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AT 5.45 P.M. B.S.T. TODAY

SIR PHILIP JOUBERT'S MESSAGE TO TURKEY

Following is copy of a speech by Air Chief Marshal Sir Philip Joubert, broadcast to Turkey at 16.45 G.M.T. today, in commemoration of the Turkish Aviation Day.

On the day when you commemorate the immortal heroism of the Turkish fighting men by a solemn ceremony before the tomb of your Unknown Soldier, we of the Royal Air Force are with you in sympathy and in spirit.

Since the early days in 1912 when Turkish Officers learned to fly at British Flying Schools, British and Turks have been in close association. For a while we were separated by the war of 1914/18 and its consequences, but we were to come together again in friendship and mutual cooperation.

It is a natural consequence of our common interest and our national spirit. We have both fought in the past to preserve our independence and maintain our rights, and we British are doing so again in the face of another threat. But our chief interest is the peaceful development of our national civilisation. On this strong foundation our friendship is securely based.

In the last war I learned to respect your fighting qualities when I was stationed on the Palestine front. In peace I was to form a friendship with you and your commanders. And in 1938 I had the pleasure and great interest to fly through Turkey on my way out to India. The welcome you gave me at Yeniköy, at Eskisehir and at Adana will long remain in my memory.

It was made clear to me by the enthusiasm of your airmen and the serious and determined manner in which they were pursuing their military studies that you were building up a great air force. Some of our airmen gave their lives in helping yours to achieve their ambition - efficiency in the air.

And so today we see a strong Turkey, armed in all the elements - sea, land, and air - and ready to defend her liberty and her ideals. To her we send greetings, and especially to her airmen, our brothers of the sky. If they are called on to fight, our good wishes will go with them. And together with them we wish today to make solemn homage before the tomb of your Unknown Warrior.

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