

PAUL TSONOAS ON THE TURKISH EMBARGO:

I share your deep concern over the troubled situation in Cyprus and over the continued harassment of Armenian and other minorities within Turkey. I strongly support the continuation of the arms embargo against Turkey until a Cyprus settlement is reached, and I have urged the Administration to press the Turkish government for the improvement of religious and political minority rights.

Even though the Administration has expressed concern that failure to lift the embargo on Turkey could damage our bilateral political and military relations with Turkey and jeopardize the NATO alliance, I think the Administration has not seriously considered the unresolved Cyprus situation which is the heart of the problem. Officials have minimized the extent of the human rights violations in Cyprus despite the Administration's supposed commitment to human rights. 30,000 Turkish troops continue to occupy 40 percent of the island, and they are unlikely to be withdrawn if the U.S. removes this important incentive for reaching a compromise solution.

By invading Cyprus, Turkey broke the prohibition on the use of American weapons for offensive purposes. The elimination of the embargo would thus not only undermine that law, but also put in question the purposes of our military assistance to NATO allies and our ability to control the use of our weapons.

In an attempt to improve our relations with Turkey the Administration is endangering our political and military relations with Greece, an essential NATO partner. Contrary to Secretary Vance's statements that Greece would eventually accede to an end of the Turkish embargo, I feel we risk permanently alienating Greece if this step is taken prior to a Cyprus settlement.

Similarly, I feel our State Department officials, in their enthusiasm to improve relations with Turkey, have glossed over the difficulties confronting Armenian, Kurdish, Jewish, and Greek minorities in Turkey. Ample evidence indicates that these groups are denied their full human rights by various forms of bureaucratic discrimination and from the general hostility of the population. Rather than trying to explain away the existing problems, our government should devote greater effort to trying to improve the lot of these minorities.

~~I feel~~
I have, therefore, informed President Carter that removing the embargo is unwise and will make a Cyprus settlement much more difficult. In addition, I have ^{also} asked that greater consideration be given to the human rights issue.

In addition I believe we must give greater consideration to the human rights issue.