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My Esteemed Representative,

Taking courage and inspiration from our discussion last night, I consider it my national duty to inform your exalted person of my thoughts regarding measures and decisions needed to be taken for the sake of the country's peace and stability.

I listened to and read the prime minister's statements; even if it is apparent from them that there is not yet a foundation suitable for the acceptance of my ideas, still I believe it is necessary to express to you my views.

My honorable representative, we have to accept the fact that events, beginning with the Kayseri incidents, continuing to the last decision, and terrible events, have made a deep impact on the spirit of citizens and created dissatisfaction with the government that will be difficult to erase. Moreover, the unreasonable use of the army against students has increased the gravity of the situation. Members of the army have also indicated their feelings of discontent and insecurity. What was feared has taken place; the army has become mixed up in politics.

My venerable representative,

This affair is not something to be belittled or overcome with force and violence. In order to save the country, government and party from this difficult state they have fallen into, it is necessary to take calm, but serious and forceful measures. These measures should be as follows:

- 1.** The President should resign. The Honorable Adnan Menderes should be made president. It is my opinion that, in spite of everything, this esteemed man is loved by the majority of the nation. Using this love to advantage, broken hearts should be assuaged and trust should once again be inspired in the nation.
- 2.** Persons not well accepted in the cabinet and whose misconduct has spread all over the country should be removed and a new cabinet should be established from persons who are absolutely trustworthy and reasonable, not difficult, and who are just and compassionate.
- 3.** Istanbul and Ankara governors and police chiefs should be quickly changed.
- 4.** The latest laws and the one creating inquiry commissions should be rescinded.
- 5.** The commander of Ankara Martial Law should be changed.
- 6.** The party's outlying political bodies should be closed and there should be representatives only in its

provincial headquarters.

7. Party activities should be held at most twice a year in provincial headquarters and with main parties.

8. Detained journalists should be released as soon as possible by means of an amnesty law.

9. Students detained in the latest incidents should be gradually set free. Institutions of learning should be re-opened.

10. All anti-democratic laws passed to date should be gradually rescinded.

11. Citizens' rights to freedom and equal treatment should absolutely be observed.

12. The army's affairs should quickly be resolved.

13. Religious exploitation should be abandoned.

14. I don't know whether or not there is abuse of the law, but there is a general opinion to that effect and it is causing a lack of trust of the government by the people. Evils like this have to be strongly disposed of.

15. Except for exception times and occasions, the custom of having artificially large groups of citizens turning out for important government officials on country tours should be eliminated.

My highly esteemed representative:

I have not written these words for party or political considerations or influence.

I am writing them because I believe the country's state of affairs demands that these measures be taken. I am addressing your patriotism and conscience. We have definitely done a lot for the country, but it is absolutely not enough. These works can be done, have been done and are being done by administrative offices. What is really important is developing enthusiasm for life and resolution in society's spirit, encouraging love of justice and freedom, and adorning citizen awareness with altruistic and noble feelings. Events show that we are not on this path. It is a terrible thing that against the innocent public student demonstrations incited by their feelings for freedom, detachments were deployed due to a mistake of administrators and with their support police forces entered seats of learning and punished students and professors alike with clubs and bullets.

I am of the opinion that it is a huge mistake not to understand the irreparable wounds that were opened and will be opened in the spirit of mothers, fathers and the people by the heart-rending screams of the female students caught in that tumult. Shouldn't we be happy about the development and perfection of our youth's feelings for truth, justice and freedom?

Do we want to leave the future to materialist,
unhappy people possessing insensitive, unfeeling
spirits?

Honorable representative, my petition is very
important and, in fact, very bold. But for the sake of
our country and nation and for the safety of our
government and, in fact, our party, it is necessary,
even very necessary that it be taken into
consideration.

With my deep and infinite respects,
Land Forces Army Commander Cemal GURSEL