

THE TURKISH REPUBLIC

PRIME MINISTRY

The General Directorate of the State Archives

The Directorate of the Republic Archives

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE TURKISH ARCHIVES
ITS VALUE AND IMPORTANCE
WORK DONE TO IMPROVE ARCHIVAL SERVICES

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TOPLANAN "BALKAN ÜLKELERİ MİLLİ ARŞİV
DİREKTÖRLERİ TOPLANTISI"NA SUNULAN TEBLİĞ*

Every nation owns a historical heritage. An important part of this heritage consists of cultural properties, both material and virtual, such as archives, libraries and ancient remains. These cultural properties play a big role in establishing a nation and its continuity.

Passing over these cultural properties from generation to generation can only be possible if they are preserved and appraised.

The archives, which are entrusted the vital function of connecting the past with the present, are undoubtedly the most valuable treasury of a nation and should be considered as the memory of a nation's existence.

Archives are the deed, the identity the diary, the whole existence the fundamental feature connecting the past with the present and the present with the future by carrying the rights the priorities, and the most valuable cultural and historical treasury of a country.

The importance and value of archives can simply be described as follows: Archives prove and preserve the rights of the state, the individuals and international relations. They clarify and determine particular subjects. Meanwhile, they reveal the traditions, the social structure, the institutions and the relations among institutions of the period they belong to.

In present, developed and developing countries are giving great importance and value to the archives; they believe that the archives, which connect the past with the present, are the most valuable treasury of a state and that they are the memory of the state's existence and administration.

History of the Turkish Archives

The ancient archives of the Turkish administrative and cultural life reaches out to the period of the Middle Asia Turks.

The Uyghur Turks were one of the most civilized people during the Middle Ages. In their cities there were rich libraries, official

institutions, notaries, customs, law courts and archives to preserve official correspondence.

Various foreign archeologists and historians of arts have carried out excavations and researches in the cities of the Uygur Turks which had lived in Middle Asia. They have brightened up many unknown aspects concerning the richness of this culture.

Scientific researches have made it clear that the Anatolian Seldjuks also owned rich libraries and places, in other words archives, to preserve official correspondence.

Archival Practices During the Period of the Ottoman State, the Importance and Value of Our Archives

The fact that archives have been present since the earliest period of the Ottoman State is evident by the millions of archival documents which have been preserved without any destruction.

The archival phenomenon has been alive for a very long period stretching to the very past of the Ottoman State which has been a strong and intensive state among the Middle - and Near East, the Balkans and the Mediterranean countries. For this reason, the Ottoman Archives are forming an example of institutions where administrative records are arranged and preserved up till the present.

There are many various and valuable archival records which are preserved in the Turkish archives and which are used for research by native and foreign researchers.

The most important ones of these are the **Tapu Tahrir Defterleri** or **Defter-i Hâkânî**, the **Mühimme Defterleri**, the **Ru'us Defterleri**, the **Şer'i Siciller** and the **Vakfiyeler**. Tapu Tahrir Defterleri are deeds which testify the land of conquered countries. These are records showing the system of propriety and possession and the rates of taxes. They are the essential records of the land in a state. Tapu Tahrir Defterleri are also called Defter-i Hâkânî. Mühimme Defterleri are records consisting of orders, titles of priveleges and other correspondence which explain the administrative structure of the Ottomans and which are, therefore, very valuable. Ru'us Defterleri are records revealing honours, ranks, appointments and promotions given by institutions to officials. Şer'i Siciller are records listing the judicial decisions of the Kadi (judge of islamic canon law) working in the local courts of various districts. Vakfiyeler are records listing donation rules.

The official correspondence of the Ottoman State, being the archival material of the central organization, is being preserved in Istanbul at the Prime Ministry General Directorate of the State Archives under the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives. In some museums, libraries, religious institutions and other official institutions, there are also valuable archival records relating to the history of this period.

It is also known that in the archives of various countries there are a lot of archival records relating to the Turkish history during the Ottoman period.

The first modern Turkish archival institution, the so-called **Hazine-i Evrak**, was established by the **Sadrâzam** (the grand vizier) Mustafa Reşid Paşa who collected the records of the Divân-ı Hümâyûn the Bâb-ı Âsafî and the Bâb-ı Defteri belonging to the central organization of the Ottoman State.

During the period of the Ottoman State, archives were considered important. For this reason, it was called Hazine-i Evrak which means treasury of records. It was also called Mahzen-i Evrak (Storeroom of records). During this same period, it was also called Müstahfaz-ı Evrak which mean guardian of records.

Türkiye who has inherited these valuable historical records is now one of the countries owning rich archives both in quantity and in quality.

(1)

The name of the assembly responsible for state affairs meeting under the head of the **Vezir'i âzam** (grand vizier).

(2)

Today's Prime Ministry. Until the end of the 18th century it was called **Vezirkepisi**, **Mirî Saray**, **Paşa Sarayı**, **Bâb-ı âsafî**, or **Sadrâzam Kapısı**. Since the period of Abdülhamid the first, it was called **Bâb-ı âli**.

(3)

Today's Ministry of Finance, also called **Defterdar Kapısı**.

This rich amount of archives is an authentic and unique source not only for Türkiye but also for various people having established their own states and who want to make use of these records to determine and write their national and common histories. The Ottoman Empire, which later became the Turkish Republic, has dominated three continents expanding over a wide geographical area for a period longer than six hundred years and has governed various people under one state.

The most important feature of the Ottoman archives is its special value regarding the clarification of the cultural, economic and political histories of countries in the Middle-and Near East, the Balkans, the Mediterranean, the North of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. They also prove and preserve international rights. Moreover, they are, when necessary, the legal support of the rights of individuals.

Archives, accumulated in centuries of time as a result of normal bureaucratic procedures were until 1750 preserved with great care; but after this date the archives were partly destroyed because of neglect, disorder and unsuitable preservation conditions.

It has been noted that during this period, some measures were taken and some implementations were carried out in order to preserve the records of the state in good condition. Two of these which are considered important will be explained below as they are showing the importance given to archival services.

A document which is without doubt related to this subject is dated 1785. This document was addressed to the Reisü'l-küttâb (the chief clerk responsible of correspondence in the Ottoman cabinet). The document ordered that written records, register books, letters and treaties belonging to the state had to be preserved permanently. It also stated that for this purpose a stone depot which was being restored would be suitable. The use of the records and register books, the methods of preservation, and the responsible officials for preservation is explained by the following statement:

"It will be necessary to make use of the copies of letters written to foreign rulers and of the notebooks relating to correspondence of employers concerning important matters which are all together kept in the Divân-ı Hümayûn. All these old records should be permanently preserved in the mentioned repository in their boxes by the mehterbaşı (officer responsible for the preservation of records). Current

notebooks relating to letters, agreements and other important matters or persons should every evening be put in the mentioned repository under the control of the mehterbaşı. In the morning, the mehterbaşı should take out these records with their boxes and entrust it to the officers. These procedures must be obeyed. Unauthorized people are not allowed to enter the repository where the records and notebooks are kept". (4)

During the period before and after this order, the records were put in sacks and in boxes left around randomly in unsuitable underground storerooms because an archival building and repositories were lacking. On the other hand, the records of the state were accumulating in increasing amounts every day.

Another attempt to preserve archives and to prevent their destruction took place in 1845. The document related to this attempt was signed by the Minister of Finance Safvetî Paşa and addressed to the Sadrazam (head of the cabinet). It was dated 12 March 1845 and said:

"Records which relate to important financial matters and which are kept in the palace of the Sultan are almost destructed. In order to prevent the total destruction and to have them preserved in good state, authorized officers selected from the Ministry of Finance will control and sort these records" (5)

These measures concerning archival practices in the administrative organization of the Ottoman State were taken when Mehmed Emin Rauf Paşa was the Grand Vizier. It is highly possible that these activities have constituted a basis for the archival developments during the period of Mustafa Reşid Paşa.

(4)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Series of Mühimme Defterleri, No: 183, p.4, Statement 11.

(5)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Classification of Irâde (Orders), Internal Affairs, No: 5152.

Mustafa Reşid Paşa, who has been in European countries like France and England as a diplomate and who has observed how much importance was given to archives in those countries, had decided to establish an organization called Hazine-i Evrak (Treasury of Records) which can be considered as an archival institution. This happened when he became Prime Minister at September 28, 1846 during the period of the Ottoman State. As a result, we can say that all the efforts carried out to preserve historical records have gained financial and virtual support in 1845.

This subject was first considered in the organization called Meclis-i Vâlâ-yı Ahkâm-ı Adliye (6) and arrived at a decision on October 31, 1846.

The protocol says,

"The records concerning important matters of the state which are kept in repositories around Defterhane and Bâb-ı âli, are putrefying because the repositories are moistly... the records are mixed up because the repositories are narrow... as a result of this confusion, it is nearly impossible to find any record when needed... in order to transfer, preserve and find records of the state when needed, it has been considered appropriate to construct a stone building to be called Hazine-i Evrak in the style of a large and well arranged library within the Bâb-ı âli resembling the European archives... the building will be constructed by the Italian architect Fossati who had also constructed the University building; the internal arrangement of the archival building should be in such a way so that there will be separate rooms for each of the record holdings of Home Affairs, Assembly meetings and Foreign Affairs. Each room should have suitable cupboards... to prevent the putrefaction and destruction of records, ventilation according to

(6)

An organization established in 1837 in order to prepare the new regulations required by the renovation acts, to deal with judgements relating to state officers and to express opinion on state affairs when required. Within time, this organization has been subject to changes and in 1867 it has been abolished when the Şûra-yı Devlet (State Council) was established.

season will be necessary... an authorized archivist should be appointed as head of the archives and it is necessary to establish a specialized library containing history books, geography books, and necessary maps". (7)

This decision of the Meclis-i Vâlâ-yı Ahkâm-ı Adliye has been submitted by the Prime Minister Mustafa Reşid Paşa on November 6, 1846 to the Ottoman Sultan Abdülmecid. The decision had gained official force.

According to this order the construction of the mentioned building began. While the construction continued, the people to work in the Hazine-i Evrak were selected and preparations were planned. The private secretariat officer of the Prime Ministry Esseyid Hasan Muhsin Efendi was appointed the head of the Hazine-i Evrak.

The organization was first called "Directorate of Hazine-i Evrak" but the title was considered lower than Muhsin Efendi's first title so it was changed to "Ministry of the Hazine-i Evrak". (8)

As a result of the efforts of the Minister of the Hazine-i Evrak and his working colleagues, a temporary regulation dated February 27, 1847 and stating the principles for the classification of records to be placed in the Hazine-i Evrak had been prepared. (9)

According to the principles of this regulation, the records which had been accumulated in the underground stores around the Bâb-ı âlî and the Defterhane (the Archives where land registers were kept) would be classified. The "Meclis-i muvakkat" was an assembly set on from private officials of the Bâb-ı âlî and its function was to set up methods of classification and to prepare regulations concerning these methods.

(7)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Classification of Mesail-i Mühimme (Records relating to decisions of the organization mentioned in the sixth footnote), No: 658.

(8)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Classification of İrâde, Internal Affairs, No: 7066.

(9)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, Classification of İrâde, Meclis-i Vâlâ (State Council), No: 1869.

This council had prepared a regulation consisting of five articles. These articles stated the importance of archives for the state, the principles to be followed in classification, the types and features of the records to be put in the Hazine-i Evrak and the coordination of the officials with the Hazine-i Evrak. (10)

The successive Ottoman Prime Ministers i.e. Ali Paşa, Ahmed Cevad Paşa, Küçük Said Paşa, and Hüseyin Hilmî Paşa have paid great attention to the Hazine-i Evrak and archival implementations. The Directorate of the Ottoman Archives has been built during the Prime Ministry of Ahmed Cevad Paşa.

After the importance of archives was recognized by the state and after the constitution of the Hazine-i Evrak at the Central Government, there were attempts to establish archives in other districts and counties.

Among these attempts can be mentioned the establishments of the archives in Manastır in 1847 (11), in Rusçuk (the centrum of the county Tuna) (12) and in Ankara (13) in 1868

Apart from these activities some ministries, being inspired by the Hazine-i Evrak have established their archives within the organization. To give an example we can mention the archival institution of the Ministry of Finance and the Şer'iyye Sicilleri of the Meşihat (records of the dignitary responsible for all matters connected with the canon law, religious schools, etc., and coming next to the Grand Vizier in precedence).

(10)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Classification of Irâde, Meclis-i Vâlâ, No: 4093.

(11)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Classification of Irâde, Internal Affairs, No: 10095.

(12)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Classification of Irâde, Şurâ-yı Devlet, No: 28.

(13)

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives. Classification of Irâde, Meclis-i Vâlâ, No: 25811.

When mentioning the archival activities during this period, it would be necessary to state the Yıldız Archives which was built during the reign of Abdülhamid II within the area of the Yıldız Palace. During the reign of Abdülhamid II between 1876-1909, copies of official records from the Prime Ministry records of various organizations and official institutions and original reports and letters submitted to the palace by the people were all preserved as archives.

Apart from these, the following eminent archival institutions can be mentioned: The Archives of the Museum at the Topkapı Palace, the Archives of the Sea Museum, the Archives of the Directorate of National Palaces, the Archives of the General Directorate of Registration and Cadastre of Real Estates, the Archives of the General Directorate of Donation (an organization concerned with pious donations), and the Archives of the Directorate of War History under the General Directorate of the Genelkurmay (Chief Military Organization).

When the Ottoman State was abolished, the records of various ministries and official institutions, which were abolished consequently, were transferred to the Hazine-i Evrak which acquired a great and rich amount of records.

Activities Carried Out During The Republic Period In Order To Improve Archival Services

After the abolishment of the Ottoman State, the Republic Government reorganized the Hazine-i Evrak. It was called Mahzen-i Evrak Mümeyyizliği (Control Office of Records). This office was under the responsibility of the Private Secretariat of the Prime Ministry. All the records belonging to the Office of the Grand Vizier were kept in the Mahzen-i Evrak Mümeyyizliği.

In 1927 this office was connected to the Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry as the Assisting Directorate of the Hazine-i Evrak.

In 1929, this office was connected to the Head Office of Procedures within the Prime Ministry. At the tenth anniversary of the Republic at May 20, 1933 and according to the Law numbered 2187 it was connected to the Directorate of Records and Archives within the Prime Ministry.

Later, at April 19, 1937 and according to the law numbered 3154 the same office had become an individual archival institution under the

responsibility of the Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry.

At June 29, 1943 and according to the law numbered 4443 the archival institution became the Prime Ministry General Directorate of Archives under the responsibility of the Undersecretariat. At March 9, 1959, it was part of the Prime Ministry Organization Law numbered 6330. When the Decision of the Council of Ministers numbered 8/4334 stating "The Reorganization of Ministries and the Principles of Work" dated 27 March 1982 became effective, it was called the Prime Ministry Directorate of Ottoman Archives.

Meanwhile, in 1976, the Directorate of Republic Archives was established under the pioneering of the writer of this text. The directorate is part of the Prime Ministry Organization. The aim of establishing the mentioned directorate is to control the archival material of the Republic period and of material which are going to be archives and to keep all these archives under the control of the General Directorate of the State Archives; to preserve and organize these records according to archival methods and techniques and to make them ready for research after being classified scientifically.

As a result, there was no more doubt about the future, the preservation, the maintenance, the use, in other words about the fate of all the records belonging to the state which had accumulated during and after the National Struggle and after the declaration of the Republic. These were historical, administrative, political, juridical, economic, scientific, technical and cultural records showing the whole history of the above mentioned period, the birth of the Turkish Republic, the phases of progress and their results.

Finally, at October 10, 1984 according to the Prime Ministry Organization Law numbered 3056, the General Directorate of the State Archives has been established.

The Directorate of the Republic Archives established in Ankara and the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives established in Istanbul are both part of the General Directorate of the State Archives.

The functions of the General Directorate of the State Archives appointed by the above mentioned Prime Ministry Organization Law numbered 3056 are the following:

"a) To state the principles of the national archival policy, to follow up and investigate the implementation of these principles,

b) To collect, appraise and preserve all kind of information and records concerning the state and the people,

c) To specify, collect, and buy archival material which belongs to various institutions or organizations and to individuals, and to repair, restore, classify, translate and if suitable publish them,

d) To follow archival and related scientific developments occurring abroad and in Turkey, to translate and publish works in this field; to introduce important and valuable archival material to native and foreign scientific media,

e) To make collections of archival material which have historical, cultural and esthetic value and when necessary to establish an archival museum and to prepare exhibitions,

f) To take measures in order to prevent the destruction of archival material,

g) To provide the continuity of archival material by reproducing copies and to use applications such as films, microfilms, photocopies, and when necessary other advanced techniques in order to transform the material to smaller volumes,

h) To state the principles of research in the State Archives, to assess the applications for research in the archives and when necessary to permit research,

i) To collect, sort and classify all kind of information and archival material and to keep it always ready for research,

j) To inspect the procedures of sorting, preserving and destruction in official institutions and organizations"

In summary, the mentioned Law has appointed to the General Directorate of the State Archives the function of specifying the principles of the national archival policy, of following up and inspecting the implementation of these principles.

Before the mentioned Law had become effective, there were several legal regulations relating to archival services. But inspite of all the positive intentions, these have not been able to solve the archival matters basically.

Until recently, the services of the state archives could not reach an advanced level because the laws and regulations were not sufficient; there were organizational problems, and the financial sources were insufficient.

In the light of all these experiences, the state archives has been dealt with in a national and rooted way taking into account modern technology and as a result "The General Directorate of the State Archives" was established according to the "Prime Ministry Organization Law" numbered 3056 and dated October 19, 1984.

Consequently, the Directorate of Ottoman Archives and the Directorate of Republic Archives were brought together which both used to function separately. Apart from this, there has also been established a Directorate of Documentation.

The Law numbered 3056 arranges the principles of the organization and functions of the Prime Ministry. Among the functions of the Prime Ministry, the one relating to the archives says:

"g) To collect historical, legal, administrative, economic, and scientific documents and records which are of interest for the Turkish State and people, to appraise and organize these records, to reproduce unique records, to build an archival laboratory in order to prevent destruction of records, to follow up developments relating to international archival procedures, and to introduce important archival material to native and foreign scientific media".

**Work Performed In Order To Develop the
Services of The State Archives According
to "The Prime Ministry Organization Law"
Numbered 3056**

According to this Law;

- The General Directorate of the State Archives is reorganized conforming to modern archival services. The Directorate of the Ottoman Archives is established in Istanbul; the Directorate of the Republic Archives and the Directorate of Documentation are established in Ankara.

"The Directorate of the Ottoman Archives" is appointed to specify archival material belonging to the Ottoman State and the period before, to control these records, to preserve, maintain, organize these records

according to archival methods and techniques, and to carry out scientific and technical activities for the assessment of these records by the state, science, and other bodies and individuals.

"The Directorate of the Republic Archives" is appointed to specify archival material belonging to the period of the National Struggle, the Governments of the Grand Turkish National Assembly, and the Republic period, to transfer them in accordance to the prescribed procedures, to preserve, maintain, organize them conforming archival methods and techniques and to carry out scientific and technical activities for research by the state, science, and other bodies or individuals.

"The Directorate of Documentation" is appointed to specify administrative documents, to organize and control them centrally, to classify these documents according to documentation methods and techniques for use by the state, science, and other bodies or individuals in order to supply the required knowledge and documents in a practical and healthy way which are necessary for the services and activities of the Prime Ministry by cooperating with related institutions.

- The 35th article of the mentioned Law numbered 3056 states the employment of personnel on contract. It says "The General Directorate of the State Archives may employ native or foreign personnel on contract in the fields requiring particular knowledge and specialization, without regarding staff possibilities and other statements concerning the employment of personnel on contract" As a result, the employment of specialized archival personnel has been extensively and greatly promoted.

- The Prime Ministry Organization Law accepts archival specialization as an individual career.

- The State Archives receives an allowance from the Tanıtma Fonu (Introduction Fund), which was established by Law numbered 3230, by which it has gained an additional financial source for its budget

- The General Directorate of the State Archives and the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives has moved to their new buildings as their services and personnel increased. These buildings were hired from the Governorship of Istanbul and were restored to fit archival activities. Since June 1987 classification and administrative services are carried out in these buildings.

- Besides, an archival repository has been added to serve the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives.

- Meanwhile, eight archival repositories belonging to the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives have been restored; the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives has also gained by decision of the Council of Ministers the usufruct to use the Halıcılar Medresesi as archival repository.

- The Directorate of the Ottoman Archives have been rendering service for many years in extremely insufficient buildings being scattered in different areas of Istanbul. In order to bring these buildings and repositories together in a central and modern site, it has been considered suitable to build the Arşiv Sarayı (Archives Palace) for which the land has been provided. Studies on the programme of requirements for this building has also been finished. The construction of the building will start soon.

- The Ottoman Archives has been employed with a sufficient number of specialized archivists by which the classification work has been accelerated.

- In 1974, the construction of the State Archives in Ankara had begun and on October 29, 1988 it began rendering service by collecting and preserving in a central way all the archival material of the Republic period, and to offer them with modern techniques for research by the state, science, and other bodies or institutions.

In the State Archives Site, there are several repositories with different features such as nuclear shelter repositories, shelter repositories, and ordinary repositories. The nuclear repositories are build completely underground. It has separate entrances and an individual air conditioning system. On each block there are two floors. The shelter repositories have a system for ventilation. Four sixth of the repositories are underground and in case of fire, it can stand eighth hours. The ordinary repositories have three floors on each block. In case of fire they can stand two hours. In these repositories the shelves are fixed and the total shelf length is 125 km.

All the repositories are equipped with the necessary technical installation. Moreover, all the depots are equipped with a gas (CO₂) fire extinguishing system. There is also an electronic command system by which the danger of fire is controlled, and which at time of danger automatically starts the fire extinguishing system to work and closes

the doors of the repositories to stop the flow of air. In the repositories burning construction material is not used.

In the State Archives Site there are also technical units, service units, a research and exhibition room, a conference hall with a potential of 130 persons and with the facility of simultaneous translation, a central heating system, and a power and transformer station. The site is constructed on a field of approximately 108.000 m².

The establishment of a computer center is nearly finished. So, the specified knowledge and records can be assessed by computers and can be offered to research at place or to other centres by networks with the most recent technology.

Legal Arrangements

Until recently, there was no legal description conforming to archival terminology for the terms archives, material to become archives, documents and records which need not to be preserved.

For this reason, it has not been possible to prevent archival material from being sold, donated, or inherited, to be kept by unauthorized persons, to be destructed or to be taken abroad.

Besides, in the archival institutions all over the world there are applications of weeding out material which need not to be preserved because they do not carry the features of archives, they do not constitute any evidence, they are not of any use for providing a right to individuals and to society and they are useless for researchers.

In our country, the Law dated March 26, 1956, and numbered 6696 stating "The Destruction of Documents and Records Which Need Not To Be Preserved" and the related Decision dated September 13, 1957 and numbered 4/9438 stating "The Decision of Cabinet Which Enforces the Regulation Concerning the Destruction of Documents and Records Which Need Not to Be Preserved" was effective.

This Law, which was legally in force, has not gained any validity in application.

The Law numbered 3056 has formed a basis for new arrangements of regulations which could provide administrative, legal and technical archival applications.

In this framework;

- The Prime Ministry has prepared "A Decree In Force Of Law Concerning The Destruction of Documents and Material Which Need Not To Be Preserved" numbered 316 and published in the Official Journal on April 4, 1988 to replace the Law numbered 6606. This Decree states the objective and the scope of archival application. It adapts the new arrangements which are wanted to be performed. It states the principles and methods for weeding and destruction procedures of records which need not to be preserved and should be disposed because they do not carry the features of archives but which are still kept in the archives of institutions and organizations. As a result, doubts on application arising from the former law will be erased. The mentioned decree has become a law on September 28, 1988.

This Law has appointed the General Directorate of the State Archives to specify the principles of the national archival policy, and to control the implementation of these principles. However, it has been necessary to perform a series of arrangements so that the appointed functions could be carried out successfully.

- Another present arrangement was "The Regulation Concerning the Services of the State Archives" which was prepared by the Prime Ministry and published in the Official Journal on May 16, 1980. The mentioned Regulation was stating the determination of archival material and potential archival materials belonging to official institutions and organizations or to individuals, the prevention from destruction of these material, the preservation under suitable conditions, the functions and authorities of the General Directorate of the State Archives, the relation of the State Archives with the institutions and organizations, the responsibilities of the institutions and organizations, the use of archival material by the state, corporate bodies, individuals and science, and the weeding and destruction procedures of material which need not to be preserved. Thus, the future of our national archives has been secured and archival services have been tied to scientific disciplines of modern archival applications.

- Another new arrangement of the Prime Ministry is related to "The Principles to Which Native or Foreign Individuals or Corporate Bodies Must Apply to Carry Out Scientific Research and Investigation or to Take Examples".

Paragraph (h) of the 11th article of the Law numbered 3056 gives authority to the Prime Ministry, thus to the General Directorate of the

State Archives to "State the principles for research in the state archives, to appraise the applications for research in the archival institution, and to allow research".

As it has been expressed before, the Prime Ministry has reorganized these principles and has put into force the Decision of the Council of Ministers numbered 89/14269 instead of the Decision of the Council of Ministers numbered 83/5963.

With this Decision of the Council of Ministers, the procedures relating to the applications for research and investigation by native and foreign researchers has been minimized, the bureaucratic procedures have been simplified and the applications for research are answered within one or two days.

Conclusion

As a result of all these accomplishments it can be said that the reforms for the consultation of the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives as original sources in order to reveal historical realities in the light of science and in order to render a more rational service and for controlling the archives of the Republic period in a central way, have reached, in accordance with the national archival policy, the point of realization.

Accepting the services of the state archives as a state policy by arranging the necessary regulations and by dealing with it at a national level and in a rooted way, is extremely satisfactorily and honourable not only for the Turkish State and people but also for the Turkish culture, science and archives.

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