

specifically, for inadequate supervision within their organizations of established procedures for authorized money transactions. Their relief was not related to the allegations of mistreatment of the American servicemen. Contrary to various press reports, these officers were not immediately removed from Turkey but remained there as long as their presence was required for the pending litigation.

You may be assured that our authorities in Turkey are taking every proper action to see that the rights of our servicemen are fully protected. In addition to such measures as the provision of local counsel for our personnel and coverage of the trials by trained trial observers, a thorough investigation of the situation was undertaken by General Carroll at the direction of General Norstad independent of that conducted by the Turkish authorities. Although, as indicated above, we do not believe it would be appropriate for us at this time to discuss the merits of the issues before the Turkish courts, I can state that we have no reason to believe other than that the trials are being conducted fairly and that justice will be done.

With respect to the overall situation and your specific questions, I can only make preliminary comments at this time:

1. While we have reason to believe that some U.S. personnel in Turkey did engage in black-market activities, I am not in a position to make definitive estimates at present of the number of personnel involved or of the scale of their operations.

2. Generally, we believe U.S. relations with Turkey have not been adversely affected to any significant degree by the current trials.

3. While overall operations in Turkey under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement seem to be satisfactory, we continue to experience certain difficult problems in this area. Despite repeated efforts, the Turks have not yet developed machinery by which they can waive their primary right to exercise jurisdiction. Also, we continue to be concerned about the length of Turkish trial proceedings. We are attempting to achieve satisfactory resolutions to these problems.

4. The pay and allowance problem in Turkey is currently under study, but I believe it is too early to determine whether legislation is needed.

In the interest of obtaining as full and complete a report as possible on the questions you raise, I am requesting General Norstad to furnish us his views. Also, I am asking for the views of the Department of State and suggesting that they may wish to consult our Ambassador in Turkey. A full State-Defense report will be furnished you when these evaluations have been received.

In the interim we would be very glad to brief you or any member of your staff you designate on the details of the situation which cannot be publicly disclosed. With respect to General Carroll's report to General Norstad, only a few copies were furnished to the Pentagon and these are in use pending completion of the corrective action called for. Parenthetically, I might note that the copy this office had was borrowed by one of the military departments for appropriate staffing. In the circumstances, and in view of the trials now in progress, it has not been deemed possible to distribute the report to any Members of the Congress. However, as part of any briefing, we will be glad to discuss the contents of the report on a frank and informal basis.

Sincerely yours,

J. VINCENT BURKE, Jr.