

**Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement on the Delimitation of the USSR and
Turkey Economic Zone in the Black Sea
23 December 1986 - 6 February 1987**

No.3915

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Ankara and has the honour to inform the latter of the following:

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Turkey by the Decree No.86/11264 published in the Official Gazette on 17 December 1986, declared an Exclusive Economic Zone in the Black Sea 1/(1).

The text of the Decree concerning the establishment of the Turkish Exclusive Economic Zone in the Black Sea is enclosed herewith. It will be noted that in the Decree it is stated, inter alia, that taking into account the dimensions of the Black Sea, delimitation agreements shall be effected with the states with coasts opposite or adjacent to the coasts of Turkey to determine the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zone. In the Decree it is also stipulated that the agreements previously concluded by Turkey concerning the delimitation of maritime areas shall not be effected.

It will be recalled that, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in a Nota Verbale forwarded to the Turkish Embassy in Moscow on 3 May 1984, stated that the USSR, with respect to the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zone in the Black Sea, intends to comply with the boundary determined by the "Agreement between the Government of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Republic of Turkey concerning the delimitation of the Continental Shelf in the Black Sea" dated 23 June 1978.2/

(2) The Turkish Government, in a Note Verbale forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR by the Turkish Embassy in Moscow on 26 September 1984, informed that it took note of the statement contained in the Soviet Note Verbale of 3 May 1984 and further stated that it considered the boundary determined in the Continental Shelf Agreement between the two countries to be also valid for the Economic Zone, in conformity with the common understanding expressed in the preamble of the Continental Shelf Agreement and the special features of the Black Sea.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR in a Note Verbal handed to the Turkish Embassy in Moscow on 5th November 1984, communicated its agreement that the boundary line of the Continental Shelf of the USSR and Turkey determined by the Agreement of 23th June 1978, be also valid with respect to the Soviet Exclusive Economic Zone.

There already exists an accord between the Turkish Government and the Government of the USSR to the effect that the existing Continental Shelf boundary in the Black Sea should be applicable for the Turkish and Soviet Exclusive Economic Zones. It is considered appropriate that with the establishment of the Turkish Economic Zone in the Black Sea, this accord should be registered as an Agreement.

The Republic of Turkey proposes that this agreement be effected through an exchange of Note and requests the USSR Government to confirm and state that the boundary determined by the Continental Shelf delimitation Agreement of 23th June 1978, between the Turkish and USSR Governments should be valid for the delimitation of their respective Exclusive Economic Zones.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the USSR the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Embassy of the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics
ANKARA

II
[Translation]

No. 84-87

The Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and, with reference to the Ministry's note No. 3915 of 23 December 1986, has the honour to inform it as follows.

The Soviet side confirms that there exists an accord between the USSR and Turkey to the effect that the continental shelf boundary established by the Agreement of 23 June 1978 between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Republic of Turkey concerning the delimitation of the continental shelf between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Turkey in the Black Sea also constitutes the boundary of the Soviet and Turkish economic zones.

The Soviet side considers that note No. 3915 of 23 December 1986 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and this note constitute an agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Turkey on the question of the boundary of their respective economic zones.

The Embassy of the USSR takes this opportunity to convey to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Ankara, 6 February 1987

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Turkey
Ankara

Endnotes

1 (Popup - Popup)

1/ Reproduced in: The Law of the Sea: National legislation on the Exclusive Economic Zone; United Nations Publication Sales No.E.93.V.10, p. 378-379.

2 (Popup - Popup)

2/ Reproduced in: The Law of the Sea: Maritime Boundary Agreements (1970-1984), United Nations Publication Sales No.E.87.V.12, p.194-196