

U.S. Pressing European Union to Be More Friendly to Turkey

The New York Times

May 1, 1998, Friday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1998 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 14; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 562 words

Byline: By STEPHEN KINZER

By STEPHEN KINZER

Dateline: ISTANBUL, **Turkey**, April 30

Body

Senior diplomats from the **United States** are engaged in an intense effort to persuade the **European Union** to adopt a **more** conciliatory policy toward **Turkey**, diplomats involved in the effort say.

The diplomats said Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright had made a series of telephone calls to her **European** counterparts in recent days, urging them to soften their attitude toward **Turkey**. Among those whom she has called are Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine of France, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of Germany and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain.

The effort is growing as an American mediator, Richard C. Holbrooke, is about to visit Cyprus for a new round of talks with Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders. His visit to the island four weeks ago ended without visible progress, in part because Turkish Cypriots and their patrons in Ankara were angry at the way the **European Union** was treating **Turkey's** application for membership.

Ms. Albright reportedly made some progress in her calls, but also found that fierce anti-Turkish sentiment in Greece and the national election campaign in Germany were major obstacles to changing the **European Union** position on **Turkey**.

Greece is **Turkey's** principal rival in Europe, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany is facing an uphill fight for re-election. He does not want to be seen as supporting steps that could bring **more** Turkish immigrants to Germany, which is already home to the world's largest Turkish immigrant community.

"This **Turkey** question is probably the most serious disagreement we have with Germany," said a State Department official who has worked closely with German leaders.

At a summit meeting in December in Luxembourg, leaders of **European Union** countries decided to proceed quickly with talks aimed at admitting six additional countries and to place five others on a waiting list. The 12th applicant, **Turkey**, was effectively rejected.

That set off a storm of protest in **Turkey**, highlighted by emotional denunciations of Europe and suggestions that **Turkey** should look for friends elsewhere. American leaders, including President Clinton, criticized the **European** decision and urged that **Turkey** not be made to feel unwelcome in the West.

U.S. Pressing European Union to Be More Friendly to Turkey

After the Luxembourg meeting, Turkish leaders took a series of retaliatory measures, including asking their Turkish Cypriot clients to stiffen their negotiating stance in long-stalled talks with Greek Cypriots. Mr. Holbrooke said after his latest visit to Cyprus that Turkish Cypriots were refusing to consider serious compromises as long as Europe treated **Turkey** in a manner that they considered unfair. He is scheduled to return to the island on Saturday.

The next **European Union** summit meeting is set for June in Cardiff, Wales.

American diplomats across the continent have been instructed to urge **European** leaders to issue a new statement in Cardiff declaring their desire for better ties with **Turkey**.

"We are now engaged in a full-court **press** to get the E.**U.** to ease up on **Turkey**, to make the Turks feel **more** welcome in Europe," said a **United States** diplomat involved in the effort. "There are intense negotiations going on aimed at getting the E.**U.** to improve the terms of its offer.

"The **European** countries have accused us of not understanding their problems. We do recognize that it will be a long time before **Turkey** is ready to join."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: ELECTIONS (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); **EUROPEAN UNION** (90%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (90%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); FOREIGN POLICY (89%); MIDDLE EAST PROTESTS & UPRISINGS (78%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (78%); DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (78%); IMMIGRATION (76%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (75%)

Company: **EUROPEAN UNION** **EUROPEAN UNION** (94%); **EUROPEAN UNION** (94%)

Organization: **EUROPEAN UNION** (94%); **EUROPEAN UNION** (94%); **EUROPEAN UNION** **EUROPEAN UNION** (94%); **EUROPEAN UNION** (94%)

Person: RICHARD HOLBROOKE (54%)

Geographic: CARDIFF, WALES (89%); ANKARA, **TURKEY** (79%); **TURKEY** (97%); EUROPE (97%); CYPRUS (96%); GERMANY (94%); **UNITED STATES** (94%); **EUROPEAN UNION** MEMBER STATES (94%); LUXEMBOURG (92%); GREECE (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); WALES (79%)

Load-Date: May 1, 1998