

OSINT Geolocation Report: Diplomatic Event Image Analysis

Farah Mae Sumajit: OSINT Task #2

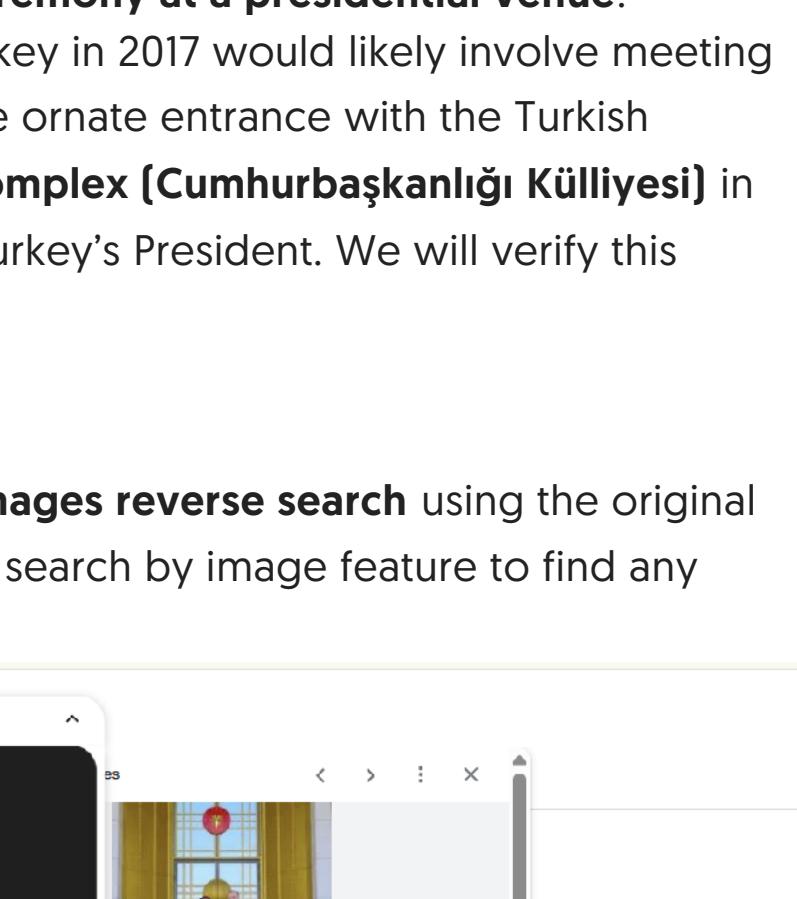
Task:

You have obtained an image [event1.jpg] of a diplomatic event but do not have any metadata or location details. Using only visual clues in the image, outline your approach to geolocating the exact place where the event took place. Once you have identified a possible location, use OSINT techniques to verify your findings. What steps did you take to confirm the accuracy of your location discovery?

Introduction

In April 2017, Somalia's President **Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo** made a state visit to Turkey [medium.com](#). A news agency published a photograph of President Farmaajo shaking hands with Turkey's President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** during an official welcome ceremony. The image came with no metadata or location info, so we must determine *where* it was taken using only OSINT techniques. By analyzing visual clues and using reverse image searches, online maps, and keyword searches, we will pinpoint the exact location and its coordinates.

Figure 1: Original image of Somali President Farmaajo (left) shaking hands with Turkish President Erdoğan (right) during a diplomatic meeting. Visible are the Somali flag (light blue with white star) on the left and Turkish flag (red with star and crescent) on the right, indicating a Somalia-Turkey event.



Visual Clue Analysis

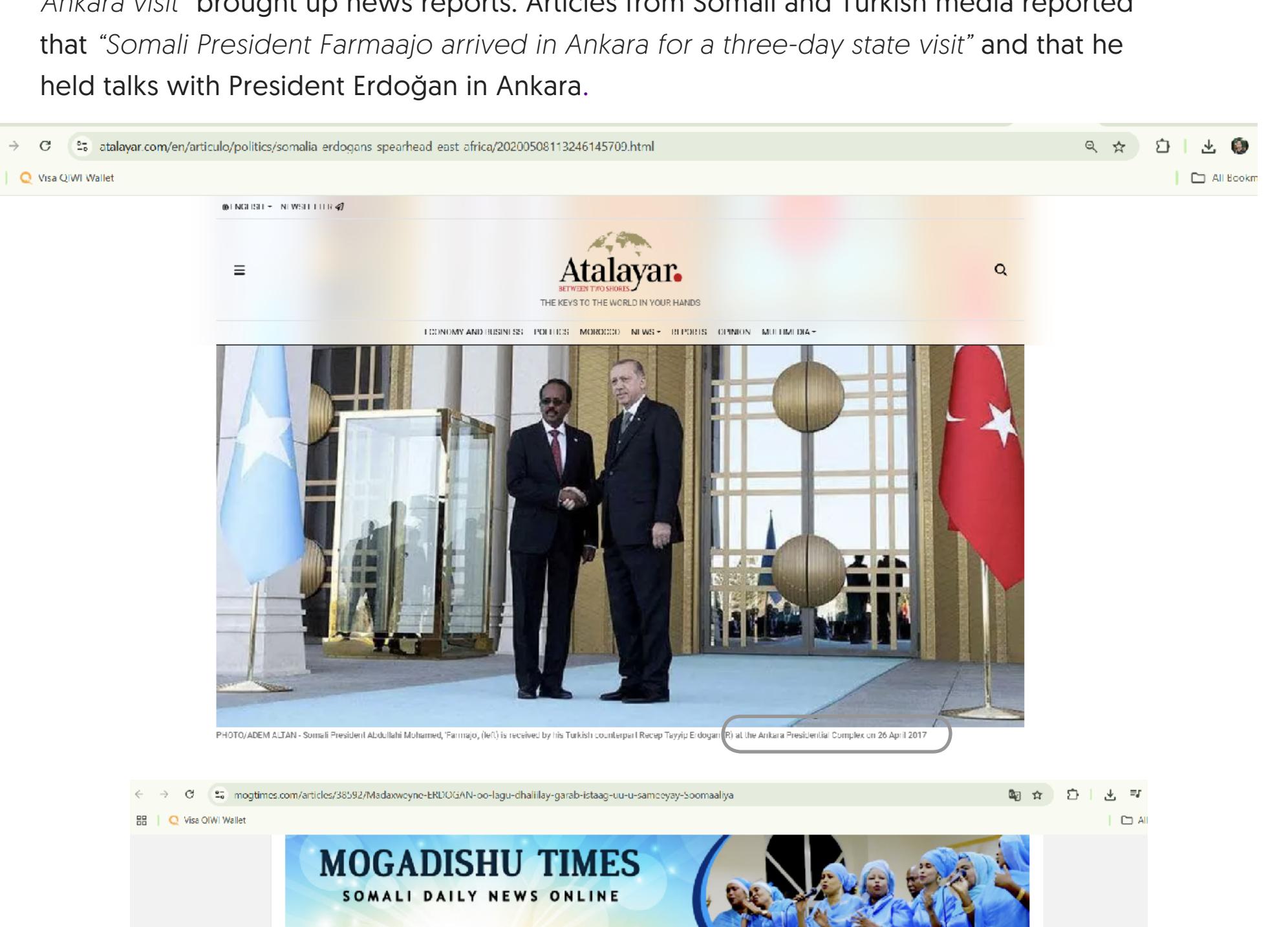
Even without metadata, the **visual clues** in the photo provide strong hints about the location:

- **Flags & Insignia:** The **Somali flag** and **Turkish flag** are both displayed, suggesting an official bilateral meeting. The presence of both national flags indicates a formal diplomatic ceremony in Turkey (since Erdoğan, as host, would have the Turkish flag present alongside the guest's flag).
- **Architecture & Emblem:** Behind the leaders is a grand **golden door** with a distinctive **red circular emblem** above it. The emblem bears a star surrounded by smaller stars – this is the **Presidential seal of Turkey**, often seen at Turkey's presidential facilities. The door's lavish design and emblem suggest a governmental palace or presidential complex.
- **Ceremonial Setup:** A **blue carpet** is laid out under the presidents' feet. Turkey often uses a turquoise-blue carpet for state welcome ceremonies. Additionally, in wider shots of similar events, one can observe honor guards in historical uniforms. (In fact, other images from the event show Ottoman-style honor guards flanking the entrance. These details imply this is a formal **welcome ceremony at a presidential venue**.

Inference: The Somali president's first state visit to Turkey in 2017 would likely involve meeting Erdogan at Turkey's **Presidential Palace in Ankara**. The ornate entrance with the Turkish presidential seal strongly suggests the **Presidential Complex (Cumhurbşakanlığı Külliyesi)** in Ankara, Turkey – the official residence and office of Turkey's President. We will verify this hypothesis through OSINT steps below.

Step 1: Reverse Image Search (Google Images)

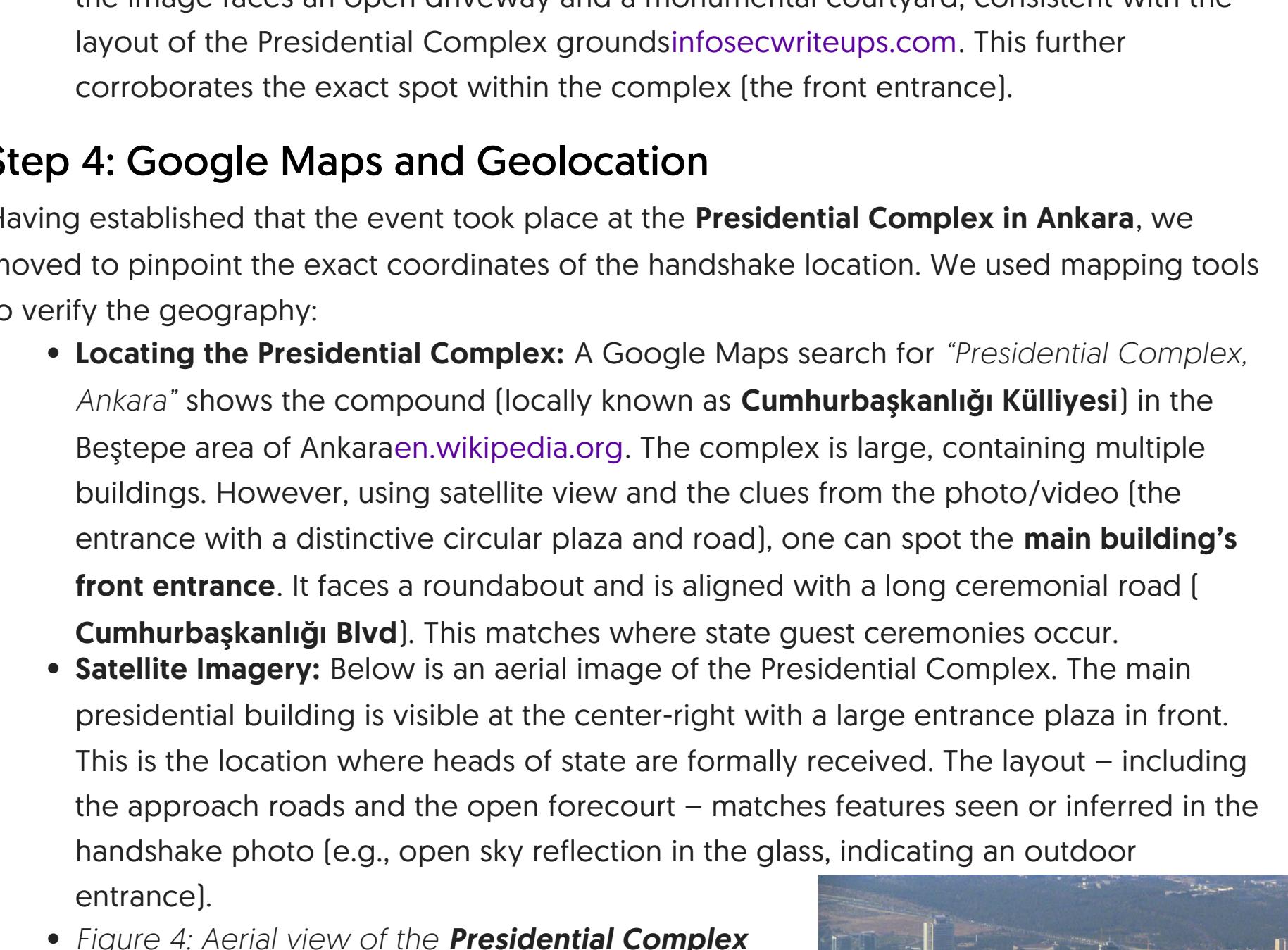
To gather more evidence, we performed a **Google Images reverse search** using the original photo. This involves uploading the image to Google's search by image feature to find any matches or similar images online.



Step 2: Reverse Image Search (Yandex Images)

To expand our search, we also used **Yandex Images** (another powerful reverse image search engine). Uploading the photo on Yandex provided additional context:

- **Yandex's Results:** Yandex found several **similar images of the same distinctive doorway** from different visits. For example, we found images of President Erdogan greeting other world leaders at what appears to be the **exact same entrance** – the same gold doors and red seal are visible. Yandex effectively showed that our target photo's background matches the **Turkish Presidential Complex entrance used for state visits**.

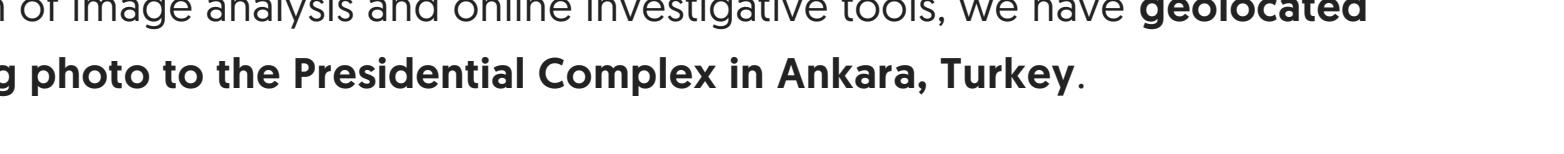


- **Corroboration:** Seeing multiple leaders being received by Erdogan at the **same front gate** gave high confidence in the location. It means the architecture in our image is unique to Turkey's Presidential Complex. *This cross-comparison is a key OSINT technique:* if the same background appears in different contexts (with different VIPs), it's likely a famous location. Indeed, all evidence pointed to **Ankara's Presidential Complex main entrance**.

Step 3: Keyword Search and News Verification

Next, we turned to traditional **keyword searches** to validate the context and location from textual sources. We searched for news articles and official statements about President Farmaajo's Turkey visit in April 2017:

- **State Visit News:** Searching Google for keywords like "**Farmaajo Turkey April 2017 Ankara visit**" brought up news reports. Articles from Somali and Turkish media reported that "**Somali President Farmaajo arrived in Ankara for a three-day state visit**" and that he held talks with President Erdogan in Ankara.



- **Additional OSINT (Video):** As an extra step, one can search for **videos** of state visits. On YouTube, searches like "**Somali President Erdogan 2017 Ankara ceremony**" bring up footage of the welcome ceremony. Such videos show the full venue – the approach road, the guards, and the handshake at the grand door – allowing us to visually confirm the palace entrance. From one such video, you can observe that the door in the image faces an open driveway and a monumental courtyard, consistent with the layout of the Presidential Complex grounds [infosecwriteups.com](#). This further corroborates the exact spot within the complex (the front entrance).

Step 4: Google Maps and Geolocation

Having established that the event took place at the **Presidential Complex in Ankara**, we moved to pinpoint the exact coordinates of the handshake location. We used mapping tools to verify the geography:

- **Locating the Presidential Complex:** A Google Maps search for "**Presidential Complex, Ankara**" shows the compound (locally known as **Cumhurbşakanlığı Külliyesi**) in the Beştepe area of Ankara [wikipedia.org](#). The complex is large, containing multiple buildings. However, using satellite view and the clues from the photo/video (the entrance with a distinctive circular plaza and road), one can spot the **main building's front entrance**. It faces a roundabout and is aligned with a long ceremonial road [**Cumhurbşakanlığı Blvd**]. This matches where state guest ceremonies occur.

- **Satellite Imagery:** Below is an aerial image of the Presidential Complex. The main presidential building is visible at the center-right with a large entrance plaza in front. This is the location where heads of state are formally received. The layout – including the approach roads and the open forecourt – matches features seen or inferred in the handshake photo (e.g., open sky reflection in the glass, indicating an outdoor entrance).

