

**John F. Kennedy, U.S. President**  
**Washington D.C., November 10, 1963**

(Text of his message to the Turkish People on the occasion of 25th Anniversary of the Death of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and the 40th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. Copyright released to the free domain and free use by public in the form of a government printed free record by the Turkish Government and President Cemal Gursel)

*I am honoured to join in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the death of Kemal Ataturk. The name of Ataturk brings to mind the historic accomplishments of one of the great man of this century, his inspired leadership of the Turkish People, his perceptive understanding of the modern world and his boldness as a military leader.*

*It is to the credit of Ataturk and the Turkish People that a free Turkey grew out of a collapsing empire and that the new Turkey has proudly proclaimed and maintained its independence ever since. Certainly there is no more successful example of national self reliance then the birth of the Turkish republic and the profound changes initiated since then by Turkey and Ataturk.*

*Ataturk was deeply interested in the friendly relations that have traditionally existed between Turkey and the United States. He noted our democratic governments and once said, prophetically, 'We are friends now and we will be much closer friends in the future'.*

*Our present close alliance can be traced to the firm base prepared by Ataturk for free government in an independent Turkey. I am proud that United States can be a partner in this alliance linking us to the country of Ataturk and to the ideals which Ataturk helped establish in Turkey and the World.*

*I salute this great man on the anniversary of his death.*