

Lowell 50 Kearney St.  
Lawrence 469 Essex St.  
Boston 185 Bedford St.

U.S. Rep. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) has written Secretary of State Kissinger to voice concern over "a one billion dollar Turkish defense agreement that fails to mention or encourage progress in negotiations on Cyprus and to obtain detailed information on the United States' role in efforts to settle territorial and refugee problems."

The letter, in part, stated:

"There appear to be a number of unanswered questions regarding the defense pacts with Greece and Turkey. Specifically, what the payment of one million dollars secures in terms of existing U.S. bases in Turkey and why the Cyprus conflict is not mentioned in this agreement. In addition to these and other questions, I am concerned with the lack of information being furnished in periodic reports to the Congress as required by S. 2230. I do not believe that these reports have adequately informed the Congress of this country's role in working for the resolution of territorial and refugee problems in Cyprus.

In order to answer these questions I would ask that a meeting be scheduled in my office with an appropriate member of your staff. I would suggest that this meeting take place during the week of May 24."

Congress must approve defense pacts recently initialled by the U.S. with Turkey and with Greece. Hearings are expected to begin in the House International Relations Committee in approximately three weeks. According to the bill that ended the Turkish arms embargo last October 2 (1975), the President was supposed to report periodically on progress in Cyprus negotiations and this country's role in those discussions. Tsongas stated that the reporting provision has resulted in "uniformly meaningless reports which do not indicate whether the Administration has taken any steps to promote an agreement in Cyprus." He said that the Administration has a record of "inaction" in the Cyprus conflict, adding, "neither Mr. Ford nor Secretary Kissinger has paid attention to the tragic situation in Cyprus unless the Congress has threatened to limit aid to Turkey. I believe we ought to take whatever steps are necessary to change this attitude."