

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Green, Max: Files, Series I:
Kojelis-Green Subject File
Folder Title: Turkish-Americans
Box: 2

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

AMERICAN TURKISH ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 57073
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037



450

November 14, 1986

3-5 p

May 8

Mr. Max Green
Office of Public Affairs, Room 196 OEOP
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Green:

This year the American Turkish Association of Washington D.C. will be hosting the Ninth Annual Convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. Representatives from 39 local organizations will assemble in Washington, D.C. in May 1987, and as part of our program, we would like to request, once again, a White House conference or briefing to coincide with this event. Although we have had only two such meetings so far, the first one arranged by Mr. Linus Kojalis and held in May 1984, and the second arranged by you and held in May 1986, White House meetings have become the highlight of our convention program and are much appreciated by all. Further the impact of these meetings is not limited to the attendants as the information is widely disseminated throughout the Turkish American community through newsletters of various organizations as well as in Turkey as our annual convention is closely monitored by the Turkish Press.

We would appreciate it greatly if you can arrange another briefing for us on Friday, May 8, 1987 from 3-5 pm. Our members' concerns include political, economic, military, and trade relations between the United States and Turkey and any other "hot issue" on the President's desk that relates to Turkey. We had some problems at the door last year, mostly due to our inability to exclude members who had not provided proper ID information, but I can assure you we will be very efficient this year and submit all relevant information on time.

Finally, although I realize this is very unlikely, nonetheless I would like to raise the possibility of President Reagan addressing our group on May 8, 1987. I can assure you the impact of his appearance before our group will be extremely strong, with positive consequences throughout the Turkish American community in the States as well as in Turkey. If you have any questions, please call me at 654-0647. Hope to hear from you soon.

/

Sincerely,

Engin Inel Holmstrom
Engin Inel Holmstrom
President

Antidefamation against:

B-
Please start
file Turkish-
Americans.
-L

x Turkish-American Relations.

x May 17-19th.

x 2 hour prog.

1. Turkish-American Relations (foreign aid)
2. Civil Rights -
3. Terrorism.
- 4.

COPY

ID: 176180 CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET PAGE D01
INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE DATE 831025 RECEIVED DATE 831031
(PREFIX) (FIRST) (LAST) (SUFFIX)
MR. ENGIN I. HOLMSTROM
TITLE: PRESIDENT

ORGANIZATION: AMERICAN TURKISH ASSOCIATION

STREET: POST OFFICE BOX 56073

CITY: WASHINGTON

STATE: DC ZIP: 20037

COUNTRY:

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING THE WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON
FOR SPECIALIZED PRESS ON OCT 18 83 AND THAT
THEIR COMMUNITY WAS NOT REPRESENTED

AGY/OFF ACTION CODE TRACKING DATE
PLSHOR ORG 831031

C 831107 DD

STAFF NAME: PRESIDENT REAGAN
COMMENTS:

MEDIA: L OPID: GF TYPE: IBA

CODES: REPORT PL INDIV:

USER:

✓ PL/KOJE R 83/11/02 LD

83/11/02 DD
LK A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 1983

Dear Mr. Holmstrom:

Your letter to the President concerning the lack of Turkish-American participation at the White House conference for ethnic press has been forwarded to me for reply. As the White House liaison with America's ethnic communities and the person who was responsible for drawing up the lists of invitees to this event, I would like to offer my most sincere apologies for this omission. While we were not able to invite representatives of all ethnic papers, we did strive to at least have every American ethnic community represented. You have my full assurance that the Turkish-American community will be invited to participate in all appropriate ethnic programs at the White House in the future.

I must admit that in the period I have served in my present position, I have not had an opportunity to meet with Turkish-American representatives. I would be most happy, therefore, to meet with you to learn about your community and to discuss issues of concern. Please call me at 456-2741 if you think a meeting would be useful.

Finally, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the President, for your kind words of support in light of the recent tragedy in Lebanon. Your concern is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Linas Kojelis
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison

Mr. Engin I. Holmstrom
President
American Turkish Association
P. O. Box 56073
Washington, D.C. 20037

6
M. Shortley

AMERICAN TURKISH ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 57073
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037



October 25, 1983

President Ronald Reagan
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Reagan:

I apologize for writing at a time of national tragedy and sorrow, but I would like to bring to your attention a matter which has greatly distressed the Turkish American community here.

We learned that there was not a single representative from our community in the Luncheon for Specialized Press held at the White House on October 18, 1983. We also learned that a number of questions were raised by Greek and Armenian representatives attending the luncheon regarding issues vital to Turkey and Turkish Americans.

There are over 40 local organizations in the United States representing Turkish Americans. Their umbrella organization, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, is also located in Washington, D.C. Most of the local organizations have their regular publications, including the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. The national organization also publishes a regular newsletter.

The Turkish Americans in this country may not be large in number compared to other ethnic minorities, but we are a unique group. Most of us are professionals, such as physicians, scientists, engineers, architects, university professors, etc. We pay high taxes and greatly contribute to the scientific and technological advancements in this country as well as to its academic life and health care services.

We would respectfully request that we be given a chance to voice our concerns and respond to questions directly affecting us in such occasions as the Luncheon for Specialized Press held in the White House. If you need information regarding the Turkish American organizations, please contact me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that the Turkish American community here shares your grief over the tragic losses in Beirut and wish a safe and speedy solution to the problem there.

Respectfully,

Engin I. Holmstrom

Engin Inel Holmstrom
President

76-Turkish-Am's

January 27, 1984

I am delighted to send my warm greetings to all those gathered for the American Friends of Turkey Conference.

This event presents a valuable opportunity to further international understanding and develop a greater appreciation of the role of Turkey in the community of nations. In expanding our comprehension of the cultural, social, and political heritage of the Turkish people, the Conference promotes increased awareness of the important part this Mediterranean country plays in the affairs of western nations and the NATO alliance.

In addition, I want to express my warm congratulations to Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard N. Perle on his selection for your Annual Distinguished Citizen Award.

You have my best wishes for a productive and rewarding Conference.

RONALD REAGAN

SHOW TEXT TO LINAS KOJELIS BEFORE SENDING
SEND TO:

Ralph E. Ropp, Col. (USA.Ret.)
Chairman
American friends of Turkey Conference
P. O. Box 587
Merrifield, Virginia 22116

RR:WELLS:
cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/L.Kojelis/CF
NEEDED: FEB.3-4 DATE OF EVENT

May 17, 1984

I am delighted to send my warm greetings to all those gathered for the Sixth Annual Convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Organizations.

This special occasion presents a fine opportunity to acknowledge gratefully the valuable role of your organization in promoting the culture of your people. By furthering this endeavor, you contribute to the diversity that enriches American life and is the foundation of our nation's strength.

The Assembly has been a significant factor in keeping alive and advancing the ethnic heritage of Turkish Americans. You can be proud of the outstanding contributions of your people and their descendants to the continuing progress of our nation.

You have my best wishes for an enjoyable and productive gathering.

GIVE TO LINAS KOJELIS BY FRIDAY, MAY 18
RR:WELLS:--LIVPV3
cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/L. Kojelis/CF
EVENT: MAY 17-20
05/17 Turkish American