

already responded to several Senators and Representatives who have asked questions similar to mine.

I renew my request of October 22 and ask for prompt action.

Very truly yours,

J. W. FULBRIGHT, *Chairman.*

GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
Washington, D.C., December 17, 1959.

Senator J. W. FULBRIGHT,
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR FULBRIGHT: Reference is made to your letters of October 22 and December 9, 1959, to the Secretary of Defense requesting a report on the current situation in Turkey with respect to the allegations that certain U.S. servicemen have been mistreated by Turkish authorities and that military personnel are involved in black-market activities. These letters have been referred to me for response. I regret the delay in responding to your original letter.

The questions of mistreatment of the American servicemen and of the charges against these servicemen concerning specified black-market activities are now before the Turkish courts. Accordingly, we do not think it appropriate to comment publicly on these matters at this time. The following background of the incidents can, however, be set forth.

On August 4 and 5, 1959, four U.S. servicemen were arrested by Turkish authorities and charged with currency control law violations arising out of alleged illegal exchanges of United States and Turkish currency. Since the alleged offenses are against Turkish law and unrelated to the official duty of the servicemen, the Turkish authorities have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement. The Turkish authorities were unwilling to waive this right, and the trial of these servicemen is currently in progress. Local counsel representing the servicemen have been retained at the expense of the U.S. Government. An official U.S. trial observer is attending all of the sessions of the trial to assure that the proceedings against these servicemen are fair.

Two of the servicemen being tried have charged that shortly after their arrest they were subjected to brutal physical mistreatment by the Turkish authorities. As a result of the allegations of mistreatment, and in part of the instance of the two American servicemen, several Turkish policemen are now on trial before another Turkish court on charges arising out of these complaints. Although the two American servicemen involved are participating in this latter trial as complaining witnesses only, counsel for them in this case also is being provided at the expense of the U.S. Government. The possibility that such mistreatment occurred is a matter of great concern to us, and our authorities in Turkey are closely following this trial, as well as the criminal action against the servicemen.

In connection with the incidents in Izmir there has also been widespread publicity regarding the relief from command of certain American officers in Turkey. These officers were relieved for failure to exercise their command responsibilities in a satisfactory manner; more