

Agreement Between the United States and Turkey Supplementing and Extending the Agreement of March 29, 1980 for Cooperation on Defense and Economy. Effected by Exchange of Letters at Washington, March 16, 1987. Entered into Force March 16, 1987.

Explanation of Agreement

The exchange of letters of March 16, 1987 extends the period in which the 1980 Agreement for Cooperation on Defense and Economy (DECA) is in force to December 18, 1990. The exchange continues in effect the existing general framework for developing and strengthening bilateral defense and economic cooperation between the United States and Turkey, in the context of their joint membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and shared security interests. In addition, the exchange of letters reaffirms the U.S. Administration's intent to propose annually to the U.S. Congress high levels of support for Turkey, and to pursue the realization of the full request with vigor and determination. The U.S. also will seek to the maximum extent to extend the concessional, and especially the grant aid, component of U.S. security assistance, as well as to search for approaches to relief of the burden of the FMS debt on the Turkish economy. The U.S. also agrees to vigorously oppose inappropriate actions which could harm U.S.-Turkish relations, military cooperation and U.S. efforts to provide security assistance to Turkey based on the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces. Other portions of the agreement deal with cooperation against terrorism, Defense Industrial Cooperation, the U.S.-Turkish High-Level Defense Group, the scheduling of regular political consultations between the two governments and the expansion of economic and trade relations. Background Information on Negotiations The United States and Turkey engaged in a series of diplomatic exchanges with regard to extension of the 1980-85 DECA from the fall of 1985 until December 1986, at which time a draft agreement was initialled ad referendum in Ankara. Subsequently, the final exchange of letters was signed by Secretary of State Shultz and Turkish Foreign Minister Halefoglu in Washington, D.C. on March 16, 1987.

Effect of Agreement

The exchange of letters provides for the continuation of strategically vital U.S. access to joint use military and other facilities in Turkey, which serve common defense purposes and the support of NATO's southeastern flank. The exchange provides a solid foundation for continuation of the bilateral defense and economic relationship between the United States and Turkey through the year 1990. Legal Authority Concluded pursuant to Article II, U.S. Constitution, in implementation of Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty, 63 Stat. 2241, TIAS 1964.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

March 16, 1987

His Excellency
Vahit Halefoglu,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to recent discussions between our two governments regarding contributions of the United States and the Republic of Turkey to our defense and economic cooperation in the context of our membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and shared security interests. These discussions have enriched appreciation on both sides of our respective contribution to our common defense. They have enabled us to clarify the positions of our governments with respect to our mutual obligations under the 1980 U.S.-Turkish Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA); and they reaffirmed the desire of both sides to work for strengthened cooperation in all areas. I would now like to affirm my government's pledge as a result of these discussions.

In furtherance of our common interests, and in recognition of Turkey's important and unique contribution to our mutual security, and acting on its belief that the DECA is a solemn commitment on the part of the United States to assist in strengthening the armed forces as well as the economy of the Turkish Republic, the Administration is resolved to and will, in accordance with the purposes of the DECA, and consistent with U.S. Constitutional procedures, propose annually to the U.S. Congress a high level of support for Turkey, based on mutually agreed recommendations, commensurate with Turkey's important contribution to the common defense. In this context, the U.S. Administration commits to pursue the realization of its full request with vigor and determination no less than it accords to any assistance request. It is also our determination to seek to extend, to the maximum extent possible, the concessional, and especially the grant aid, component of U.S. security assistance. We will extend through all other appropriate means the maximum possible support for the modernization of the equipment of the Turkish Armed Forces. In recognition of the need to alleviate the burden of the FMS debt on the Turkish economy under current conditions, we will search for approaches to debt relief and continue to seek to provide economic assistance to Turkey. We will vigorously oppose inappropriate actions which would be harmful to healthy U.S.-Turkish relations, to U.S.-Turkish military cooperation, or to our efforts to provide security assistance to Turkey based on the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces. The U.S. is confident that the Government of Turkey will reciprocate our efforts to develop further U.S.-Turkish cooperation. Both governments will establish a coordinating group composed of responsible representatives of relevant Turkish and American departments and agencies who will meet regularly to resolve promptly such matters as may, from time to time, impede efficient and effective cooperation.

The United States reaffirms its determination to cooperate with the Government of Turkey in the struggle against terrorism and to oppose all actions that sponsor, support or assist terrorist activity. The United States understands that both governments will seek to

improve the implementation of Supplementary Agreement Number Two to the DECA, regarding defense industrial cooperation. For this purpose, the United States is prepared to work with the Government of Turkey on mutually-agreed efforts to enhance the research, development, production, maintenance and repair of equipment in Turkey and the exchange of data related to defense technologies with Turkey. We will encourage regular meetings of the Joint Defense Industrial Executive Committee. We are also prepared to join with your government in assigning experts to the staffs of our respective missions to facilitate the expansion of bilateral trade in the defense procurement field. The U.S.-Turkish High-Level Defense Group (HLDG) will continue to convene on a regular basis. The meetings of this body will continue to provide a forum for discussion of the full range of mutual security cooperation and may, as appropriate, advise both governments on means of enhancing this cooperation. The HLDG may form appropriate sub-groups as deemed necessary. In recognition of the importance of strengthening our political dialogue and promoting the expansion of our relations in all fields, the United States understands that it is the desire of both governments to engage in regular political consultations.

The United States also understands that both governments will seek, to the maximum extent possible, to expand economic and trade relations between our two countries, through effective use of such recently agreed bilateral mechanisms as the U.S.-Turkish Bilateral Investment Treaty, the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Turkey on textile trade, and through private sector initiatives such as the U.S.-Turkish Business Council. It is our understanding that both governments will, in this spirit, make their best efforts to remove obstacles to reciprocal trade between the U.S. and Turkey, with a view to encouraging a more favorable long-term commercial relationship based on the principles of fair and free trade between them. Progress in promoting the development of bilateral economic and commercial relations will be monitored through regular U.S.-Turkish joint economic and trade consultations. The United States and Turkey understand therefore that the present DECA in force is extended through December 18, 1990. As such Article VII (1) will read as follows:

“This Agreement and the Supplementary Agreements annexed to it shall be valid for a period of 5 years starting December 18, 1985. Unless one of the Parties notifies the other Party of the termination of this Agreement three months in advance of the end of this 5-year period, it will continue to be in effect from year to year until terminated by agreement of the Parties or by either Party upon 3 months notice prior to the end of each subsequent year.”

The present letter and Your Excellency’s affirmative reply thereto will constitute an agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, effective on the date of the reply by the Government of Turkey. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,
George P. Shultz

TRANSLATION:

No: 1760

March 16, 1987

The Honorable George P. Shultz,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Excellency,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 16, 1987, which reads as follows:

“Excellency,

I have the honor to refer to recent discussions between our two governments regarding contributions of the United States and the Republic of Turkey to our defense and economic cooperation in the context of our membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and shared security interests. These discussions have enriched appreciation on both sides of our respective contribution to our common defense. They have enabled us to clarify the positions of our governments with respect to our mutual obligations under the 1980 U.S.-Turkish Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA); and they reaffirmed the desire of both sides to work for strengthened cooperation in all areas. I would now like to affirm my government’s pledge as a result of these discussions.

In furtherance of our common interests, and in recognition of Turkey’s important and unique contribution to our mutual security, and acting on its belief that the DECA is a solemn commitment on the part of the United States to assist in strengthening the armed forces as well as the economy of the Turkish Republic, the Administration is resolved to and will, in accordance with the purposes of the DECA, and consistent with U.S. Constitutional procedures, propose annually to the U.S. Congress a high level of support for Turkey, based on mutually agreed recommendations, commensurate with Turkey’s important contribution to the common defense. In this context, the U.S. Administration commits to pursue the realization of its full request with vigor and determination no less than it accords to any assistance request. It is also our determination to seek to extend, to the maximum extent possible, the concessional, and especially the grant aid, component of U.S. security assistance. We will extend through all other appropriate means the maximum possible support for the modernization of the equipment of the Turkish Armed Forces. In recognition of the need to alleviate the burden of the FMS debt on the Turkish economy under current conditions, we will search for approaches to debt relief and continue to seek to provide economic assistance to Turkey. We will vigorously oppose inappropriate actions which would be harmful to healthy U.S.-Turkish relations, to U.S.-Turkish military cooperation, or to our efforts to provide security assistance to Turkey

based on the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces. The U.S. is confident that the Government of Turkey will reciprocate our efforts to develop further U.S.-Turkish cooperation. Both governments will establish a coordinating group composed of responsible representatives of relevant Turkish and American departments and agencies who will meet regularly to resolve promptly such matters as may, from time to time, impede efficient and effective cooperation.

The United States reaffirms its determination to cooperate with the Government of Turkey in the struggle against terrorism and to oppose all actions that sponsor, support or assist terrorist activity. The United States understands that both governments will seek to improve the implementation of Supplementary Agreement Number Two to the DECA, regarding defense industrial cooperation. For this purpose, the United States is prepared to work with the Government of Turkey on mutually-agreed efforts to enhance the research, development, production, maintenance and repair of equipment in Turkey and the exchange of data related to defense technologies with Turkey. We will encourage regular meetings of the Joint Defense Industrial Executive Committee. We are also prepared to join with your government in assigning experts to the staffs of our respective missions to facilitate the expansion of bilateral trade in the defense procurement field. The U.S.-Turkish High-Level Defense Group (HLDG) will continue to convene on a regular basis. The meetings of this body will continue to provide a forum for discussion of the full range of mutual security cooperation and may, as appropriate, advise both governments on means of enhancing this cooperation. The HLDG may form appropriate sub-groups as deemed necessary. In recognition of the importance of strengthening our political dialogue and promoting the expansion of our relations in all fields, the United States understands that it is the desire of both governments to engage in regular political consultations.

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agreement of the Parties or by either Party upon 3 months notice prior to the end of each subsequent year.”

The present letter and Your Excellency’s affirmative reply thereto will constitute an agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, effective on the date of the reply by the Government of Turkey. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,
George P. Shultz”

I have the honor to inform you that my Government is in agreement with the foregoing. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Vahit Halefoglul Minister

(Presented at the signing ceremony for the exchange of letters dated March 16, 1987.)