

British Ambassador Noel Charles and Turkey's Agenda (1949-1951)

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Abstract

Noel Charles' three-year service in Turkey as the British ambassador in the time period between 1949 and 1951, when Turkey's domestic and foreign policy were active and changeable, is discussed within the scope of Turkey's agenda at that time. The events in which Noel Charles took part and became actively involved have been determined in the light of Turkey's political-military, cultural-social and commercial agenda based on the press and archival resources of the period. On the basis of the foreign relations, Turkey's campaign for NATO membership and British government's desire to maintain its existence in the Middle East as a powerful state prompted the rapprochement between Britain and Turkey in this period. The fact that that Soviet Russia was a common enemy and the United States was a common ally can be considered as one of the main factors in this rapprochement. In our study, the amicable relations established between Britain and Turkey in the time period between 1949 and 1951 are addressed, and it is aimed to present Noel Charles' perspective of Turkey, his special travels in Turkey, personal point of view and feelings through the available data. The relations between Turkey and Britain during a three-year working period of an ambassador have been reviewed within a limited frame.

Key Words: Noel Charles, Turkey, Britain, the Middle East, NATO

İngiltere Büyükelçisi Noel Charles ve Türkiye'nin Gündemi (1949-1951)

Özet

Türkiye'nin iç ve dış politikada etkin ve değişken olduğu 1949-1951 yılları arasında Türkiye'de İngiltere Büyükelçisi olarak görev yapmış olan Noel Charles'in üç yıllık faaliyetleri Türkiye gündemi ile birlikte ele alınmıştır. Türkiye'nin siyasi-askeri, kültürel-sosyal ve ticari gündemi ışığında Noel Charles'in katıldığı ve etkin olduğu faaliyetler dönemin basın ve arşiv kaynakları esas alınarak belirlenmiştir. Dış ilişkiler bazında Türkiye'nin NATO'ya katılma çabaları, İngiltere'nin Ortadoğu'da güçlü devlet olarak kalma istekleri bu dönemde İngiltere ile Türkiye arasındaki yakınlaşmayı sağlamıştır. Bu yakınlaşmada Sovyet Rusya'nın ortak düşman ve Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nin ortak müttefik olması temel etkenlerden sayılabilir. Çalışmamızda 1949-1951 yılları arasında İngiltere ile Türkiye arasında gelişen dostane ilişkiler Noel Charles temelinde ele alınırken, Noel Charles'in Türkiye'ye bakışı, Türkiye'deki özel seyahatleri, şahsi görüş ve duygularına da veriler ölçüsünde yer vermeye çalışılmıştır. Bir Büyükelçinin üç yıllık yaşamında Türkiye-İngiliz ilişkileri sınırlı bir çerçeve ile yeniden gözden geçirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Noel Charles, Türkiye, İngiltere, Ortadoğu, NATO.

Introduction

The period between 1949 and 1951, when Turkey's domestic and foreign policy agenda was busy, was also the time when the impacts of the Second World War was felt in different ways. The issues that existed before and that appeared after the war were in the centre of the attention for the world countries². The emergence of various disputes and the changing world order also required a revision of the policies and international relations.

After the Second World War, an atmosphere of peace could not be achieved immediately. As Armaoğlu stated, the world had to spend an eventful fifteen-year in a "cold war" atmosphere³. In this context, for Turkey, the most remarkable country in this changing relations and policies was Britain. Britain's desire to maintain its forces in the British colonies and the emergence of the Soviet Russia, disturbing the balance after the war, caused Britain to change its direction. Upon reviewing its relationship with Turkey, Britain launched a new policy towards Turkey including amity and closeness. Especially in order to maintain its existence as

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² For detailed information about the period See *Fahir Armaoğlu, 20. Yüzyıl Siyasi Tarihi (1914-1995) [20th Century Political History (1914-1995)]*, 11. Baskı, Ankara: Alkım Yayınevi, p. 419vd.

³ Armaoğlu, Op. Cit., p. 419.

a powerful state in the Middle East, Britain intended to conciliate Turkey⁴. In this policy, the fact that both countries were on the side of the United States against Soviet Russia was effective. Turkey also favoured the policy of rapprochement with Britain⁵.

The only way to ensure security for Turkey was to take part in the unities formed by the powerful states and so it was of primary policy to be one of the member states in these unities. The unity that would provide security in this period was North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Turkey had to be a partner of this association for its military and political survival. Therefore, Turkey strived to join NATO as a member country within the framework of its foreign policy between 1949 and 1951⁶.

Meanwhile, within the framework of the domestic policies in Turkey, efforts were accelerated for the transition to pluralistic system. The President İsmet İnönü was in favour of the transition to pluralist democracy, which had been started in the time period of Atatürk but could not be implemented, and he was waiting for the end of the war. For this reason, after the war, the pluralistic system that had been longed for years in Turkey was achieved in 1946 with the establishment of the Justice Party and its participation in the local elections. The power groups and policies changing with 1950 elections in Turkey gave rise to new arrangements in Turkey⁷. In brief, Turkey witnessed highly intensive changes in the domestic and foreign policies between 1949 and 1951⁸.

Noel Charles, one of the prominent figures in Turkish-British rapprochement, who worked in Turkey in these circumstances of changes, had been to Turkey for around three years as the British ambassador. During this period, he witnessed political, military, social, cultural and commercial developments and had an opportunity to get to know Turkey better. He kept records of the period when he was in Turkey and also officially sent information to Britain. Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa evaluated these reports by Noel Charles in his various works comprehensively⁹. As can be understood from his reports and Turkish press as well, it is

⁴ Armaoğlu, Op. Cit., p. 518.

⁵ Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "Demokrat Parti Dönemi Türkiye'nin Ortadoğu Politikası (1950-1960) [Turkey's Middle Eastern Policy during the Democrat Party Era (1950-1960)]", *History Studies*, 2010, Volume: 2, Issue: Special Issue, p. 68; Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "The Straits Questions According to British Documents (1774-1953)", *International Symposium on Karamürsel Alp & History of Kocaeli-II*, Volume: 1, Kocaeli 2016, p. 1633.

⁶ Fahir Armaoğlu, Op. Cit., p. 517-521.

⁷ Sina Akşin, *Kısa Türkiye Tarihi [Brief History of Turkey]*, 9. Baskı, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası, 2009, pp. 239-248.

⁸ After the transition to pluralist democracy and handover of the ruling power, it is also mentioned that there was an uneasiness and pettishness felt by Bayar and Menderes, which started especially in the last year when Noel Charles was in Turkey and continued until 1954 elections. They are considered to have been in that mood for the fear of losing power. Even, some authors argued that Menderes and Bayar had a kind of "İnönü Phobia". See Sina Akşin, Op. Cit., p. 250. On a dining event hosted by Noel Charles in the embassy, during the conversations with the Prime Minister Adnan Menderes a similar situation occurred as follows: While chatting with Adnan Menderes after dinner, Noel Charles spoke highly of Turkey's advancement in democracy and started talking about İsmet İnönü and posed critical comments. Highly irritated with the situation, Adnan Menderes tried to keep calm for the sake of the intimate friendship representations by Noel Charles on behalf of Britain, and he didn't reply harshly but changed the topic by not responding back to the criticism. He ended the night after his speech emphasizing democracy and Britain-Turkey fellowship. See Nadir Nadi, "*Perde Aralığından-Demokrasiyi soysuzlaştıran Sen-Ben Kavgarları [Power Struggles that Degenerate Democracy-Behind the Counter]*", *Cumhuriyet*, 27 September 1964, p. 4.

⁹ See. Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "Demokrat Parti Dönemi Türkiye'nin Ortadoğu Politikası (1950-1960)", p.68; Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "Economic Developments in Turkey During The Democrat Party Era (1950-1960)", *Abant İzzet Baysal Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi -Journal of Social Science*, Volume:2005-1, Issue:10, p.207-239; Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "The Straits Questions According to British

obvious that Noel Charles served as a bridge in the development of foreign policy between Britain and Turkey, in accordance with his duty. During the period he was in charge, Noel Charles knew that the Turkish Government's primary concern was the issue of security and that Turkey was highly determined and persistent to join NATO to ensure this security¹⁰.

The study aims to handle the events, in which Noel Charles was involved and became influential, within the agenda of Turkey during the period when Noel Charles was in Turkey. Also, Noel Charles' views and feelings were given place based on the speeches made by him for the press.

1. The Life of Noel Charles (according to the agrément¹¹ dated 1949)

In the agrément letter sent to Britain by the Republic of Turkey on February 9, 1949 requested for the new British Ambassador to be appointed, the appointment of Ambassador Noel Charles, who served as Deputy Undersecretary at the British Foreign Office, was deemed appropriate¹².

The short résumé of Noel Charles until the year 1949 was included in the agrément letter of February 10, 1949 sent from the Foreign Minister Necmettin Sadak to the Presidency¹³. According to this; Noel Charles was born in 1891, studied at Rugby College and Oxford University, participated in the First World War from 1914 to 1918 and had Iron Cross Medal.

He was appointed as the Brussels Embassy clerk in 1919, the Foreign Clerk in 1921 and the Embassy clerk in Bucharest in 1923. In 1925, he was promoted to the first secretary, then appointed to the Embassies of Tokyo, Stockholm and Moscow respectively.

In 1936, he was assigned as the undersecretary of the Embassy of Brussels and a year later he was appointed to Rome. He was promoted to the Legation in 1939 and brought to the Legation in Lisbon in 1940 after declaring war with Italy. He was appointed as the Ambassador to Rio de Janeiro in 1941¹⁴. In 1944, he was appointed to the Supreme Commissioner of Britain in Rome, and after the peace agreement with Italy, he served in Rome as a representative in the position of ambassador¹⁵. Later, Noel Charles was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appointed to the British Delegation at the Council of Foreign Ministers authorized to negotiate the fate of the Italian colonies. Before he was appointed to the Embassy in Turkey, his post was the Undersecretary of State of the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹⁶.

His résumé in Cumhuriyet newspaper began with the phrase "Baronet Sir Noel Charles was 58 years old and educated in Rugby and Oxford". Here, the nobility of Noel Charles stands out. Noel Charles was called Baronet because of his father, Richard Charles, a leading member of the Indian service, had the title of Baronage, and he also had the title of Sir given by the UK¹⁷.

Documents (1774-1953)", p. 1621-1635; Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "Demokrat Parti Dönemi Türkiye'nin Dış İlişkilerine Genel Bir Bakış (1950-1960) [An Overview of Turkey's Foreign Policy during the Democratic Party Era (1950-1960)]", *Alternative Politics*, Volume:1, Issue:2, September 2009, pp.142-193.

¹⁰ Behçet Yeşilbursa, "Demokrat Parti Dönemi Türkiye'nin Ortadoğu Politikası (1950-1960)", p.68.

¹¹ Agrément: The origin of the word "agrement"; French agrément. Certificate of Eligibility.

¹² Başbakanlık Cumhuriyet Arşivi (BCA) [The Prime Ministry Republic Archives], nr. 30.10.00.131.941.16.

¹³ BCA, nr. 30.10.00.131.941.16.

¹⁴ *The London Gazette*, June 24, 1941, No:35199, p.3599.

¹⁵ During his duty, on October 31, 1946, the house he resided in Rome was damaged by the bombing of the Irgun terrorist group's events in Rome. See; *The Courier-Mail*, November 1, 1946, No:3102, p.1; *The Canberra Times*, December 25, 1946, No:6151, Vol:21, p.1.

¹⁶ BCA, nr. 30.10.00.131.941.16.

¹⁷ "Yeni İngiliz Elçisi Perşembe günü geliyor [The New British Ambassador is coming on Thursday]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 10, 1949, p.1.4.

2. Noel Charles's Arrival to Turkey

British Ambassador David Kelly and his wife, who were in charge before Noel Charles, left Turkey on May 2, 1949. David Kelly was appointed to Moscow. He and his wife went to Yeşilköy on May 2, 1949, to travel to London on a British plane. The Ambassador was sent off in Yeşilköy by the American Ambassador Mr. George Wadsworth, who had come there on a private plane from Ankara, the Greek Ambassador Pericles Skeferis, the Indian Ambassador Diwan Chamau Lall, Hayriye Kırdar, Hamdullah Suphi Tanrıöver, the American Consul General Mr. Mac Donald, the British and American Embassy members and reporters. Looking very excited, David Kelly told the reporters at the airport: "*I spoke enough in Ankara. What should I tell; I'm leaving your beautiful land unfortunately and I'm very sorry, I hope to see you again*"¹⁸.

David Kelly's wife wiped her eyes with her handkerchief while saying goodbye to her friends who came to see her off. Her sadness and tears were getting increased as they went on the plane, and after looking at the Turkish flag flying over the plane, to a journalist who *said*, "*Would you like to say something?*", she *said*: "*What can I do? I have to go*".¹⁹

The reason why Lady Kelly had such a grief was an incident that had happened the day before their journey. It was a bouquet of flowers sent to their home by a sign officer who gave way to the Ambassador's car in front of the Embassy. Ms. Kelly took the bouquet and said to those around her in tears, "*Here are the Turks!*"²⁰.

Britain's new Ambassador to Ankara Noel Charles said in a statement to Nafen agency: "*On my way to my mission in Ankara, I am deeply pleased*"²¹.

Noel Charles attributed his arrival in Turkey with a deep sense of friendship and without feeling like an outsider to his visit to Turkey in 1925 and uttered the following words;

*"In 1925, when I served at the British Embassy in Bucharest, I came to Turkey for the first time for a diplomatic mission. I also had the opportunity to visit Turkey in 1931. In this way, I have been pleased to observe Turkey's resurgence with the indoctrinations of the Great Leader Mustafa Kemal in the very beginning days. Today, I welcome a longer residence in Turkey and I hope that I can see the mature results of Atatürk's achievements closely"*²².

Noel Charles, who would represent the Great Britain in Ankara, stated that he was in constant contact with Percy Lorraine, one of Britain's former Ambassadors to Ankara, and thus knowledgeable about Turkey, adding that "*Anyone who has worked with Sir Lorraine can't stop sharing the Ambassador's great reverence in Turkey's past and his great faith in its future*"²³.

Noel Charles, who noted the robustness of Turkey's political views and national body in his remarks, expressed great respect and reliance for this. Noel Charles expressed his deep satisfaction that he would find himself in the front of a nationalist Turkish press that is active and speaks openly²⁴.

¹⁸ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci [The statement of the new British Ambassador]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3 1949, p.1,4.

¹⁹ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p.4.

²⁰ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p.4.

²¹ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p.1.

²² "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p.4.

²³ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p.4.

²⁴ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p.4.

Noel Charles, who gladly said he would go to Turkey on a Turkish ferry, said, "*I am very pleased to go to Turkey on a Turkish ship. All I wish is that during my journey, I can travel in a calm and clean weather like Turkish and British relations*"²⁵.

British Ambassador to Ankara Baronet Noel Charles and his wife Lady Charles arrived in Turkey by the Istanbul ferry on Thursday, May 12, 1949²⁶.

He was welcomed by the British Consul General, his wife, consular officer and members of the press at the dock. Ambassador Noel Charles had expressed his feelings to the reporters in the following sentences: "*I am very pleased to have come to the friendly nation Turkey. I'm having the happiest moments of my life right now. The Turkish and British nations understood each other closely and appreciated that they were needed. In the face of today's situation, I am aware of the importance and seriousness of my duty. Turkish-British relations are evolving by the day. My journey was very comfortable. I admire the interest and intimacy I have experienced on the Turkish ship*"²⁷. On the evening of the same day, the Ambassador moved to Ankara.

Noel Charles remained in Turkey until November 1951, the date his duty ended. However, in May 1950, he went to London on leave²⁸ and returned to Turkey a few months later. During his duty, Noel Charles went to London for a variety of reasons at certain time intervals and resumed his duties when he came back to Turkey.

He had an illness during his time period in Turkey and it was stated in the press that his illness worsened in April 1951²⁹. Noel Charles was not in Turkey until June 27, 1951 after his illness. Noel Charles, who returned to Turkey on June 27, 1951, told *Milliyet* newspaper:

"*I haven't been in Turkey for a long time. I'm very pleased to be back. I will meet with your Foreign Secretary within the next week and inform your government of what I have been asked by the British Foreign Secretary. There is great sympathy for Turkey in Britain. Recent incidents have been misunderstood. The bonds between Turkey and Britain have reached the strongest state at the moment. That's why, there is no way to have a disagreement between the two friendly states*"³⁰.

3. Noel Charles in Turkey's 1949-1951 Agenda

Turkey's agenda between 1949 and 1951 was intense. The agenda was very intense not only in foreign affairs issues, but also in internal affairs. While Turkey, which switched to pluralist democracy, experienced some changes in its internal policy, it was considered vital to have a wise plan for the determination of the allied states in order to maintain security together with changes in the world policy and to be able to take part in the interstate relations. For this reason, the agenda of this process was very active from military-political, cultural-social and commercial aspects. In particular, Britain, which established friendly relations, was included in this active agenda through Ambassador Noel Charles.

3.1. Military - Political Agenda and Noel Charles

Between 1949 and 1951, Turkey's political and military agenda continued in relation to each other. Political decisions were also reinforced in the military field. When this situation is taken into account in the context of Noel Charles, who ensured the relations with Britain and

²⁵ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p.4.

²⁶ "Yeni İngiliz Elçisi Perşembe günü geliyor [The New British Ambassador arrives on Thursday]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 10, 1949, p.1.4; "İngiltere'nin yeni Ankara Büyük Elçisi geldi [Britain's new Ambassador to Ankara has arrived]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 13, 1949, p.1.3.

²⁷ "İngiltere'nin yeni Ankara Büyük Elçisi geldi", *Cumhuriyet*, May 13, 1949, p.1.3.

²⁸ "İngiltere elçisi dün sabah Londra'ya gitti [The British Ambassador went to London yesterday morning]", *Milliyet*, May 30, 1950, p.2.

²⁹ "İngiliz Sefirinin Hastalığı [The Illness of the British Ambassador]", *Milliyet*, April 8, 1951, p.1.

³⁰ "İngiltere elçisi dün gece geldi [The British Ambassador came last night]", *Milliyet*, June 28, 1951, p.1.

the Turkey-Britain relationship, it is seen that there were military and political visits to Turkey in this period. These visits were sometimes for military purposes and could turn into visits where political issues were discussed. The topics discussed during the visits were mainly about the Britain-Turkey friendship, trade relations, the Middle East issue and Turkey's accession to NATO.

3.1.1. Military-Political Visits and Noel Charles

Visitors from Britain to Turkey were usually political or military officials. Guests from Britain were greeted by Ambassador Noel Charles. Therefore, Noel Charles was also present while the guests were being welcomed in Turkey by the relevant authorities.

Sailor visitors from the British naval base in Cyprus stopped by Turkey and made various visits. For Britain, Cyprus had an important position in the 1950s. It was the concern about the Middle East issues that made this importance and the concern to maintain the place among the powerful states in the Mediterranean. One of the reasons why Britain later supported Greece and Turkey to join NATO was because it was trying to maintain its dominance in Cyprus³¹.

The first guests of the period were the British sailors. Due to the Mediterranean fleet, the passage of British sailors from Istanbul was intense during this period. On September 2, 1949, the officers and privates of British ships as guests in Istanbul Harbour visited the city's sights. Also, on the evening of the same day, a dinner was given by British Ambassador Noel Charles in honour of the visiting sailors. Mediterranean fleet Admiral Arthur Power was accepted by İnönü at Dolmabahçe Palace on September 3, 1949³².

The Commander of the British Middle East Air Force visited Turkey on September 24, 1949. The reason for the visit was the delivery of the British jet plane fleet. Twelve of the British jet "Vampire" planes, located in Cyprus, were brought from Eskişehir to Yeşilköy on the morning of September 23. With his fleet, The Commander of the Cyprus Air Force, Brigadier General BHC. Russell also came to Istanbul. The fleet was welcomed with a military ceremony³³.

Brigadier General Hamdullah Göker, Commander of the Turkish Air Force, welcomed the British General and said "welcome" in Yeşilköy military area. General Russell reviewed the reverence troop, first the British and then the Turkish national anthems were played. Istanbul Air Commander Colonel Naim Bürküt also reviewed British aviators, shook their hands and said "welcome"³⁴.

British Air General Russell told reporters that his trip was fine and that the kind acceptance in Eskişehir was very special for him. In honour of the guests, a lunch feast was given by the Air Command at the Florya casino³⁵.

After this feast, British Ambassador Sir Noel Charles also came to Yeşilköy and met with General Russell. Three Vampire planes took off for demonstrations at 3:30 p.m. Meanwhile, a curious public crowd filled Yeşilköy square and its surroundings. The public appreciated the planes' flights from a very low altitude. The British Ambassador congratulated the pilots after the demonstration flights. In honour of the guests, a feast was given at Taksim Casino in the evening³⁶.

³¹ Soyalp Tamçelik, "Kıbrıs'taki İngiliz üslerinin stratejik önemi [Strategic importance of British bases in Cyprus]", *International Journal of Human Sciences*, Volume:8, Issue:1, Year:2011, p. 1516.

³² "Misafir İngiliz Denizcileri [Guest British Sailors]", *Cumhuriyet*, September 3, 1949, p.2.

³³ "İngiliz tepkili uçak filosu dün geldi [The Fleet of British jet planes arrived yesterday]", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1949, p.1,3.

³⁴ "İngiliz tepkili uçak filosu dün geldi", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1949, p.1,3.

³⁵ "İngiliz tepkili uçak filosu dün geldi", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1949, p.1,3.

³⁶ "İngiliz tepkili uçak filosu dün geldi", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1949, p.1,3.

On those days again, Middle East Air Force Commander-in-Chief Marshal William F. Dicson came to Istanbul and visited the Governor of Istanbul. Marshal William Dicson was later accepted by President İnönü³⁷.

The 1950s, when Middle Eastern issues were heated, were also important for Britain and Turkey. Visits on these issues increased. General John T. Crocker, commander of the Middle East Army of Great Britain, along with Chief of Staff General Miller, Crocker's wife and entourage, arrived at Etimesgut military airport with a private plane on April 26, 1950 at 12:00 a.m. General John T. Crocker was welcomed at the airport by General İzzet Aksalur, the second Chairman of the General Staff, Noel Charles, Ambassador of Great Britain, military men, British land and air attachés. When General Crocker got off the plane, General İzzet Aksalur greeted and welcomed him and introduced him to those who were with him. Meanwhile, Mrs. Crocker was given a bouquet by Mrs. Aksalur. After that, the British and Turkish national anthems, played by the band, were listened, and subsequently, the General Crocker reviewed the reverence troop³⁸.

Having been asked about his impressions of his arrival in Turkey, General John T. Crocker told the reporters:

*"I am in Turkey for the first time. When I was in the Middle East, I always wanted to come to Turkey. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to come to Turkey when I leave this region. I am very pleased to contact the Turkish authorities, Turkish commanders and Turkish military units here. I am also pleased because I will be accepted by the President"*³⁹.

He visited the Foreign Secretary, then the Minister of National Defence and the Commander of the Land Forces and the second Chairman of the General Staff with the British Ambassador to Ankara, Noel Charles. General Crocker was accepted by the President at Çankaya mansion, and the Foreign Secretary and the Ambassador of Great Britain were also present. The British Ambassador Noel Charles hosted a dinner at his private residence in honour of the Commander of the Great Britain Middle East Land Forces General John T. Crocker, who was a guest in Ankara⁴⁰.

In Ankara, General John T. Crocker visited the Tank school together with Chief of General Staff Operations Division Lieutenant General Yümnü Üresin, Land Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Şahap Gürler and General Miller.

When General John T. Crocker came to school, he was greeted by a troop of soldiers, and he was briefed by the school commander in the school command room afterwards. Later, he attended the biology, radio and artillery classrooms, the artillery class in the number 6 classroom, the engine classrooms, the chassis class in the number 2 classroom, the radio pavilion and the radio class in the number 11 classroom, the shooting with room ammunition in the polygon, the motor course in the number 3 pavilion, and saw the artillery and radio practice in front of the school. General John T. Crocker expressed his satisfaction with what he saw when leaving school and thanked the school commanders and officers⁴¹.

Minister of National Defence Hüsnü Çakır hosted a lunch at Ankara Palas in honour of General John T. Crocker in Ankara. The British Ambassador Noel Charles, Deputy Chairman of the General Staff General İzzet Aksalur, Land Forces Commander General Nuri Yamut,

³⁷ "İngiliz tepkili uçak filosu dün geldi", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1949, p.3.

³⁸ "İngiltere'nin Ortaşark Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanı Geldi [Britain's Middle East Land Forces Commander Arrives]" *Cumhuriyet*, April 26, 1950, p. 1,3.

³⁹ "İngiltere'nin Ortaşark Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanı Geldi" *Cumhuriyet*, April 26, 1950, p. 1,3.

⁴⁰ "İngiltere'nin Ortaşark Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanı Geldi" *Cumhuriyet*, April 26, 1950, p.1,3.

⁴¹ "İngiliz generalin dün yaptığı ziyaretler [Visits made by the British general yesterday]," *Cumhuriyet*, April 27, 1950, p.1,3.

Foreign Ministry General Undersecretary Ambassador Faik Zihni Akdur, land, sea, air force chief of staffs, Chief of staff operations division chief, garrison commander, British Embassy land and air attachés and embassy staffs were present⁴².

After a two-day visit to Ankara, General John J. Crocker, along with Chief of Staff General Miller, Crocker's wife and entourage, departed in the direction of Egypt on his private plane at 9:30 a.m. General John Crocker was greeted by a reverence troop, led by a band, at Etimesgut military airport and was sent off by Deputy Chief of General Staff General İzzet Aksalur, Chief of General Staff Operations Division Lieutenant General Yünnü Üresin, chiefs of land, naval and air force staff and British Ambassador Noel Charles⁴³.

Turkish and British fleets gathered in Marmaris between 8 and 13 July 1950. During this visit, the British Mediterranean fleet celebrated annual sea festivities, and races were held between the lifeboats representing the two fleets on Wednesday, July 12⁴⁴.

British Ambassador Noel Charles, along with the sea attaché Colonel J.R. Brown, was on their way to attend the British Mediterranean fleet sea festivities in Marmaris on July 9, 1950. They would be the guests of the new Commander-in-Chief of the British Mediterranean Navy John Edelston K.C.B., who was on the H.M.S. "Suprise" flagship in Marmaris, British navy troops in Marmaris, which included the aircraft carrier H.M.S. "Glory", two cruisers, six destroyers, seven frigates, several submarines, mine scanner and auxiliary ships, announced that they would organize magnificent naval festivities⁴⁵.

On July 13, both fleets left Marmaris to perform their manoeuvres. The Turkish fleet departed in the direction of Istanbul and the British fleet of Cyprus. British naval aircraft played an important role in the manoeuvres made while leaving Marmaris. Relations between the two fleets and especially the bilateral relations between Admiral Rıdvan Koral and Admiral John Edelsten were very sincere and close⁴⁶. British Ambassador Noel Charles was present during the entire visit. President Celâl Bayar also went from Izmir to Istanbul with the navy returning from the Mediterranean.

The son-in-law of the King of England and the husband of the British crown princess Elizabeth, and the commander of the "Magpic" destroyer of Britain's Mediterranean navy, Altes Philippe Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, came to Yalova on a special R.A.F. airplane. The Duke had arrived in Izmir two days earlier with a frigate and had trips to Bursa, Yalova and Istanbul and returned back to Izmir. He was welcomed by the British Ambassador Noel Charles, Foreign Minister Fuad Köprülü, Admiral Nuri Günege in Yalova. The Duke later took a rest at Termal Otel. After a half-hour rest, he went to the Mansion and met with President Celâl Bayar. Duke also attracted the attention of Yalova people. After the meeting and dinner at the Mansion, he set off for Istanbul with the Acar ship⁴⁷. In Dolmabahçe, Istanbul, he was greeted by the Governor and Mayor Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Kerim Gökay and Istanbul land and sea commanders⁴⁸.

⁴² "İngiliz generalin dün yaptığı ziyaretler," *Cumhuriyet*, April 27, 1950, p.1.3.

⁴³ "Orgeneral Sir John Crocker Mısır'a gitti [General Sir John Crocker went to Egypt]", *Cumhuriyet*, April 28, 1950, p.5.

⁴⁴ "Türk ve İngiliz filoları [Turkish and British fleets]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 14, 1950, p.1.

⁴⁵ "İngiliz Filosunun Marmaris'te yapacağı şenlikler [British Fleet's festivities in Marmaris]", *Cumhuriyet*, 9 July 1950, p.3; "Celâl Bayar İzmir'e gidiyor [Celâl Bayar is going to Izmir]", *Milliyet*, July 9, 1950, p.7.

⁴⁶ "Türk ve İngiliz filoları [Turkish and British fleets]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 14, 1950, p.1.

⁴⁷ "Edinburgh Dükü Bayar'la konuştu [The Duke of Edinburgh spoke to Bayar]", *Milliyet*, September 15, 1950, p.1.5

⁴⁸ "Edinburgh Dükü Bayar'la konuştu", *Milliyet*, September 15, 1950, p.1.5

The Duke of Edinburgh visited Hagia Sophia and historical sites in Istanbul with the British Ambassador Noel Charles in the morning hours of September 15, 1950. After the Duke had lunch at the Embassy, he had a stroll through the Bosphorus with the Embassy ship. In the afternoon, he attended the cocktail given by the British Ambassador to introduce the British citizens there and subsequently to the dinner of the Governor. The Duke of Edinburgh then left Istanbul for Izmir⁴⁹.

On February 23, 1951, President Celâl Bayar accepted General Sir Brian Robertson, Commander-in-chief of the British Middle East Army, accompanied by the British Ambassador Noel Charles. The Minister of National Defence Refik Şevket İnce, Chief of General Staff General Nuri Yamut were also present in this reception⁵⁰.

3.1.2. Noel Charles on Turkey's Entry to NATO Days

In Turkey's process of entering NATO, Britain initially took a negative stance and did not support it. But then, the emerging events and the shift in strategic balance swayed Britain to change direction. Turkey could be the basis for British policy both in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean.

The years when Noel Charles was in charge were the years when Britain pursued a policy of rapprochement and friendship with Turkey. For this reason, the Ambassador made statements and performed acts that reflected this friendship between the two states.

It was vital for Turkey to be sure about the states that would help Turkey in case of any attacks, and therefore to be included in the Atlantic Treaty.⁵¹ For that purpose, in September 1950, Turkey sent troops to Korea and once again showed his alliance with United States.

Turkey's sending troops to Korea, in its struggle to join NATO, contributed positively. On the other hand, the events in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean delayed the Britain's exact response to Turkey's admission to NATO, and Britain maintained its negative stance⁵².

Noel Charles left Turkey for a while and came back to Ankara in June 1951. During this time, he was sent by Britain on a special mission. Noel Charles said that he had been assigned by British Foreign Secretary Morrison to meet Fuad Köprülü. When the Ambassador arrived in Ankara from Istanbul, he made the following statement to the Anadolu agency reporter at the railway station:

*"I am very pleased to return to your land to continue my mission. I'm not going to say much until I meet with your government, which I'm accredited with. However, I would like to point out that Britain is never against Turkey to enter the Atlantic Treaty. Britain understands this need. In fact, Mr Morrison, our Foreign Secretary, wished Turkey would also be in the ranks of the Atlantic Treaty in the House of Commons"*⁵³.

When asked if he had received a message from London, the Ambassador replied:

*"Our Foreign Minister, Mr. Morrison, has assigned me to speak to Prof. Fuad Köprülü. When I am accepted by Prof Fuad Köprülü, I will fulfil this task"*⁵⁴.

⁴⁹ "Edinburgh Dükü bugün İzmir'e gidecek [The Duke of Edinburgh is going to Izmir today]", *Cumhuriyet*, September 16, 1950, p.1,3.

⁵⁰ "Robertson'u kabul etti [He accepted Robertson]", *Milliyet*, February 24, 1951, p.1.5.

⁵¹ Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "Demokrat Parti Dönemi Türkiye'nin Ortadoğu Politikası (1950-1960)", p. 70; FO371/95267/RK1011/1, Turkey: Annual Review for 1950 (Turkey: 1950 Annual Review), From Noel Charles to Bevin, January 13, 1951.

⁵² For details of developments, see Armaoğlu, Op. Cit., p. 483-491; 517-524.

⁵³ "İngiliz Büyükelçisi Ankara'da [British Ambassador in Ankara]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 1, 1951, 1.4.

⁵⁴ "İngiliz Büyükelçisi Ankara'da", *Cumhuriyet*, July 1, 1951, 1.4.

British Ambassador Noel Charles went to the Foreign Ministry on July 2, 1951 and met with Prof. Fuad Köprülü. The meeting between the Foreign Minister and the British Ambassador lasted about an hour. The interview was particularly about the Atlantic Treaty. Noel Charles had given information related to his meeting with Mr Morrison, the British Foreign Secretary, and expressed his opinion that the British Foreign Ministry supported Turkey's accession to the Atlantic Treaty. During this meeting, he presented the memorandum he brought with him to Köprülü⁵⁵.

Foreign Minister Prof. Fuad Köprülü presented statements about Morrison's declaration about Turkey's accession to the Atlantic Treaty in response to oral questions from Izmir Deputy Osman Kapani and Kocaeli Deputy Edhem Vassaf Akan in the Parliament on July 20. The Minister's statement, particularly his words mentioning The USA, which was described as a friend, appreciated Turkey's security sensitivity, were strongly applauded.

The President Celâl Bayar followed this statement with the Chief of General Staff General Nuri Yamut from his lodge.

The British Ambassador Noel Charles and Canadian Ambassador General Odlum were also at corps diplomatique lodge⁵⁶.

Prof. Fuad Köprülü said:

"I am grateful to our friend Kocaeli Deputy Ethem Vassaf Akan for giving me the opportunity to make explanations to the high council on this issue with the occasion of the verbal question by him on the basis of friendly and allied British Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Morrison's verbal statement on our accession to the Atlantic Treaty in the House of Commons.

As you know, as soon as our government came to power, it became our primary goal to establish the world's current security on solid foundations and centred its action in this direction. The government of the Republic, which believes that the ensuring general security is a must that does not accept division and needs to be established on European basis, has concluded that our own safety and therefore the issue of world peace and stability can be ensured in the most effective way with our accession to this treaty. That's why we've never had a moment of desistance in the presence of our allies and friends to achieve this goal.

I am pleased to present you now that our rightful cause has been embraced by our ally, Britain, with great understanding. In fact, as you have seen in our press, Mr. Morrison briefly pointed out in this statement that after reconsidering the issue of admission of Greece and Turkey to the Atlantic Treaty from every aspect, the British government regards the best solution for the issue as the acceptance of these two countries to the treaty. On the other hand, it was also stated that The British government wanted Turkey very much to play its role in defending the Middle East and it was necessary to consider the views of the Contracting States about the accession to the treaty and the Kingdom government would try to reach an agreement in this context.

I would also like to point out that we believe the Middle East defence is essential for the protection of Europe, both strategically and economically. In this respect, when Turkey enters the Atlantic Treaty, our role in the Middle East will be to engage in immediate negotiations with those concerned to fulfil our responsibility and take the necessary measures cooperatively.

At a time when the danger rests on the door of the free world, I would like to state once again that our security cause, which will be an important agent in the strengthening of the

⁵⁵ "Türkiye ve Atlantik Paktı [Turkey and Atlantic Treaty]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 3, 1951, p.1.

⁵⁶ "F. Köprülü'nün Atlantik Paktına dair demeci [F. Köprülü's statement on the Atlantic Treaty]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 21, 1951, p.1

resistance against the attack, is to work in full confidence in the defence of the ideals we are connected with the Western community"⁵⁷.

The President Celâl Bayar went to his private office after the announcement and accepted the Ambassadors of the Great Britain and Canada. The Foreign Minister Prof. Dr. Fuad Köprülü was also present at this reception. The meeting continued for a long time. The foreign media supporting the acceptance of Turkey and Greece to the North Atlantic Treaty organization, like American newspapers including the New-York Times and the Herald Tribune, reported news in this direction⁵⁸.

The Foreign Minister Fuad Köprülü departed to Paris on July 30, 1951, with The Principal Clerk Sadi Eldem with an Air France flight to be present at the Council of Europe to be held in Strasbourg on August 2, 1951. They were sent off by the Governor of Istanbul and Mayor Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Kerim Gökay and British Ambassador Noel Charles at Yeşilköy Airport⁵⁹.

Comments continued both internally and externally about Turkey's acceptance to the Atlantic Treaty as a member state with equal rights. As of the date of September 23, 1951, the first political speeches began on the issue of the treaty acceptance, which was regarded as a definitive result of the tenacious and peaceful politics of the Turkish government. Although it was Sunday, The British Ambassador Noel Charles and The Foreign Minister Fuad Köprülü had a long meeting⁶⁰.

At the meeting, Turkey's view was presented about the actual place of its honourable duty in the treaty community, and Britain's satisfaction for Turkey's collaborative participation in the protection of the security of the democratic realm was expressed by the British Ambassador⁶¹.

The Foreign Minister Fuad Köprülü said the following about the Atlantic Treaty:

*"Our acceptance to the Atlantic Treaty is as much a gain for the world's peace as Turkey and perhaps more than that. This treaty will maintain the security of the whole world together with Turkey"*⁶².

The Prime Minister Adnan Menderes had a meeting with the Ambassadors of the three major states at 16.00 on October 6, 1951. The US Ambassador Mr. George Wadsworth, The British Ambassador Sir Noel Charles and The French Ambassador Jean Lesevyer were accepted all together. For the first time after Turkey's acceptance to the Atlantic Treaty was deemed appropriate, he accepted the Ambassadors of the three major states and reviewed the political and military issues that were considered important on the agenda⁶³.

Together with Turkey's acceptance to the Atlantic Treaty and also to reconsider the Middle East security issue, three meetings were held at the Prime Ministry on October 13-14th under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Adnan Menderes with the participation of The Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Omar Bradley, who arrived in Ankara on Friday October 12, The British Imperial Chief of Staff William Slim, The Chairman of the Committee of Chiefs of Staff of France Charles Lecheres, The Foreign Minister Prof. Fuad Köprülü, The US Ambassador Mr. George Wadsworth, The French Ambassador M. Jean

⁵⁷ "F. Köprülü'nün Atlantik Paktına dair demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, July 21, 1951, p.1

⁵⁸ "F. Köprülü'nün Atlantik Paktına dair demeci [F. Köprülü's statement on the Atlantic Treaty]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 21, 1951, p.1

⁵⁹ "Fuad Köprülü dün Paris'e hareket etti [Fuad Köprülü departed to Paris yesterday]", *Milliyet*, July 31, 1951, p. 1.

⁶⁰ "Pakta dair Fuad Köprülü'nün demeci [Statement of Fuad Köprülü about the Treaty]", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1951, p.1.

⁶¹ "Pakta dair Fuad Köprülü'nün demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1951, p.1.

⁶² "Pakta dair Fuad Köprülü'nün demeci", *Cumhuriyet*, September 24, 1951, p.1.

⁶³ "Bakanlıktaki mühim içtima [Important meeting in the Ministry]", *Milliyet*, October 7, 1951, p.1.7.

Lescuyer, The British Ambassador Noel Charles, The Minister of National Defence Hulusi Köymen, The Chief of General Staff General Yamut and their deputies. The negotiations were conducted in an atmosphere of sincerity and frankness that reflected the robust friendship among the four states. The structure and functioning style of the Atlantic Treaty Organization, Turkey's role within this structure and to which command Turkey would belong to were discussed. In the decisions taken here, it was emphasized that Greece and Turkey were important states that should be involved in the Atlantic Treaty; a Turkish general who should be sent to Washington as a permanent member of the Treaty's military representative committee by contacting the Atlantic Standing Group immediately after Turkey officially joined Treaty; the Middle East Command needed to be established as soon as possible to eliminate a invasive movement targeting the Middle East and to ensure the peace and security of this region. Turkey had been advocating the idea of establishing a command especially in the Middle East for a long time⁶⁴.

These contacts were also particularly useful as they enabled meeting with the military and political representatives of the friend and ally states that would cooperate with Turkey in the Atlantic community, and Turkey closely involved in the issues in the accession stage to the Atlantic Treaty⁶⁵.

After the meeting, the delegations went to Ankara Palas and attended the dining event held for them. The Ambassadors of the twelve Treaty states, along with the Ambassadors attending the conference, were invited as well as the Greek Ambassador, the American Aid delegation officials, and the military attachés of the Treaty states⁶⁶.

3.2. Cultural and Social Agenda

Some changes in cultural and social life were also observed in Turkey between 1949 and 1951, albeit not too many. There were a number of activities related to the British state, and activities Noel Charles was actively involved in. Noel Charles also established the connection between the British citizens living in Turkey and Britain.

Noel Charles presented a medal to one of these families, the Tucker family. The British Ambassador Noel Charles presented the award to a British family member who had been living in Istanbul for a long time. Noel Charles, at the British Embassy halls in Galatasaray, gave the press member T. Tucker the "British Empire Redeem" medal that was deemed worthy by the King of England. On that occasion, the Ambassador gave a short speech and praised the efforts of Tucker, who had been in constant contact with the Turkish press. Mr. Tucker was the son of the deceased Thomas Tucker, who gained a good reputation and was highly loved among Istanbul's trade and economics groups, and he was a member of the oldest British families to have settled in Turkey for centuries⁶⁷.

A sad accident happened in the time while Noel Charles was in charge in Turkey. There were British military officers among those killed in an accident at Etimesgut Airport in Ankara in August, 1949. The funerals of British army members; air attaché Brigadier General Bartholonen, his deputies Colonel Simon Maud and lieutenant colonel L. Burmand and

⁶⁴ "Resmi Tebliğ [Official Communiqué]", *Cumhuriyet*, October 15, 1951, p. 1, 3; Mekki Said ESEN, "Dünkü Ankara müzakereleri [Ankara Negotiations of Yesterday]", *Cumhuriyet*, October 14, 1951, p. 1.

⁶⁵ Mekki Said ESEN, "Dünkü Ankara müzakereleri", *Cumhuriyet*, October 14, 1951, p.1; "Resmi Tebliğ", *Cumhuriyet*, October 15, 1951, p.1,3.

⁶⁶ Mekki Said ESEN, "Dünkü Ankara müzakereleri", *Cumhuriyet*, October 14, 1951, p. 1.

⁶⁷ "İngiliz Büyük Elçisinin verdiği nişan [The award given by the British Ambassador]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 22, 1949, p. 2.

Sergeant Withworth were held in Ankara with a sad ceremony on August 17, 1949. The Chief of Staff and high state officials also attended to the ceremony⁶⁸.

The funeral procession departed from the garden of the British Embassy at 10.30 am. The coffins of the victims of the disaster, wrapped in British flags, were on four cannons. In front of the procession were a police cavalry troop and a police detachment and a military police troop. Behind them was a military band, followed by wreaths carried by Turkish and British officers and soldiers. The wreaths of the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of National Defence were on the cannons⁶⁹.

After the coffins, the members of the Embassy, especially the British Ambassador Noel Charles, and then the Principal Clerk Adil Derinsu on behalf of the Prime Minister, The Adjutant Major Abdullah Önhan and The Foreign Ministry Protocol General Director Kadri Rezan were advancing. They were followed by the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Commanders of the Army, generals and high-ranking officers from the Ministry of National Defence and the General Staff led by Chief of the General Staff Nafiz Gürman, and the military attachés, the heads of the American military assistance committee and the members of the corps diplomatiques were coming after them. The final phase of the ceremonial procession was a police and military police detachment as well as a Turkish reverence troop⁷⁰.

In the church where the religious ritual was held, the Minister of State and Deputy Foreign Minister Cemil Said Barlas, and the Public Clerk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Faik Zihni Akdur were also present. Coffins taken from the church after the religious ceremony were transported to the airport in private trucks. The funerals had been temporarily buried in the British cemetery in Istanbul⁷¹.

The Chief of Staff General Abdurrahman Nafiz Gürman went to the British Embassy and offered condolences for the victims of the accident and told the Ambassador of Great Britain Noel Charles:

*"I am sharing the grief of the British nation and would like to offer the deepest condolences of the Turkish Armed Forces to the British Royal Air Force"*⁷².

The Ambassador also told the General:

*"I appreciate your condolences for our air attaché passing away as a result of an accident and I would like to thank the Turkish Armed Forces for this fine interest and I will inform my government and nation, and the British Air Force. I would also like to express my gratitude to you for the attendance of the generals and officers of the armed forces to the funeral"*⁷³.

Another sad event was the flood disaster that happened in Turkey. A flood occurred on March 5, 1950 due to the overflow of Porsuk River in Eskişehir. Fifty thousand people were left homeless, 2,500 homes were destroyed and six people drowned⁷⁴. The disaster victims were helped by Marshall Plan.

The General Aid Committee Chairman and also The Head of Religious Affairs Ahmet Hamdi Akseki issued a declaration for Eskişehir disaster victims, stating that more than 25 thousand citizens were left homeless, there were huge needs to be met especially the need for

⁶⁸ "İngiliz havacılarının cenazeleri kaldırıldı [Funeral of British aviators has been held]", *Cumhuriyet*, August 17, 1949, p. 1,3.

⁶⁹ "İngiliz havacılarının cenazeleri kaldırıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, August 17, 1949, p.1.

⁷⁰ "İngiliz havacılarının cenazeleri kaldırıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, August 17, 1949, p.1,3.

⁷¹ "İngiliz havacılarının cenazeleri kaldırıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, August 17, 1949, p.1,3.

⁷² "İngiliz havacılarının cenazeleri kaldırıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, August 17, 1949, p.3.

⁷³ "İngiliz havacılarının cenazeleri kaldırıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, August 17, 1949, p.3.

⁷⁴ "Eskişehir'de Sel Felaketi [Flood disaster in Eskişehir]", *Zafer*, March 8, 1950.

clothing, it was necessary to build 2,500 houses and wanted the citizens to rush to help Eskişehir⁷⁵.

Due to the flood in Eskişehir, the British Ambassador Noel Charles sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry, highlighting that both the British government and he himself offered deep condolences about the disaster. The Norwegian Ambassador M. Krogh Hansen also reported the grief of his government and himself to the Foreign Ministry⁷⁶.

Noel Charles was on the top of the list of guests invited to the ceremonies organized by the existing English schools in Turkey. To mark the centenary of the British Girls High School, a ceremony was held at the school on November 14, 1950. The ceremony, where the Governor and Mayor, British Ambassador, Technical University Rector, parents and students were present, started with the National Anthem, and then the Chairman of the School Board made a speech, followed by the speech of the Governor and the Mayor. Istanbul Governor and Mayor Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Kerim Gökay praised Anglo-Saxon education and mentioned the role played by such schools in terms of the development of Turkish-British relations.

After the presentation of the activity report by the Headmaster, The British Ambassador Noel Charles gave his reward to those who finished the school with a good degree. After a play by Reşat Nuri was performed and scenes from Shakespeare were shown, the ceremony came to an end⁷⁷.

Noel Charles stated that he had followed developments in Turkey from afar, but that he would gladly witness these developments closely with his mission when he came to Turkey⁷⁸. One of these developments was the opening of the fourth radio station. The fourth radio station, which was installed on the Çakıllar farm near Etimesgut, Turkey, opened on December 3, 1950. At the ceremony held at 17 o'clock, The Foreign Minister Fuad Köprülü, some deputies, The Ambassadors of The USA, Britain, Canada and Embassy officials, The State Department General Clerk, Governor of Ankara, Mayor of Ankara, The Press-Broadcast General Director and members of the press were present⁷⁹.

The Press-Broadcasting and Tourism Director Halim Alyot spoke publicly about the services of the radio and said:

*"While our heroes will fight for the ideal of the United Nations in Korea, we will announce the peaceful voice of Turkey to every corner of the world for the same purpose through our transmitter radio"*⁸⁰.

After that, The Foreign Minister Fuad Köprülü made this statement:

"We are currently at the opening ceremony of a new radio station in Turkey. I am fortunate to address the people of these friendly countries from this radio station, which will

⁷⁵ "Eskişehirliilere yapılan yardımlar [Aid to Eskişehir residents]", *Cumhuriyet*, March 15, 1950, p.1,3. One of the aids was provided by a concert organized by Eminönü People's Houses (Halkevi). Jose Iturbi, who promised to give a concert to help the survivors at Eminönü People's Houses i after the Eskişehir disaster, gave this concert on March 14, 1950 at 21.00 in front of a large public audience. The governor and his wife were present at the concert. J. Iturbi also helped the survivors by buying two tickets by giving a thousand liras for each. See; "Eskişehirliilere yapılan yardımlar", *Cumhuriyet*, March 15, 1950, p. 3.

⁷⁶ "Eskişehirliilere yapılan yardımlar", *Cumhuriyet*, March 15, 1950, p. 1,3.

⁷⁷ "High School'un yüzüncü yılı kutlandı [The centenary of the «High School» was celebrated]", *Cumhuriyet*, November 15, 1950, p.2.

⁷⁸ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci [The statement of the new Ambassador of Britain]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p. 4.

⁷⁹ "Dördüncü radyo istasyonumuz dün açıldı [Our fourth radio station opened yesterday]", *Cumhuriyet*, December 4, 1950, p.1.

⁸⁰ "Dördüncü radyo istasyonumuz dün açıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, December 4, 1950, p. 1.

deliver the voice of Turkey to the British community and its countries, Canada and America, and to present you the greetings and affection of the Turkish nation"⁸¹.

The Canadian Ambassador said in a brief address that "*I wish this station, which I hope will bring our countries closer together, be good*". The British Ambassador Noel Charles also expressed his pleasure of being present in this opening ceremony⁸².

3.3. Commercial Agenda

Trade relations between Turkey and Britain, started during the Ottoman period, continued during the Republic. Despite the world economic crisis and the negative effects of World War II on trade, commercial exchanges between Britain and Turkey continued, albeit limited.

When Noel Charles was appointed as an Ambassador to Turkey, he believed that trade relations between Britain and Turkey would continue to increase. Noel Charles told the Nafen Post in London in 1949 that he was hopeful about the development of Turkish-British trade. He stated about the issue:

*"Our trade by its nature must and will surely develop. It would really be surprising if we couldn't connect our trade relations with more stringent ties in a gradual manner as a result of our collective interests. Turkey's prosperous situation plays an important role in the future of the world of democracy. My admiration for Turkey, walking resolutely on this road, is obvious"*⁸³.

On September 7, 1950, the British Chamber of Commerce⁸⁴ hosted a lunch in honour of the Trade Minister Zühtü Hilmi Velibeşe and the British Ambassador Noel Charles. About 200 well-known merchants and members of the British trade attachés and the press attaché were present at the banquet at the Park Hotel⁸⁵.

At the end of the banquet, the President of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey underlined the importance of the chamber and the services it had made in terms of bringing the two countries closer. After the President John's remarks, the Minister of Commerce and Economy Zühtü Hilmi Velibeşe said: "*In the good and bad days of a long history that transcends centuries, we have been bound by the bonds of deep links as a requirement of realities. Our admiration for the British nation is without end. The friendship of Turkish-British nations is deeper than ever these days, when we cooperate with our great American friends. Turkey and Britain are two nations that show deep friendship in the economic field. Turkey demands products with British capital*"⁸⁶.

After the Minister Velibeşe, the British Ambassador said briefly:

"By taking advantage of the Marshall plan, economic progress has accelerated. I must say that Britain, with the active and generous guidance of the United States, has been successful about providing great assistance to Turkey under the scope of this plan. Over the past two years under the terms of the right to circulation, it has provided assistance more than any other country, apart from the United States. Furthermore, I would like to remind you that since 1938, Britain has granted a loan of about £50m to Turkey, an estimated half of which has been used to help the Turkish national defence and the other half in the name of British-Turkish trade.

⁸¹ "Dördüncü radyo istasyonumuz dün açıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, December 4, 1950, p. 1.

⁸² "Dördüncü radyo istasyonumuz dün açıldı", *Cumhuriyet*, December 4, 1950, p.1.

⁸³ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci [The statement of the new British Ambassador]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p. 4.

⁸⁴ The British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey (BCCT) was established in 1887 by a group of British Businessmen. BCCT is the second oldest British Chamber of Commerce outside the UK. It has played a long and distinguished role in developing trade and investment relations between Turkey and the UK. BCCT is a member of Council of British Chamber of Commerce in Continental Europe (COBCOE). See; https://www.tobb.org.tr/UlkeRehberi/Documents/Ulkeler/ingiltere/bcc_of_TR.pdf

⁸⁵ "Türk İngiliz ticareti [Turkish-British trade]", *Cumhuriyet*, September 8, 1950, p. 1,4.

⁸⁶ "Türk İngiliz ticareti", *Cumhuriyet*, September 8, 1950, p. 4.

These financial conveniences have not satisfied this country's demand for British goods. In fact, our industry, which has started to recover for the last three years, has started to export widely, and Turkey has consumed its pounds quickly in this direction. This means that Turkey's imports from the pound field are offset by the incompetence of sterling or, in other words, we are unable to make maximum purchases with the Turks.

It is true that imports from the United Kingdom do not increase year by year as the traders' desire. The amount of this is £16.6m. This has resulted, as a result of the expulsion of the grain export, with the increase of sterling in favour of Turkey in an exceptional way. Their value was £13.5m in 1949 and £3.76m in the first six months of 1950. Howbeit, the final figure may not be a mere evidence of the whole of this year's imports. In the last days of June, about £3m was out of accountability given by the United Kingdom about the circulation. Because the newly formed European Reimbursement Association has allowed us to buy Turkish crops so that Turkey can benefit more in sterling. Hereupon, there is no reason for us to be pessimistic about Turkish markets for our goods.

As for buying Turkish crops, I am pleased to see that the situation is better than last year. According to the British Trade Ministry, this is worth £6.85m in the first six months of this year, compared to £5.2m in the first six months of last year. I know that the Turkish government is closely involved in our purchasing from Turkey. I can assure that I am working with care and determination to increase this purchase. The measures we take on the freedom of our imports are satisfactory. In this way, I hope that Turkish exporters can easily have access to the British markets"⁸⁷.

Noel Charles interpreted Turkey's foreign exchange gap in December 1950 rising from 86 million TL to 173 million TL in December 1951 as a reflection of its efforts to finance its long-term investment program, although it was not satisfactory for Turkey's economic development in 1951⁸⁸.

4. Noel Charles's Travels in Turkey

Noel Charles brought his private vehicle with him as he came to perform his mission in Turkey. During his time of working in Turkey, he used his personal vehicle to make private trips. Noel Charles told the Nafen Post reporter about this issue in London a few days before his trip to Turkey:

"One of the things I want is to travel extensively within Turkey to see the big moves and road projects it has made in the industrial area of the country. I am particularly interested in the efforts made for road construction and road repairs, which will surely play a major role in the progress of Turkey's economic and social developments. In order to reach this goal, I am taking my personal jeep car with me and I hope to travel within Turkey with this car"⁸⁹.

Noel Charles had made various trips in the country during his time when he was in charge in Turkey. He paid a visit to Konya province, close to Ankara, on June 22, 1949. The British Ambassador, along with the Embassy air attaché, went to Konya from Ankara in the evening with the undersecretary of commerce. The Embassy press attaché and two members of press attaché arrived in Konya by plane on June 23, 1949 and joined the Ambassador. Noel Charles said his trip was special. Visiting the Governor and the Commander in their offices, the Ambassador visited the city's sights⁹⁰.

⁸⁷ "Türk İngiliz ticareti", *Cumhuriyet*, September 8, 1950, p. 4.

⁸⁸ Behçet Kemal Yeşilbursa, "Economic Developments in Turkey During the Democrat Party Era (1950-1960)", p. 215.

⁸⁹ "İngiltere'nin yeni elçisinin demeci [The statement of the new British Ambassador]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 3, 1949, p. 4.

⁹⁰ "İngiliz Büyükelçisi Konya'da [British Ambassador is in Konya]", *Cumhuriyet*, June 23, 1949, p.3.

In the letter sent from the Embassy to the Council of Ministers to visit British military cemeteries in Gallipoli on September 5, 1949, there was a request for special permission for the banned area. The request for permission by British Ambassador Noel Charles and the British Mediterranean fleet's Commander-in-Chief Admiral Power and General Staff to allow the second restricted zone at Gallipoli was deemed appropriate with the decision of the Council of Ministers on September 1, 1949⁹¹.

The British Ambassador Noel Charles went to Bursa by plane in the morning to be present at the opening ceremony of the "Today's Britain Exhibition", which would be opened in the People's House halls in Bursa in the evening hours on July 23, 1949. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Allen, Undersecretary of the Press, and the Director of the Embassy Exhibitions Branch. After visiting the governor, the ambassador visited Bursa's art and historical monuments. The Ambassador Noel Charles also had a stroll in Uludağ⁹².

The President Celâl Bayar invited Noel Charles on his trip to Karacabey in the fall of 1950. The three-day trip together delighted Noel Charles. In a letter, which was sent to the Presidential General Clerk, on November 24, 1950, signed by Noel Charles, he thanked the President Celâl Bayar for his invitation and their trip to Karacabey for three days⁹³.

Charles, who expressed his happiness for President Celâl Bayar's special care in the selection of three horses for the horse race (polo game) he gifted him on behalf of England, added to his letter of thanks that he would be pleased to report the situation to the Duke of Edinburgh and that it would make His Highness happy⁹⁴.

Noel Charles met with various government officials in Bursa and Karacabey, where he went as the guest of the President Celâl Bayar, and visited Çifteler and Hamidiye schools and had the opportunity to meet with the principals and teachers⁹⁵.

5. Noel Charles's Departure from Turkey

Noel Charles, who served as an ambassador in Turkey for approximately three years, completed his duty. British Ambassador Noel Charles, who left Turkey at the end of November, said in a statement:

*"We had a year that was very active for both Turkey and the whole world. Peace is not lost after all. The Western world is particularly committed to maintaining peace in order to be strong, thanks to the initiative and effort of our American friends. Turkey will soon become a member of the Atlantic Treaty and will play an important role both in the works within the Treaty and in the preservation of our common interests and ideals. I don't know a nation that is braver and more determined than the Turks. We will embrace the Turks and our old friend Greeks with joy."*⁹⁶

Noel Charles, the British Ambassador to Ankara, arrived in Istanbul on November 26, 1951. He was welcomed by the Governor and Mayor of Istanbul Prof. Fahrettin Kerim Gökay, Embassy members and friends at Haydarpaşa Railway Station⁹⁷. Four days later, on November 30, 1951, at 10:00, he left Istanbul by Barletta ferry⁹⁸.

⁹¹ BCA, nr. 30.18.01.02.120.66.13.

⁹² "İngiliz Büyük Elçisi Bursa'da [British Ambassador is in Bursa]", *Cumhuriyet*, July 22, 1949, p.3.

⁹³ BCA, nr. 30.10.00.41.242.24.

⁹⁴ BCA, nr. 30.10.00.41.242.24.

⁹⁵ BCA, nr. 30.10.00.41.242.24.

⁹⁶ "İngiliz elçisinin veda demeci [British Ambassador's farewell statement]", *Cumhuriyet*, November 14, 1951, p. 3.

⁹⁷ "Sir Noel Charles dün Ankara'dan şehrimize geldi [Sir Noel Charles came to our city from Ankara yesterday]", *Milliyet*, November 27, 1951, p. 2.

⁹⁸ "İngiltere Büyükelçisi Yurdumuzdan Ayrıldı [British Ambassador Has Left Our Homeland]", *Milliyet*, December 1, 1951, p.1.

The Ambassador, who was sent off by the Governor and Mayor of Istanbul Prof Fahrettin Kerim Gökay, his friends and members of the press from Galata Dock, told reporters:

*"We are really sorry that we are leaving Turkey. Even though our mission is over, our friendship is eternal. If I could strengthen the friendship between Turkey and Britain during my mission, I would call myself as very fortunate. I am leaving your beautiful country and your noble nation with the best impressions. I'm going to transfer these impressions to all over England"*⁹⁹.

The former Ambassador was presented with a bouquet on behalf of the Prime Minister Adnan Menderes and the city by the Governor, and Noel Charles thanked for this kindly farewell and presented his deep respect to the Prime Minister Adnan Menderes¹⁰⁰.

Returning home, the Ambassador Noel Charles and his wife Lady Charted donated 2,000 TL to the Turkish Animal Protection Society. He promised to co-operate with the community from England¹⁰¹.

Conclusion

Turkey's intensive shift in the foreign policy between 1949 and 1951 was an indication of being positively affected by the uncertainty and variability of situations after the World War II and maintaining international peace with smart policies as much as possible.

Being effective in the Middle Eastern politics and being able to stand up to the wishes of Soviet Russia in the Eastern Mediterranean pushed Turkey to the American side. Britain was also on the same side in order to maintain its former power in Middle East and Mediterranean politics. These were the main factors that led the two states to be friends.

Britain appreciated Turkey, which demonstrated its attempt to use democracy with its original nature and switched to pluralist democracy, and, among other main factors, made this issue more visible. The British Ambassador always added Turkey's move for democracy in his words with appreciation.

Traces of British-Turkish rapprochement can be seen in political-military, cultural-social and commercial developments between 1949 and 1951 of Turkey. Noel Charles, who was in Turkey as a British official, drew attention to this delicate line between Britain and Turkey. They favoured Turkey in the Middle East politics and in Turkey's accession to NATO. In fact, during this period, the majority of military-political visitors from Britain discussed these evolving relationships.

Noel Charles also made domestic trips to get to know Turkey and follow developments during his time in Turkey. Although most of these trips were for official purposes, he also had personal trips. The President Celâl Bayar's invitation to Noel Charles on his private trip to Karacabey for three days and their visit of various institutions here, schools in particular, reflect the importance given to the British State. Generally speaking, Noel Charles gave importance to establishing friendly attitudes in relationships in accordance with the friendly politics of the British State. He used the gains of his professional experience in his mission in Turkey.

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⁹⁹ "İngiltere Büyükelçisi dün gitti [The Ambassador of Britain went yesterday]", *Cumhuriyet*, December 1, 1951, p.1.5; "İngiltere Büyükelçisi Yurdumuzdan Ayrıldı [British Ambassador Has Left Our Homeland]", *Milliyet*, December 1, 1951, p. 1.

¹⁰⁰ "İngiltere Büyükelçisi Yurdumuzdan Ayrıldı", *Milliyet*, December 1, 1951, p.1.

¹⁰¹ "Sir Noel Charles'in eşinin bir teberrüü [The Donation of Sir Noel Charles's wife]", *Milliyet*, December 5, 1951, p. 2.

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Figure.1: Noel Charles and his wife in Turkey. Source: "İngiltere'nin yeni Ankara Büyük Elçisi geldi [Britain's new Ambassador to Ankara has arrived]", *Cumhuriyet*, May 13, 1949, p. 1.



Figure.2: General John T. Crocker in Çankaya. Source: "İngiliz generalin dün yaptığı ziyaretler [Visits made by the British general yesterday]", *Cumhuriyet*, April 27, 1950, p.3.



Figure.3: Noel Charles and Fuad Köprülü. Source: "Fuad Köprülü dün Paris'e hareket etti [Fuad Köprülü departed to Paris yesterday]", *Milliyet*, July 31, 1951, p.1.



Figure.4: Noel Charles and his wife leaving Istanbul. Source: "İngiltere Büyükelçisi Yurdumuzdan Ayrıldı [British Ambassador Has Left Our Homeland]", *Milliyet*, December 1, 1951, p. 1.