. Let me close with another. It says: "In the company of a good friend, one can travel even as far as Baghdad." //

Mr. President, perhaps the two of us will journey to Baghdad some day. In the meantime, this we know for sure: Our ties have never been stronger // our friendship never deeper // facts that

our talks of the past two days eloquently reaffirm. // For now,
I bid you an affectionate farwell. We will see much of each
other in the months and years to come.

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