



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

18th Annual Conference

Turkey: The Challenge of Bridging East & West

October 2-4, 1997
Holiday Inn City Centre
Chicago, IL

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WELCOME MESSAGE

by ATAA President

Welcome to the 18th Annual Convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, held this year with the topic "Turkey: The Challenge of Bridging East and West."

As we enter the new millennium, we leave behind a century marked by two world wars, mass destruction and a decades-long annamence between the Communist and Western blocks, a century during which Turkey fought its War of Independence and emerged as a Republic and chose democracy and a Western alliance as its national policy. We enter the 21st Century as a more free world. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, today many more nations enjoy freedom and have embarked on a road to full democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Turkey took the first steps on this road almost 75 years ago, had its share of difficulties and still struggles with some of the growing pains of democracy. This convention will try to shed some light on the challenges Turkey faces in the years ahead, as it matures as a democracy and adjusts itself to its new place in the post-Cold War world.

Turkey enjoys greater opportunities and challenges than ever in this new era. As Turkish Americans we believe that the U.S.-Turkish partnership must adapt itself to the rapidly changing global environment and must be strengthened both in bilateral and multilateral terms. In order to achieve this, we believe that Turkey must "court" the United States much more vigorously than it has in the past. The United States, as the only superpower in the world, has a wide range of foreign policy interests. In the majority of these areas, Turkey's cooperation and support of U.S. policies is indispensable for American success. In a perfect world, nobody would have to further stress this self-evident point, but the American political system, as many others in the world, is certainly far from being perfect! The American decision-making process involves several players who each respond to different constituencies and concerns. If Turkey wants to become a priority country for the United States, it needs to recognize this reality and develop a U.S. policy that corresponds to the different levels of the political decision-making process in the United States. This policy must have government, business and public dimensions and make use of each and every ally Turkey can find while promoting its interests. Certainly, the Turkish-American community is the most loyal one of those allies. We, as American citizens of Turkish origin, are natural goodwill ambassadors for Turkey. Our interest in a strong U.S.-Turkish partnership is genuine and is motivated by our conviction that this relationship serves best the national interests of both countries. ATAA embodies this motto, and our activities will focus more and more on creating a better understanding in both countries on why the U.S.-Turkish alliance is indispensable.

I hope this convention will contribute to this goal, and I thank you all for joining us in celebrating the 18th year of ATAA.

Sincerely,

Tamer Açıkalin, M.D.
President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the threshold of a new century, it goes without saying that the international community faces a number of unprecedented and innovative opportunities for cooperation and partnership across borders and cultures. Nations and peoples, once isolated from the world community, are now rejoining the global village, bringing with them unique challenges as well as promising perspectives. Consequently, at this particular juncture in history--perhaps more than ever before--it is imperative to forge dynamic links of inclusion, friendship and solidarity around the globe in the pursuit of mutually rewarding objectives such as peace, prosperity and development.

By virtue of its geographic location at the crossroads of East and West, at the meeting point of continents, at the intersection of various cultures, traditions and currents of thought, Turkey fundamentally understands the importance of building bridges of cooperation. To plant such seeds of cooperation, though arduous and difficult, promises to bear over time the fruits of political stability, economic growth, cultural enlightenment, regional development, peace and progress. In its corner of the world, Turkey aims to act as a model in this regard--reaching out to its immediate neighbors in Europe, North Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East so as to construct suitable networks of cooperation and good-will. We hope to act as a guide for and microcosm of the larger possibilities and benefits of regional and international cooperation. Similarly, we believe that the rewarding bonds of friendship and partnership between Turkey and the United States, which have illuminated our common path over the latter half of the 20th century, might very well serve as an example of the benefits of active and dynamic bilateral as well as multilateral relationships.

It is timely and appropriate, therefore, that ATAA, in keeping with its long tradition of constructive dialogue, should focus its Convention this year on the challenges Turkey faces in bridging East and West. It is a challenge we have willingly espoused, as it is worth pursuing. I trust this Convention will thoroughly delve into this most relevant subject, and I wish its organizers and participants every success.

Süleyman Demirel
President of the
Republic of Turkey



PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The "Challenge of Bridging East and West" is certainly a uniquely Turkish endeavor. In the aftermath of the Cold War, no nation is as geographically positioned or intensely willing as Turkey to serve as a conduit between East and West, to bridge peoples and continents, in the pursuit of mutually rewarding interests. I appreciate and value ATAA's many worthwhile and constructive efforts to spotlight this reality during this year's annual Convention and I applaud the many organizers and participants of this important event.

Indeed, Turkey is a natural bridge between East and West, a noble and unique duty and opportunity bestowed on it by virtue of its geographical location, historical legacy and the cultural diversity of its inhabitants. Our many initiatives throughout the centuries attest to our role in this capacity. In an area of instability and volatility, long closed off to contact with the Western world, Turkey now extends a lifeline to its neighbors in the East in an effort to introduce and more fully integrate them with their Western neighbors. After all, peace and stability in the East serve the very interests of the West as well. In this regard, we reach out to the Central Asian nations and assist their political stabilization and economic development. We participate in the Minsk Peace Process to cultivate lasting peace in the Caucasus. We encourage the implementation of the peace accord in Bosnia and the reconstruction of that war-torn nation. We support the Middle East Peace Process. In all these and many other areas, moreover, we cooperate with the United States and our European allies in the pursuit of peace and common objectives. Indeed, we continue to cultivate strong bonds of partnership and cooperation with the United States and our European allies, which will certainly serve our mutual interests well in the century ahead.

Clearly, Turkey is at the crossroads of East and West and our significance and role in the post-Cold War era should be analyzed within this context. As the international community works to devise and forge new patterns of cooperation, the enormous possibilities of East-West partnership in a number of fields, with Turkey serving as an indispensable intermediary, figure prominently and need to be explored thoroughly. Just one example of such cooperation is realizing the construction of a oil pipeline from Baku in Azerbaijan to the Turkish Mediterranean port city of Ceyhan. This project has enormous implications not only for the region but also for the West, including Europe and the United States, since it offers concrete means of oil diversification.

I am confident that ATAA, within the context of this year's Convention, will discuss other avenues for an enriched East-West cooperation. Though the undertaking is challenging, it is a worthy endeavor with universal benefits.

Mesut Yılmaz
Prime Minister
of the Republic of Turkey



FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE

It is most appropriate that Turkey's foreign policy--the challenge of bridging East and West--is the focus of ATAA's 18th Annual Convention. In our ever-changing world, where the dynamics of international relations are fluid and where new patterns of multi-faceted cooperation are evolving, the one constant remains Turkey's strategic relevance in forging peace and stability in the post-Cold War era. It is a relevance based precisely on Turkey's geographic, historical, cultural, economic, and political significance as a bridge between East and West.

In recent years, there has been a renewed impetus on creating and strengthening regional trading blocks around the world. From a strategic perspective, it is safe to conclude that three fundamental integrated areas of cooperation continue to emerge and solidify: the Americas, including the United States, Canada and Mexico, the whole European continent, including Turkey, and the dynamic economies of the Far East, including China and Japan. As a result of geographic destiny, Turkey is uniquely situated at the very epicenter of these areas. It is no coincidence, therefore, that we are, indisputably, a natural and instinctive bridge between continents and peoples. From the very inception of the Turkish Republic, predicated on our roots as the inheritor of the best traditions of previous civilizations, we have always espoused simultaneously a Western and Eastern perspective. The Turkish identity, therefore, is grounded in both the West and East. To deny either orientation, is to deny the essence of who we are as a nation and people.

Because the interests, traditions and goals of the West and East might, at times, diverge, it is no wonder that Turkey often faces the challenge of how to constantly bridge the divide. With lucrative and previously unexplored opportunities for political, commercial, social, and cultural joint ventures, it is a challenge well worth pursuing. Moreover, Turkey proves that in the face of mutual interests and common values, the West-East distinction is obscured. We demonstrate that the world community's diversity can be seen as a source of creativity and strength rather than division and tension. Consider the fact that Turkey is a member of such diverse organizations as NATO, the Council of Europe, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and the Economic Cooperation Organization--all at once. While we work for full membership in the European Union, we are also, for instance, extending scope of our cooperation with the Central Asian republics. Simultaneously, we are trying to further develop our economic relations with the dynamic markets of the Far East.

US-Turkish relations will undoubtedly play an indispensable role in converting the challenge of East-West partnership into concrete projects of cooperation. I am most confident that before the turn of the century the existing enhanced partnership between our two countries will develop into a sound strategic partnership, with an ever diversified and enriched alliance that will serve our mutual interests and the cause of global peace and stability. Each of you, as members of ATAA, are a very important element in ongoing efforts to meet this challenge.

This Convention will certainly explore various ways in which Turkey bridges East and West. I applaud and commend ATAA for enlightening public opinion about this important topic and for creating a forum for discussion and dialogue that will surely spark new insights and useful perspectives.

Ismail Cem
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Turkey



AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

Annual conventions of the ATAA not only serve to strengthen the bonds of solidarity among Turkish Americans and American friends of Turkey, but also provide a forum for fruitful discussions on current issues concerning Turkey and Turkish-U.S. relations. This year's meeting is no exception. The theme chosen, which focuses on Turkey's pivotal role as a bridge between two continents and three major seas, aptly reflects Turkey's relevance in the post-Cold War period and the enhanced popular interest in finding out more about the country.

ATAA's growing capacity to hold such major conferences every year shows that it is transcending its traditional function as the principal organizational vehicle of the Turkish Americans. It is to be hoped that ATAA's gradual but inexorable evolution towards assuming a broader role in enlightening the American public about the facts on Turkey, will elevate it to the level of a major non-governmental research institution before long. This is surely a worthy aim which must be supported by everyone who is aware of the importance of the Turkish-American partnership and wants to contribute to an increased, more accurate and objective understanding of Turkey in the United States.

The panels to be held during the Convention address almost every aspect of contemporary Turkish life as well as a wide range of pertinent foreign policy issues. I would like to thank the leadership of ATAA for their exemplary and selfless efforts in putting together such a rich and interesting program. In pioneering to highlight such an important subject, they are helping to lay the building blocks of a stronger and mutually more beneficial relationship between the two countries, which share the same ideals of peace, democracy and justice in the world.

Nüzhet Kandemir
Turkish Ambassador
to the United States

IN MEMORIAM



Şevket Karaduman (1952-1997)

Dr. Şevket Karaduman, President of the Federation of Turkish-American Associations (FTAA), died on May 8 in New York, leaving behind a big void in the Turkish-American community. Karaduman, who was 45 years old, has been the president of the federation since 1993 and made countless contributions to the Turkish-American community in this capacity, as well as in many other positions.

Born in 1952 in the town of Gesi, Kayseri, Dr. Karaduman graduated from the Medical Institute of the Ankara University. After doing research in various regions in Turkey, primarily in the East and South-East of Turkey, he won a scholarship to specialize in General Surgery in the United States. Dr. Karaduman continued his medical research and education, specializing in trauma surgery in the US. In addition to his own private practice, Dr. Karaduman was also working in various medical institutes in New York as a trauma specialist.

Besides his extensive medical work, Dr. Karaduman was always involved in preserving the Turkish heritage in the U.S. and solidarity among the Turkish community. Assuming positions in various community organizations, he tried to analyze and solve the problems of Turkish-Americans in the U.S. Having served

as the President of the Turkish American Youth Association, Turkish American Cultural Association, and Turkish American Physicians Association, among others, he successfully completed various projects as an executive member of the FTAA. In 1993 he was voted in as the President of the Federation, an umbrella organization consisting of over 30 member associations. Dr. Karaduman had a special interest in the Bosnia war. Serving as the President of the Relief Fund for Victims of Bosnia, a side association of the Federation, Dr. Karaduman visited Bosnia several times to deliver humanitarian and financial aid. Believing in the unity of the Turkish-American community, Dr. Karaduman signed a declaration of cooperation in 1994 with then ATAA President Nuri Sabuncu, which has since then increased corporation among the two organizations

*Congratulations to the
Assembly of Turkish American Associations*

Best Wishes for a Successful 18th Annual Conference

Vural Cengiz

ATAA Vice President, South-Southeastern Region

ATAA

ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, currently unites the Turkish American community and friends of Turkey in 54 component associations across the US, Canada, and Turkey. The Assembly maintains its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

ATAA's goals can be summarized as follows:

- Increasing communication and unity between the Turkish-American population and friends of Turkey in the U.S.
- Promoting Turkey through educational programs on the history, culture and political and economic structure of the country with a view toward supporting a true image of Turks in the United States.
- Increasing awareness on the importance of the U.S.-Turkish alliance and partnership in both countries.
- Countering biased or distorted information against Turkey and Turks in the electronic and printed media.

ATAA is the major Turkish-American organization that regularly disseminates information on Turkey and various aspects of U.S.-Turkish relations to members of the U.S. Congress, the administration, non-governmental organizations, and the general public and leads grassroots efforts to voice the interest and preferences of the Turkish-American community. ATAA publishes a weekly newsletter, *Turkish Panorama*, and *The Turkish Times*, a bi-weekly newspaper in print since 1989.

1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 303, Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202-483-9090 Fax: 202-483-9092
E-mail: assembly@ataa.org
Website: www.ataa.org

CALL FOR SUPPORT!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION ENDORSE AND DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

- The publication of *The Turkish Times*, the only newspaper of the Turkish-American community, and *Turkish Panorama*, a weekly fax newsletter sent free of charge to all members of Congress, non-governmental organizations and think-tanks working on Turkey.
- The national ATAA Grassroots Program which also includes regional Leadership/Grassroots seminars around the country, organized to educate Turkish-Americans on grassroots political activism.
- Educational seminars on Turkish history, culture and politics.
- Project grants for ATAA's component associations.
- ATAA delegations to Turkey for leaders of the Turkish-American community (Participants pay their own expenses).
- The ATAA Annual Convention, the premier event organized by the Turkish-American community.
- Most importantly, your contribution to the Assembly makes it possible for us to maintain a Central Office and a small, but dedicated, staff of professionals who make the above activities possible.

ATAA Membership Categories

This year ATAA introduces *Special Membership Categories* in order to give special recognition and say *Thank you* to those of you who have given far above regular membership dues for so many years.

TOPKAPI CLUB MEMBER : \$ 1000

- 2 year 1st class subscription to *The Turkish Times*
- Special recognition as Topkapı Club member in ATAA Annual Donor list published in the Turkish Times
- Special recognition and 1/4 page message/ad by Topkapı Club member for 1997 Convention booklet
- One year subscription to *Turkish Panorama* fax newsletter
- 20 % discount on all paid ATAA activities* and publications

DOLMABAĞÇE CLUB MEMBER: \$ 500

- 1 year 1st class subscription to the Turkish Times
- Special recognition as Dolmabahçe Club member in ATAA Annual Donor list published in the Turkish Times
- Special recognition and 1/8 page message/ad by Dolmabahçe Club member for 1997 Convention booklet
- 20 % discount on all paid ATAA activities* and publications

ÇIRAĞAN CLUB MEMBER: \$ 250

- 1 year 1st class subscription to the Turkish Times
- Special recognition in ATAA Annual Donor list published in the Turkish Times
- Recognition in 1997 Convention booklet
- 15 % discount on all paid ATAA activities* and publications

ADVANCED MEMBERSHIP: \$ 100

- 1 year bulk class subscription to The Turkish Times
- 10 % discount on all paid ATAA activities* and publications

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: \$ 45

- 10 % discount on all paid ATAA activities* and publications

* excludes fees for participating in ATAA delegation trips

All dues-paying members of ATAA have the right to submit nominations and vote in the bi-annual elections for the ATAA Board of Directors. All dues paying members will also receive a copy of the ATAA Annual Report, and are placed on the ATAA mailing list.

Membership Form

I cast my vote as "YES" for ATAA to continue to represent the Turkish-American community in the US. Enclosed please find my TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation for 1997 Membership Dues

- \$1000 for TOPKAPI Club Member
 \$ 500 for DOLMABAHCE Club Member
 \$ 250 for CIRAGAN Club Member
 \$ 100 for ADVANCED Membership
 \$ 45 for REGULAR Membership

TOTAL \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

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Check enclosed \$ _____

Charge my Credit Card: Visa Mastercard in the amount of \$ _____

Account #: _____

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Signature: _____

Please send your membership form with payment in the enclosed return envelope to ATAA, 1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite #303, Washington, D.C. 20009. If you wish to use your credit card, you may fax this form to 202-483-9092 with your credit card information.

Best Wishes for Continued Success to

ATAA

Assembly of Turkish American Associations

*and Greetings to the
Turkish-American Community*

Ali Baturay
Cathardin - Virginia

Best Wishes for Continued Success to

ATAA

Assembly of Turkish American Associations

*and Greetings to the
Turkish-American Community*

Leyla and Hakan Şahin
Chicago

ATAA 1997 Club Members

TOPKAPI

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Mr. Vural Cengiz
Mr. Tom Johnson
Mr. Ahmet & Mrs. Claudia Kafadar
Dr. Orhan Kaymakçalan
Dr. Cem Saydam

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The strength of ATAA

*... comes from the
strength of Individuals
&
Component Associations*

In its Annual Convention, ATAA honors those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the work of the Assembly, the Turkish-American community and the Turkish cause.

***We Salute all ATAA
Award Recipients!***

1997 ATAA AWARDS

ATAA Distinguished Service Award

This award of high honor is bestowed on a person or organization who has distinguished itself in giving extra- ordinary service to ATAA and the commu- nity.

**Dr. Şevket Karaduman, President,
FTAA (Posthumously)**

Turkish Consulate General / Chicago

ATAA Meritorious Service Award

This award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the work of the As- sembly.

Ercüment Kılıç, ATAA Vice President

ATAA Component Association of the Year Award

Each year ATAA acknowledges the component associations that have excelled in their missions consistent with the goals and objectives of ATAA.

**Turkish American Association of Northern Texas (TURANT)
Istanbul Technical University Alumni Association (ITU-MD)**

ATAA President's Special Award

From time to time an individual or organization performs such an outstanding service to the Turkish American community that a special recognition is called for beyond the scope of the established categories of ATAA awards. President's Special Award is presented to such individuals and organizations.

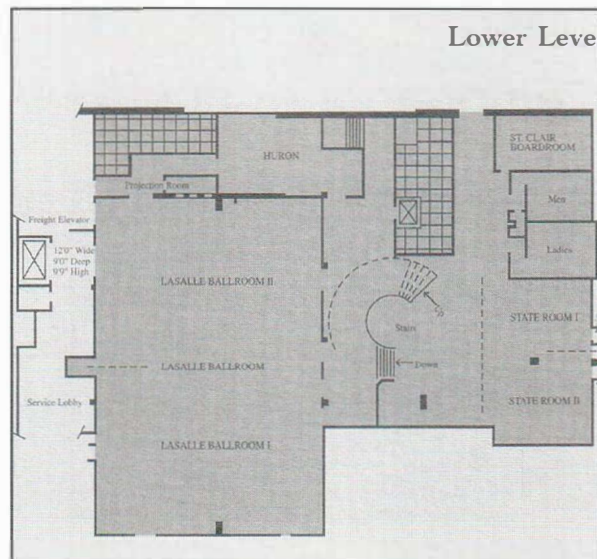
**Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board - DEIK
Capital Market Board of Turkey**

HOTEL PLAN

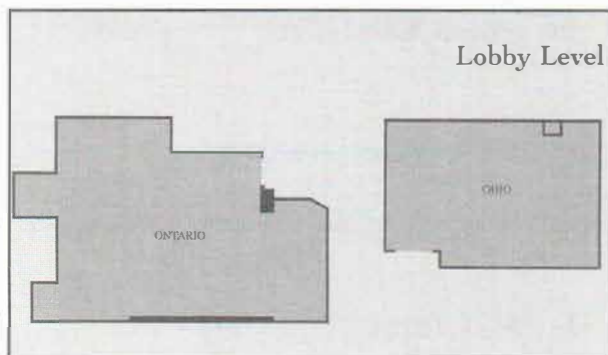
Rooms Assigned:

Registration Desk - Thursday : Superior Room
 Investment Seminar: Superior 1-2-3
 Leadership Seminar: Superior 1-2-3
 Investment Seminar Luncheon: Ontario Room
 Registration Desk - Friday : La Salle II
 Friday Symposium: La Salle II
 Friday Luncheon: Superior 1-2-3
 Registration Desk - Saturday : La Salle II
 Saturday Panels: La Salle II
 Saturday Luncheon: La Salle I
 Awards Banquet: La Salle I-II
 Alumni Meetings: Superior 1-2-3
 ATAA General Assembly Meeting: Ohio Room

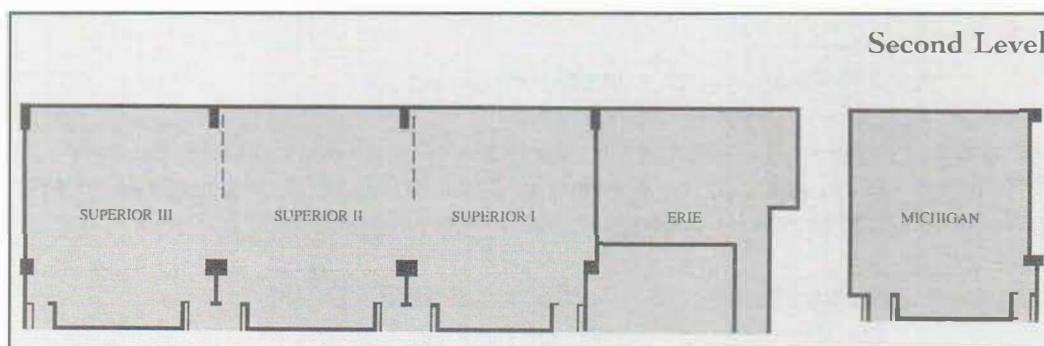
LOWER LEVEL



LOBBY LEVEL



SECOND LEVEL



PROGRAM

Thursday, October 2, 1997

"INVESTMENT SEMINAR ON TURKEY"

co-sponsored by

Turkish -US Business Council of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK) of Turkey and the American Turkish Council (ATC)

7:30 a.m.-7:55 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Welcoming remarks

- **Chicago World Trade Center**
- **Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce**
- **Dr. Yilmaz Argüden**, *Vice Chairman Turkish-US Business Council*
Chairman, ARGE Consulting, Erdemir Iron and Steel Co.

8:15 a.m.-8:40 a.m. **Overview of Turkish Economy**

- **Dr. Yilmaz Argüden**

8:40 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Q & A

8:45 a.m.-9:05 a.m. **Investment Environment in Turkey (Legal Perspective)**

- **Rick Johnston**, *Baker, Donelson, Bearman & Caldwell, Board Member, ATC*

9:05 a.m.-9:10 a.m. Q & A

9:10 a.m.-9:30 a.m. **Healthcare Sector and Opportunities in Turkey**

- **George Rountree**, *Chief Executive Officer, American Hospital of Istanbul*

9:30 a.m.-9:35 a.m. Q & A

9:35 a.m.-9:55 a.m. Coffee Break

9:55 a.m.-10:15 a.m. **Current Situation and Opportunities in Energy Sector**

- **Mustafa Vuruşkaner**, *Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey*

10:15 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Q&A

10:20 a.m.-10:40 a.m. **Energy Issues in Turkey**

- **Mick Jarvis**, *Managing Director, Amoco International Gas Development*

10:40 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Q & A

10:45 a.m.-11:05 a.m. **Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE) and its Activities**

- **Aril Seren**, *Deputy Vice Chairman, ISE*

11:05 a.m.-11:10 a.m. Q & A

11:10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. **Investment Opportunities in Turkey**

- Donna Pulini**, *President, Global Securities, USA*

11:30 a.m.-11:40 a.m. Q & A

11:40 a.m.-11:50 a.m. **Closing Remarks**

12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m. **Luncheon Reception**

12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. **Investment Seminar Luncheon**

Keynote speaker to be announced

2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. ATAA GRASSROOTS/ LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

(For members of Turkish-American associations only)

Friday, October 3, 1997

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:10 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Tamer Açıkalın, *President, ATAA*

8:20 a.m.-8:50 a.m. **Opening Addresses**

"Reassessing the U.S.-Turkish Partnership"

- **H.E. Nüzhet Kandemir**, *Ambassador of Turkey to the U.S.*
- A Senior U.S. State Department official

9:00 a.m.-10:20 a.m. **Panel Discussion**

"Turkish Society and Politics in Transition"

- **Hon. Bülent Akarcalı**, *Member of Parliament (ANAP-Istanbul)*
- **Hon. Sedat Aloğlu**, *Member of Parliament (DYP-Istanbul)*
- **Hon. Ekrem Pakdemirli**, *Member of Parliament (ANAP-Manisa)*

10:20 a.m.-10:30 a.m. *Q & A*

10:30 a.m.-10:50 a.m. *Coffee Break*

10:50 a.m.-11:40 a.m. **Panel Discussion**

"Turkish Identity into the 21st Century"

- **Prof. Heath Lowry**, *Princeton University*
- **Prof. Ahmet Yücekök**, *Yedi Tepe University-Istanbul*

11:40 a.m.-11:50 a.m. *Q & A*

11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **"Turkish Democracy in a Comparative Perspective"**

- **Prof. Sabri Sayarı**, *Institute of Turkish Studies*

12:15 a.m.-12:25 p.m. *Q & A*

12:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. **Convention Luncheon**-underwritten by Capital Market Board of Turkey
Keynote Speaker to be announced

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. **"Defining Turkey's Geostrategic Importance in the evolving World Order"**
• **Prof. Ali Karaosmanoğlu**, *Bilkent University*

3:00 p.m.-3:10 p.m. *Q & A*

3:10 p.m.-3:40 p.m. **"The Making of Turkish Foreign Policy and its Domestic Context"**

- **Dr. Şükrü Elekdag**, *former Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

3:40 p.m.-3:50 p.m. *Q & A*

3:50 p.m.-4:15 p.m. *Coffee Break*

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m. **"Turkey in Central Asia and the Caucasus: Success, Failure, Potential"**

- **S. Enders Wimbush**, *Science Applications International Corporation*

4:45 p.m.-4:55 p.m. *Q & A*

7:00 p.m. **President's Reception***

co-sponsored by ATAA Midwest-Region-underwritten by Istanbul Stock Exchange

**(by invitation only)*

Saturday, October 4, 1997

- 9:30 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. **"Atatürk in the Perspective of 60 Years"**
Presentation and Slide Show by **Prof. Richard Chambers**, *University of Chicago*
- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **"Presentation and Slide Show on Istanbul"**
• **Dr. Feride Çiçekoğlu**, *Editor of Istanbul Magazine, Turkish History Foundation*
- 12:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. **Reception and Wine Tasting**, *sponsored by Kavaklıdere Wines*
- 12:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m. **Convention Luncheon**
Keynote speaker: The Honorable Danny Davis, Member of Congress
- 2:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Book Signing: **"The Ottoman Turks"** by **Prof. Justin Mc Carthy**
- 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. **"Many Strange Things Americans Believed About the (Terrible) Turk"**
• **Prof. Justin McCarthy**, *University of Louisville*
- 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **ATAA General Assembly Meeting** (*for association delegates only*)
- 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. **Alumni Meetings**
- 7:00 p.m. **Reception and ATAA Annual Banquet**-*underwritten by Amoco Corporation*
Keynote Speaker: H.E. Şükrü Sina Gürel, Minister of State

Best Wishes for Continued Success to

ATAA

Assembly of Turkish American Associations

in promoting the U.S. - Turkish partnership and alliance

Tom Johnson

Sikorsky Aircraft

SPEAKERS

BÜLENT AKARCALI

Bülent Akarcalı was born in 1943 in Izmir. He received his Masters Degree in Economics from Brussels University. Between 1969 and 1972, Akarcalı worked as a consultant at Brussels University. He served as Commercial Industrial Councillor in Ankara from 1973 to 1980. He later worked as a general manager in marketing and insurance sectors. Bülent Akarcalı has been serving as a member of Turkish Parliament and a member of Council of Europe since 1983. During his political career, he served as the Minister of Health in 1987-88 and the Minister of Tourism in 1991. He became the Chairman of Turkish - EEC Joint Parliamentary Committee in 1988 and served as Vice-Chairman of Turkish-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee since 1995. He is the founder and chairman of Turkish Parliamentary Inspection Committee of Civil and Military Prisons, founder and member of Human Rights Parliamentary Committee and presently a member of Foreign Affairs Committee in Turkish Parliament. Akarcalı is also the founder and Chairman of Turkish Democracy Foundation which was established in 1987, a member of European Democratic Union and a founder Board Member of Istanbul Bilgi University. He holds the titles of Grande Croix de Leopold II in Belgium and Grande Merite of the Federal Republic of Germany. Akarcalı is married with two children.

M. SEDAT ALOĞLU

Sedat Aloğlu was born in Istanbul in 1950. After having graduated from the Faculty of Business Administration of Istanbul University, he completed his MBA in the USA between 1975-77. He is married and has three sons. He speaks English and German. Aloglu held several posts in the Feniş Group of Companies from the 1970s until 1990s and became the Chairman and CEO from March 1990 to March 1996. Aloğlu has served on the Board of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO) and on the Executive Board of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK). He was the Chairman of Turkish Aluminium Industrialists Association (TALSAD) through 1987-1993 and Chairman of the Turkish Section of the Turkish-US Business Council from 1988 until 1992. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Economic Development Foundation (İKV) from 1990 to 1992 and as Chairman of this Foundation from December 1992 until the end of 1995. He has been elected as Member of Parliament at the December 24th, 1995 elections as a True Path Party candidate from Istanbul. He served as the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee until July 23, 1997 when he resigned from DYP. Presently he is an independent member of the Parliament.

RICHARD L. CHAMBERS

Richard L. Chambers is a historian of the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey. Since 1995, he has been Associate Professor Emeritus and Director of Development of the University of Chicago's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University and during some thirty years on the University of Chicago faculty, taught courses and published books and articles on various aspects of Turkish history and civilization. A former Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Treasurer, Secretary and President of the American Research Institute in Turkey, he has also held official positions in the Turkish Studies Association and the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages and was a co-founder and co-Director of the Summer Turkish Language Program at Bosphorus University in Istanbul. In 1997 the American-Turkish Council presented him with its annual Education Award. Dr. Chambers has enjoyed extensive acquaintance with Turkey since his first visit as a graduate student in 1958 and has planned and conducted numerous tours to Turkey sponsored by the University of Chicago.

FERİDE ÇİÇEKOĞLU

Feride Çiçekoğlu (Ankara / 1951) graduated from High School (T.E.D. Ankara Koleji) in 1968 with a first prize after which she studied architecture at the Middle East Technical University (B. Arch. - 1972 / Honors M. Arch. - 1973 / High Honors) and subsequently at the University of Pennsylvania USA where she obtained a Ph.D. in 1976. After returning to Turkey, she lectured for two years in Ankara. Arrested after the military coup in 1980, she was a political prisoner until 1984. The stint in prison provided experience for her first book "*Don't Let Them Shoot the Kite.*" She was asked to adapt the story to screen and this experience provided possibilities as a screenwriter. The film "*Don't Let them Shoot the Kite*" won a number of awards, national and international, among which are the Golden Orange (for best screenplays Antalya, 1989) and "Prix du Public Rencontres Internationales"(Cannes, 1989). Among her four screenplays which have already been filmed, the one which elicited most international attention was "*Journey of Hope*" (together with director Xavier Koller, the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, 1991). The other two films from her screenplays "*The Other Side of the Water*" (Abdi İpekçi Prize for Peace and Friendship / Turkey-Greece, 1989) and "*The Point Where the Spring Ends*" (Yunus Nadi Prize, 1989) were produced by TRT (Turkish Radio and TV). She has published several translations, two novels and two collections of stories, the latest, "*Letters From the Land of 100*" published in 1996. Her works have been translated into a number of languages, the latest translation being into Greek (The Other Side of the Water, Kastaniotis Editions, Athens, June 1997). At the moment she is working as the, editor-in-chief of "*Istanbul*", published quarterly in Turkish and biannually in English, by the History Foundation.

ŞÜKRÜ ELEKDAĞ

Şükrü Elekdağ was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He graduated from University of Istanbul, Faculty of Economics and obtained the title of "Doctor in Economics" from the University of Paris, Faculte de Droit et des Sciences Economiques in 1951 under a French Government scholarship. Dr. Elekdağ joined the Turkish diplomatic service in 1951, and served at the Turkish Permanent Delegation at the United Nations in New York between 1953 and 1957, and the Turkish Permanent Delegation at NATO in Paris in 1960 to 1965. In 1959 he participated in the yearly training program of the International Monetary Fund. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Elekdağ served as Director General of NATO and subsequently Deputy Undersecretary of Politico-Military Affairs in 1965 to 1970. Dr. Elekdağ served as Turkey's Ambassador to Japan, and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1974 until 1979. He served as Turkey's Ambassador to the USA in the years of 1979 - 1989. Retired from diplomatic service in 1989, Dr. Elekdağ is working as a full-time "senior lecturer" at Bilkent University, teaching "Contemporary Strategic Theory" and "Selected Topics on Turkish Foreign Policy" courses to doctoral and master students. Since 1991, he also writes a weekly column for the Turkish daily *Milliyet*. He developed the idea of "Black Sea Economic Cooperation" and is the author of several publications on this subject. He also has numerous publications on the matter of Turkey's geo-politics and geo-strategy. Dr. Elekdağ is a member of the Board of "The Strategic Research Center" (an affiliate organization of Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Chairman of the Board of Trustees of EATA, "European Association of Turkish Academics," and is currently appointed as wiseman by the Turkish Government to contribute to the settlement of the Turkish-Greek disputes. Dr. Elekdağ is married and has four children.

ŞÜKRÜ SİNA GÜREL

Prof. Dr. Şükrü Sina Gürel was born in İzmir in 1950. He graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Political Science, Department of International Relations in 1971 and received his Ph.D. from the same university on "The Impact of the Middle East Oil on International Politics." In 1984, Prof. Gürel became an Associate Professor and in 1990 a Professor at Ankara University. He served as the Head of the Department of International Relations. Throughout his academic career, he lectured at several other universities including the Middle East Technical University, Bilkent University and Denver University. In 1995 he joined the Democratic Left Party and was elected as Deputy from İzmir. Since June 30, 1997, Prof. Gürel serves as the Minister of State in Charge of EU Relations and Cyprus Coordination and the Government Spokesman in the 55th Government. He authored several articles on Turkish foreign policy including books *The Impact of Middle East oil on International Politics*, *History of Cyprus* and *Turkish Greek Relations*. He speaks English and French. Prof. Gürel is married with two children.

NÜZHET KANDEMİR

Before his appointment as Turkish Ambassador to the United States in 1989, Ambassador Kandemir served as Under Secretary of State of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1986-89). His prior assignments include his tenure as Ambassador to Baghdad (1982-86). Ambassador Kandemir's Foreign Ministry assignments include service as Director General of International Security Affairs, Deputy Director and Advisor for International Organizations, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Turkish Mission to the UN Office in Geneva, where he also held the position of Rapporteur, Vice President and President of the Governing Council, UNHCR, Director of the Personnel Department, and diplomatic assignments in Madrid and Oslo. Ambassador Kandemir also served as an International Staff Member and Director of the Narcotic Drugs Division of the U.N./Geneva (1973-79). He is a graduate of the Ankara University Faculty of Political Science.

ALİ KARAOSMANOĞLU

Professor Karaosmanoğlu is Chairman of the Department of International Relations and Director of the Institute of Economics and Social Sciences at Bilkent University. He holds a Doctorate in International Law from the University of Lausanne (1970). He has been a Fellow at the Hague Academy of International Law and a NATO Fellow. He has been a member of Turkish delegations to various intergovernmental conferences, including the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. Dr. Karaosmanoğlu has researched widely on security affairs, foreign policy and peacekeeping operations. He is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the Turkish Foreign Policy Institute. His articles have appeared in such journals as *Foreign Affairs*, *Europe Archive*, *Politique Etrangere*, *International Defense Review*, and NATO's *Sixteen Nations*. He contributed to a number of collective volumes. He is the author of *Les actions militaires coercitives et non coercitives des Nations Unies* (Droz, 1970), and *Settlement of Intra-State Conflicts and International Organizations* (Boğaziçi University, 1980); he is also co-editor of *Middle East, Turkey and the Atlantic Alliance* (Foreign Policy Institute, 1987). Dr. Karaosmanoğlu's current research interest is NATO-UN relationship and NATO enlargement. During the academic year 1997-1998, he will be researching on these topics at the Center of International Studies of Princeton University.

HEATH. W. LOWRY

Heath W. Lowry (Ph.D. in Turkish History - UCLA), is the Atatürk Professor of Ottoman Modern Turkish Studies at Princeton University, where he concurrently serves as the Director of the Program in Near Eastern Studies and Director of the M. Munir Ertegun Foundation for Turkish Studies. From 1994-1997 he also served as Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Studies. In the 1980s he served as the Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies, Inc., a non-profit educational foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C. and as the Course Chairperson for Turkey at the State Departments National Foreign Affairs Training Center. Lowry is a longtime student of things Turkish (an interest dating from a stint as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkey during the early 1960s), and maintains a second residence in Istanbul. From 1971-1979, he was the Istanbul Director of the American Research Institute in Turkey and a full-time faculty member in the History Department of the Bosphorus University. Between 1979 and 1982, as a member of Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Center (Washington, D.C.), he directed a team of international scholars working on late Byzantine and early Ottoman historical demography. His publications include books on *The Islamization and Turkification of Trabzon, 1461-1583* (Istanbul, 1981), *Continuity and Change in Late Byzantine and Early Ottoman Society* (Cambridge & Birmingham, 1985), *The Story Behind Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* (Istanbul, 1990), and *Studies In Dofterology, Ottoman Society in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries* (Istanbul, 1992). Recent publications include several articles on the role of Christian and Jewish minorities in the late Ottoman period. He is also the co-author of a recent work entitled *Challenges to Democracy in the Middle East* (Princeton, 1997), wherein he authored a chapter on "Challenges to Turkish Democracy in the Decade of the Nineties."

JUSTIN MCCHARTHY

Justin McCarthy received a Ph.D. in Near Eastern history from U.C.L.A. in 1978 and a Certificate in Demography from Princeton University in 1980. He is presently Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville, where he also served as Chairman of the Department of History from 1986 to 1992. He has been a Visiting Fellow

at Princeton University, the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, and Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. From 1967 to 1969 he taught at Middle East Technical University in Ankara as a US Peace Corps Volunteer. Professor McCarthy specializes in the social and demographic history of the modern Middle East. His books include *Muslims and Minorities*, a study of population of Ottoman Anatolia in the period of World War I, *Death and Exile*, on the expulsion and mortality of the Muslims of the Balkans, Caucasus, Crimea, and Anatolia, *The Population of Palestine*, and a textbook, *The Ottoman Turks*. He has written a number of articles on Middle Eastern, Turkish, and Ottoman topics. He has also contributed to or has written teachers' manuals. He frequently addresses academic and public audiences in the United States, Europe, and Middle East. Professor McCarthy has been voted a Corresponding Member of the Turkish Historical Association. He has received the Chairman's Education Award from the Turkish-American Friendship Council and awards from Turkish-American organizations. In 1985 he received an honorary doctorate from Boğaziçi University. He has held a Senior Research Fellowship from the National Needs Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Science Foundation, a Fulbright-Hays fellowship, and other fellowships and grants.

EKREM PAKDEMİRLİ

Prof. Dr. Ekrem Pakdemirli was born in Izmir in 1939 and grew up in Manisa. He graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Department of Middle East Technical University in 1962. He received his Masters Degree in the same department in 1963. He had post graduate studies in Imperial College of University of London between 1964 and 67 and received D.I.C. Ph.D. degrees in this College. He joined M.E.T.U. Mechanical Engineering Department teaching staff. At the same time he was appointed as adviser to the Undersecretary of State Planning Organization (DPT). He became an Associate Professor in 1973, and Professor in 1978. He established Encouragement and Application Department in DPT in 1980. He was appointed as deputy undersecretary to the same organization. In 1983, he established the Undersecretariat of Treasury and Foreign Trade and became its first undersecretary. He left this organization in August 1986, and was appointed as Deputy Rector of Dokuz Eylül University in Izmir. He was appointed as ambassador at large in July 1987. In November 1987 he was elected to the Parliament from Manisa. He served as Minister of Transportation and Communication, Minister of Finance, and then he became Deputy Prime Minister in June 1991. Prof. Pakdemirli holds the licenses of pilot, captain and chartered accountant. He speaks four languages. He is married and has five children.

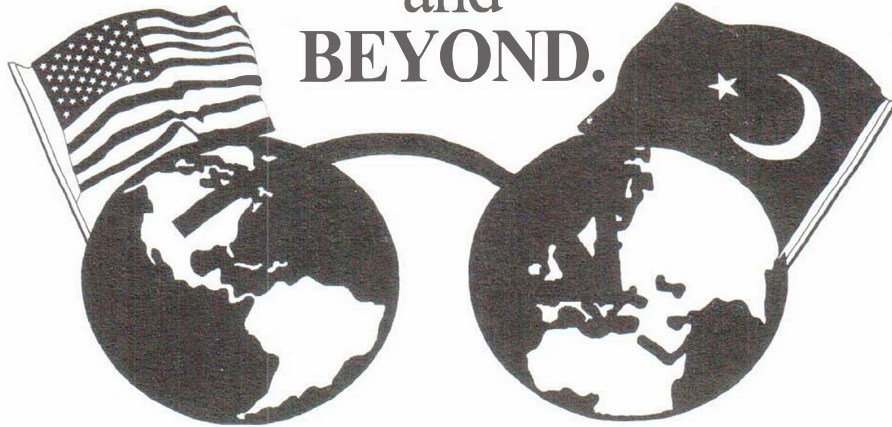
S. ENDERS WIMBUSH

Mr. Wimbush is the Assistant Director of the Strategic Assessment Center of Science Applications International Corporation in McLean, Virginia. Responsible for Eurasia-Pacific Services, he works with clients to create successful business ventures in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia and other parts of Eurasia. From 1987-92, he was director of Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany; from 1981-87, he was director of the Society for Central Asian Studies in Oxford, England; and from 1977-81, he was a senior policy analyst for the Rand Corporation. Mr. Wimbush is the author, co-author or editor of seven books and many articles on the Soviet and post-Soviet Eurasia in scholarly, professional and popular media.

AHMET YÜCEKÖK

Ahmet Yücekök was born in Ankara in 1942. He graduated from English High-school in 1961 and attended the Goethe Institute and Heidelberg University in 1962. He graduated from Leeds University in England in 1966, receiving a B.A. with Honors in Politics. Yücekök became a full time academician at the Faculty of Political Sciences of Ankara University in 1967. He received his Ph.D. in 1971. Between 1973-1980, he served as advisor to the Mayor of Ankara and advisor to the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy and as advisor to the Prime Minister. He returned to the university in 1980 and became Associate Professor in 1981 and Professor in 1988. Between 1989 and 1992, he served as an advisor to the Mayor of Greater Istanbul. Since 1967, working as a free lance journalist for national daily papers such as *Cumhuriyet*, *Milliyet*, *Güneş* and *YeniYüzyıl*, Dr. Yücekök is currently teaching at the Yeditepe University in Istanbul as the chairman of the department of Public Relations. He published more than 7 books including *Religion and Politics in Turkey*, *The Evolution of Turkish Parliament*, *Political Islam in Turkey* and *The Growth and Nature of Voluntary Associations*.

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H.E. Nüzhet Kandemir
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American Turkish Council

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ATAA Delegation's Message to Turkey: "Total Turkish Presence In The United States."



ATAA delegation with President Süleyman Demirel

ATAA Activities in 1996-1997

Highlights...

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) led a Turkish-American delegation to Turkey for the second time in May 1997. 25 delegates representing Turkish-American communities around the country donated their time and resources in support of the second delegation of ATAA to Turkey.

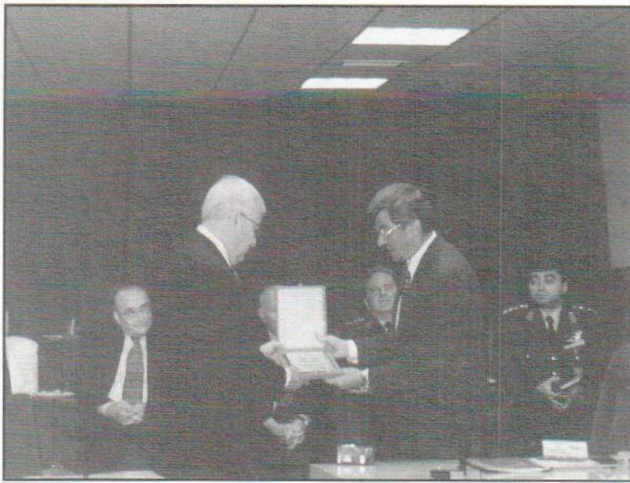
The delegation carried home the message for the need of a "Total Turkish Presence In The United States."

The delegation met with President Süleyman Demirel, Speaker of Parliament Mustafa Kalemli, Minister of Defense Turhan Tayan, and leaders of ANAP, DSP, CHP, Mesut Yılmaz, Bülent Ecevit and Deniz Baykal, respectively. The delegation received extensive briefings by the American Embassy, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Turkish General Staff, the American Consulate General in Istanbul, two leading business organizations, the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) and the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen Association (TUSIAD), and the public opinion research company Strateji/Mori.

In Istanbul, the delegation was hosted for lunch by American Consul General Carolyn Huggins. DEIK also hosted an elegant luncheon at which the business people in the delegation had the chance to meet with their counterparts and explore business opportunities. The Istanbul program also included a meeting with representatives of civil society groups organized by the United States Information Service (USIS) office in Istanbul. The NGO meeting was attended by the Turkish Economic and Social History Foundation, the White Dot Foundation, the Istanbul Culture and Art Foundation, the Turkish Environmental Foundation and KADER, a foundation working on increasing the representation of women in the Turkish Parliament. The delegation also visited the Quincentennial Foundation and received



ATAA Delegation with then main opposition leader, now Prime Minister ANAP Chairman Mesut Yılmaz



ATAA President Dr. Açıklım presenting a plaque to then Defense Minister Turan Tayan



The delegation with DSP leader and Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit

extensive information on the history of Jews in Turkey and the Jewish-Turkish experience of peaceful co-existence. The visit to Robert College proved to be another educational experience for the delegation, and a nostalgic journey back to their high school years for some of the alumni in the delegation.

The social highlight of the visit was a reception given by Ambassador and Mrs. Marc Grossman in honor of the delegation. The reception was the last social event hosted by the Ambassador before his return to the United States, and was attended widely by political, business and intellectual circles of Ankara. Ambassador Grossman was also presented the Distinguished Service Award of ATAA for his outstanding contributions to enhancing U.S.-Turkish relations. Other social highlights of the Ankara program included a luncheon

hosted by Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for North America, Ambassador Ergun Pelit, another luncheon hosted by Sedat Ergin, the *Hürriyet* bureau chief in Ankara, and two receptions given by the American Turkish Association of Ankara and Mr. and Mrs. Mehmet Başman, owners of the Kavaklıdere Winery.

Despite the busy and highly charged political atmosphere in Turkey, the ATAA delegation received substantial interest in the media, and the message that Turkey needs to increase its presence and voice in the United States was met with constructive interest and feedback. All official and private parties that the delegation met during the visit emphasized the importance of the Turkish-American alliance and stressed that some recent problems in that relationship should not hurt this long-standing partnership, which is mutually beneficial for both countries.



Then US Ambassador to Turkey Amb. Marc Grossman led the Turkish delegation to a wreath laying ceremony at Atatürk's Mausoleum in Ankara.



Delegation with Speaker of Turkish Parliament Dr. Mustafa Kalemli.

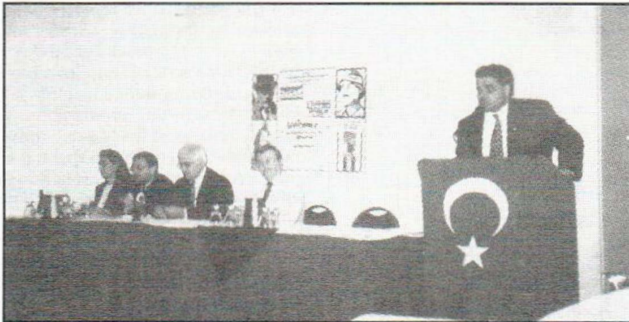
ATAA Takes Grassroots Program on the Road

ATAA President Dr. Açıkalın calls on Turkish-Americans to get politically active



Amb. Kandemir addressed the participants during ATAA's leadership seminar in Dallas

In an attempt to establish stronger links among the Turkish-Americans throughout the US, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) held their Grassroots/Leadership Development Program in Dallas on March 22 and in Atlanta on September 6. ATAA, which has always sought new ideas and fresh blood in their leadership ranks, considers the Grassroots/Leadership program as a source for self renewal.



Vural Cengiz, Prof. Mahmut Ozan, Dr. Tamer Açıkalın, Dr. Rafet Akgünay, Arzu Tuncata were among the speakers during ATAA's Leadership Seminar in Atlanta.

Over 200 grassroots members attended the programs co-organized by ATAA and Turkish American Association of Northern Texas (TURANT) in Dallas, and ATAA and the Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia in Atlanta. Amb. Nüzhet Kandemir (in Dallas), Deputy Chief of Mission of the Turkish Embassy Dr. Rafet Akgünay (in Atlanta), ATAA President Dr. Tamer Açıkalın, ATAA President-Elect Mr. Tolga Çubukcu, former Texas congressman Hon. Greg Laughlin, ATAA Vice president Vural Cengiz, ATAA Vice President Ercüment Kılıç, ATAA Executive

Director Güler Köknar, talk-show host Charlie Jones, Rachael Bortnick, Neriman Yüce, Prof. Mahmut Esat Ozan and Arzu Tuncata were among the speakers in the leadership seminars. Stressing the importance of creating a "total Turkish presence in the United States," ATAA President Dr. Tamer Açıkalın called on all participants to get involved in politics in order to better understand and counter anti-Turkish lobbies whose goal is to weaken Turkish-US partnership. Dr. Açıkalın emphasized the importance of establishing strong relations with the US Congress to achieve this goal.

Addressing ATAA's Leadership seminar, Amb. Kandemir and Dr. Akgünay stressed the importance of leadership seminars as a means to reenergize efforts to educate, strengthen and organize the Turkish-American community. Noting that the Turkish-American community had to work on more than one equally important fronts, Turkish Embassy representatives stated that in order to eliminate the negative campaign against Turkey in the US, emphasis should be given to educating the American people, media and government officials and the number of US tourists to Turkey should be increased. They also added that priority must be given to reaching as many Turks as possible and encourage them to join Turkish-American organizations.

The attendees were also briefed on letter writing techniques,



Talk-show host Charlie Jones speaking on the "Media Perspectives on Turkey" in Dallas.

and the structures of Political Action Committees and activities of other ethnic lobbies.

Former Texas congressman Greg Laughlin outlined how and why Turkish-American community members should work with their representatives and pointed out in that the American public only hears the voices raised by the anti-Turkish lobbies. Laughlin said that the reality and the facts support the Turkish side of the story in many cases and the only measure Turkish-Americans should take is to become active. He urged every Turkish-American to get to know his or her representatives from local to district to state to the national level and encouraged them to pay a visit to their representatives' office whenever in Washington, DC.

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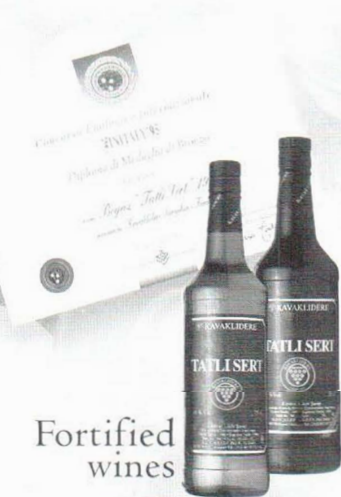
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ATAA Participates in 4th Congress of Turkish Cypriots Living Abroad

The fourth Congress of Turkish Cypriots Living Abroad was held in Lefkosa, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) on March 11-13, 1997. 70 delegates from Australia, Austria, England, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, Canada, Turkey and the United States as well as 40 observers from all around the world and honorary guests gathered to discuss how to organize throughout the world in order to better promote views of the Turkish Cypriots. The delegates represented a diaspora of nearly 400,000 Turkish Cypriots. ATAA participated as an honor guest in the conference and was represented by Executive Director Güler Köknar and Hıfıye Zincir, a Turkish-Cypriot member of the ATAA. Other delegates and honorary guests from the United States and Canada included Ali Sencer, President of the Turkish Cypriot Aid Society, Orhan Suleiman, President of the Maryland Turkish-American Association, Ata Erim, President of World Turkish Congress, Ahmet Sandıkçıoğlu, President of Turkish-American Islamic and Cultural Center and Ramadan Arif, Aydın Hasan, Prof. Mehmet Özyay and Taner Yalçın from Canada.



Turkist-American delegation

The Congress began with opening remarks by Turkish Cypriot political dignitaries including Prime Minister Dr. Derviş Eroğlu and President Rauf R. Denктаş. President Denктаş urged all Turkish Cypriots living abroad to learn the facts about the Cyprus problem. Stressing that Greek Cypriot's one-sided application in the EU would result in the de facto dissolution of the 1960 guarantee system which safeguards the security of Turkish Cypriots, President Denктаş said that they would continue to insist on establishing a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation on the island. Denктаş noted the improvement on the lobbying efforts in the international arena and asked all the delegates to "be proud of being Turkish, proud of their homeland the TRNC and Turkey."

Following the opening remarks, a panel discussion on the Turkish experience in promotion and lobbying activities was held where Ata Erim and Güler Köknar from the US and Dr. Faruk Şen from Germany described their problems and activities in those countries. ATAA Executive Director Köknar stressed that Turkish-Americans began their lobbying efforts as a response to anti-Turkish activities of the Greek and Armenian lobbies in the US. Noting that one of the key problems is that most Turkish-Americans have not yet realized the level of organization necessary to counter this anti-Turkey campaign, Köknar stressed that lobbying should be done professionally, and that only volunteer efforts were not enough.

ATAA Brings Gail McCarthy's Work to Washingtonians



On June 20, an exhibition co-sponsored by the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and the Middle East Institute (MEI), once again displayed the sophisticated art of "lusterware", as defined by Gail McCarthy.

Lustered ceramics, a Turkish art perfected by the Seljuk tile masters of the 11th-13th centuries, has been re-examined by McCarthy. Her work has been described as a "confluence of history and modernity", a contemporary adaptation of Seljuk and Persian techniques. The exhibition held at the Middle East Institute included 28 pieces of lusterware and was open for two days. ATAA and MEI also hosted an opening reception and a lecture. McCarthy's work already has a future agenda. Next year, this ancient Turkish art will be brought to life by her at an exhibit at the Art Gallery of the Istanbul Stock Exchange from January 6-26. McCarthy considers it a special honor to be the first non-Turkish artist to be invited to this grand gallery.

ATAA Co-Sponsors Symposium on Perspectives on Turkey

ATAA co-sponsored a symposium on Perspectives on Turkey with The Middle East Institute and the Middle East Program of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University on February 25, 1997 at Johns Hopkins SAIS. The program which was opened by introductory remarks by the Turkish Amb. Nüzhet Kandemir and former US Ambassador to Turkey George McGhee, continued with presentations on Islam and Politics, Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues and Turkish Studies in North America. The speakers included Professors Heath Lowry, Şerif Mardin, Metin Heper, Sabri Sayarı, Nenri Barkey, Şüha Bölükbaşı, Howard A. Reed and Graham Fuller of RAND Corporation.

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ATAA Delegation's Message to Turkey: "We need a total presence in the U.S."

The following interview was conducted with ATAA's President Dr. Tamer Açıkalın by *The Turkish Times* upon the ATAA delegation's return from Turkey.

TT: Dr. Açıkalın, could you please explain to our readers the goal behind this extensive visit?

Açıkalın: The Assembly was organizing visits to Turkey for its board members on a smaller scale since its foundation. The idea of taking larger delegations was actually inspired two years ago by Ambassador Marc Grossman, who has put great importance on non-governmental contacts between the two countries throughout his tenure in Turkey. Certainly larger delegations create more attention and, therefore, the message reaches a larger audience. We feel that as Turkish-Americans we must promote the U.S.-Turkish alliance in both countries and work as civil spokespersons on important issues. These delegations have dual purposes: One is to educate delegates on the political, economic and social aspects of U.S.-Turkish relations and provide them with a spectrum of opinions on the current Turkish agenda. The second is to create a better understanding in the Turkish public on the importance of a good relationship between the two allies.

TT: Could you please elaborate on the main message that your delegation delivered during your official and private contacts in Turkey?

Açıkalın: Our delegation developed a motto for this visit: "Developing A Total Turkish Presence In The United States" or as we said in Turkish "Amerika'da Topyekün Türk Varlığını Arttırmak." As Turkish-Americans, we believe that in the past few years Turkish representation in the United States has somewhat diminished. Furthermore, this representation has never reached the needed level anyway. You see, when we talk about the Turkish presence we talk about several legs. The first is the official Turkish state representation, the second the public relations system that the government has set-up with public relations and lobbying firms, the third is the business sector, and, last but not least, we have non-governmental organizations, especially those representing the Turkish-American community, such as the Assembly. We emphasized the need for a reorganization and strengthening of all these elements that can help voicing the Turkish theses in the United States, and the need for an integrated promotion and lobbying system for Turkey in this country.

Let us for a moment take a closer look at all these elements. First, let's consider the official representation of Turkey in the U.S. The United States is a continent with a population of 270 million people. Turkey's official representation on the bilateral level consists of one Embassy and its attaches, and four Consulates. Compared to the vast number of consulates and embassies in Europe, with a population of roughly over 350 million and a smaller geographical scope,

the Turkish official representation in the U.S. is minuscule. I would like to draw a comparison: The American Embassy in Ankara employs 825 employees and has a budget of \$ 20 million. Our observation is that our Embassy there is one of the most efficiently working and resourceful missions of the United States, and has contributed a great deal to furthering U.S. interests in Turkey. Considering that the U.S., as the only superpower left in the world, should have number one priority in Turkish foreign policy, the size of the staff and budget of the Turkish Embassy in Washington is unexplainable. No matter how skilled the Turkish diplomats here are, they are faced with a mammoth job that they cannot possibly tackle with the resources they are given. This is a point we strongly made during our contacts.

TT: Are you suggesting that there should be more Turkish missions in the U.S.

Açıkalın: Certainly that would be appropriate. But since this is a matter of lengthy bilateral negotiations, at this point we suggest that their staff and budget allocations be increased substantially in the nearest future. Furthermore, the mission of the Consulates in the United States needs to be adjusted to serve Turkey's needs more efficiently. Turkish citizen services at the Consulates are considerably lesser in the U.S. than in Europe, therefore the consulates here should assume a much more active role in trade promotion, public relations and cultural affairs, and they should even be able to conduct some political work in their jurisdictions. Also, when we talk about official representation, we propose other missions than diplomatic ones. We think of Turkish Airline offices, Turkish bank branches, tourism and promotion offices, Turkish cultural centers, trade promotion centers etc. Such offices, if equipped with the right missions and necessary means, can assume an active role in promoting Turkey in the United States.

TT: Your second leg were the PR and lobbying companies hired by the Turkish government. There was a lot of public debate about these companies in Turkey, what was the reaction that you received?

Açıkalın: The first thing we emphasized was that we have no material interest or connection whatsoever to any of the companies that Turkey has been working with. But we made the point very clearly, that we have observed positive contributions by these firms. For example, we emphasized that despite some negative articles due to domestic politics in Turkey lately, positive reporting on Turkey has increased substantially in the last 9-10 years. And we believe that the efforts of these PR companies have also contributed substantially toward this.

Instead of politicizing the issue and interrupting the work of these companies by not renewing their contracts, Turkey needs to achieve continuity in this promotion system and spend much more in this area than it has done in the past. We also argued that we need more specialized "boutique" kind of companies that work on specific issues and on specific target audiences. The quality of the work these companies deliver is a matter of evaluation by the employer, just as in any contractual relationship. You like their work you keep

them, you don't like their work you find someone new. But the fact remains that Turkey needs more PR in the United States - not less.

TT: What about the business community? How do they approach their representation in the U.S.?

Açıklan: As you know, so far the only private business organization is the U.S.-Turkish Business Council of DEIK in partnership with the American Turkish Council (ATC) that works on the private business side of the relations. Activity in this area needs to be increased substantially in order to make an impact on increased business relations between the two countries. As Turkish-Americans we feel a lack of business representation on the local level. Business delegations that come and go leave almost no lasting impact on the localities they visit. There is a strong need for a permanent Turkish private sector representation in the U.S. We proposed to TUSIAD to consider opening offices in the U.S., such as the one they recently opened in Brussels, and also gave the message to DEIK that they need to increase activities around the U.S., especially in business centers such as Chicago, Miami, Houston, New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans etc. TUSIAD is right now evaluating the U.S. with a view to increase its activities here, and DEIK, in cooperation with ATC, launched a series of investment seminars, one in my home town New Orleans. The DEIK-ATC business seminar in New Orleans on June 6 received a great deal of interest, and the World Trade Center requested a repeat performance in near future. Ideally, there should be a permanent program which would travel the United States continuously. As ATAA we pledged our support for these activities. Furthermore, we also emphasized that the business interests of American companies have to be evaluated by the Turkish side in light of their political involvement as well. For the first time we saw especially in the Turkish Ministry of Defense and the Turkish General Staff a determination to share the political burden of the so-called shadow embargo with U.S. companies. This is a serious development since it can have a substantial negative effect on the competitiveness of American companies in Turkish tenders in the defense and other sectors. In summary, American and Turkish companies need to be much more organized and active in the United States, if they want to reap the benefits of Turkey's "big emerging market."

TT: What about the NGO leg of the equation?

Açıklan: When we talked about the role of NGO's or civil society organizations (CSO) we mainly focused on Turkish-American organizations and the Assembly. But I would like to add that there is definitely a boom in the third sector in Turkey. We met with several CSO's in Turkey and were impressed by the level of professionalism and international networking they have developed. The future looks very promising in regard to civil society development in Turkey, and I hope that American CSO's will assist their Turkish counterparts in becoming an integral part of Turkish democracy. In our contacts we focused on the role of the Turkish-American community in furthering the U.S.-Turkish cause and on the need of its systemic integration into an overall promotion strategy. We emphasized that as American citizens of Turkish origins, this community is a true bridge of friendship between the two countries, and I compared our situation to those of children who want their father and mother to live together happily ever after. I am happy to say

that this trip also served to create a better understanding in Turkey on the role of the Assembly and its activities.

TT: Do you think that your message was well received and understood?

Açıklan: It certainly was. Our delegation was very focused and very informed on issues, and we left a strong impression. In the day to day struggle of Turkish politics, it is very difficult to have especially high level politicians focus on these long-term strategic issues. Therefore, we really tried to widen our spectrum of contacts. In the future we plan to have even more contacts with up-coming political leaders, and start this education process at an earlier stage. This is a long term program. But we believe that the importance of the U.S.-Turkish alliance and partnership merits our effort. Moreover, America's importance to Turkey's future reaches far beyond its bilateral worth, but well into the multilateral arena. As Richard Holbrooke proudly stated a few months ago, the U.S. for example, has given Turkey substantial support in its integration with the European Union. The United States supports Turkey's democracy, territorial integrity and security. On the other hand, the United States needs a secure and western Turkish ally, that understands that many of our vital interests converge. Therefore, we see ourselves as both American and Turkish patriots in our mission, and we will continue to give these messages to everybody who is willing to listen. Hopefully, one day this message will sink deep enough into the public mind of both countries, so that it cannot be disturbed by narrow domestic political interests. Until that day comes, there is a lot of work to do for ATAA.

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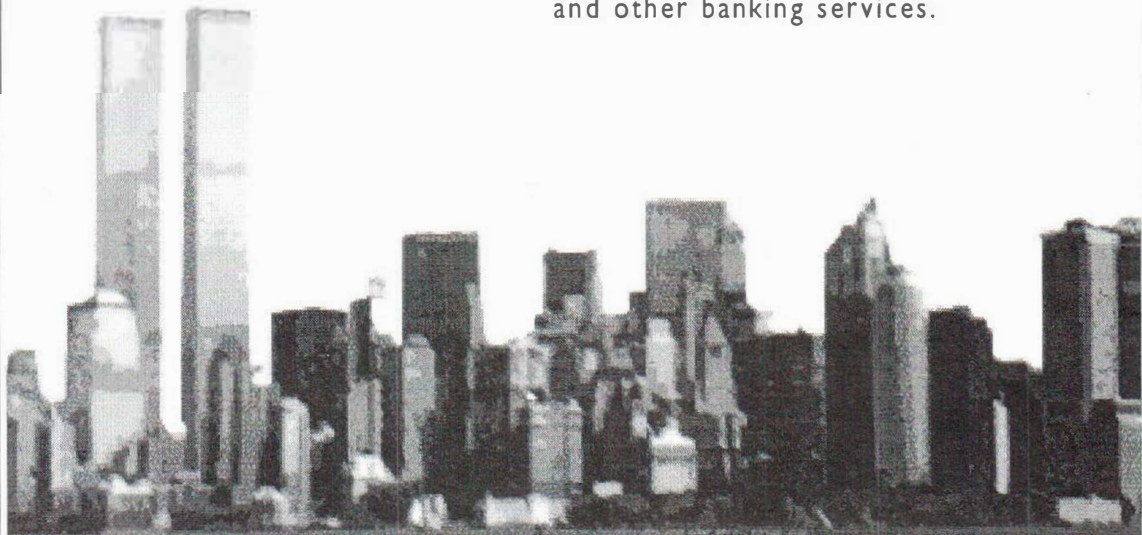
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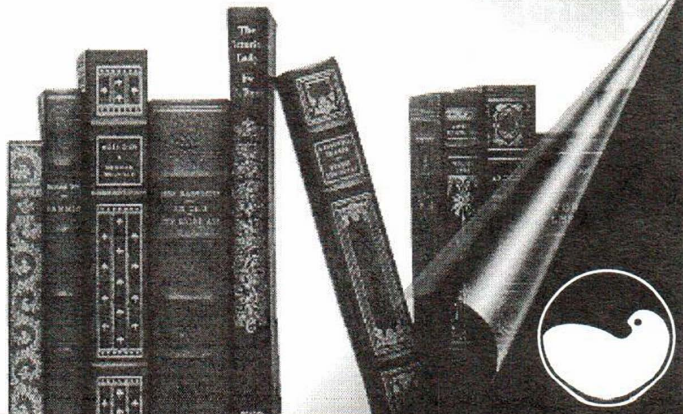
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