

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF HIS EXCELLENCY
GENERAL İSMET İNÖNÜ, SECOND PRESI -
DENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

İNÖNÜ, His Excellency İSMET, Second President of the Republic of Turkey (the surname of İNÖNÜ was given him by Kemal ATATÜRK, first President of the Republic of Turkey, as a remembrance and appreciation of the two victories over the Greeks at İnönü by the Western Turkish Army under his command). He was born in İzmir, Asia Minor, September 24, 1884, the son of Judge Reshid and Djevriye. He was educated at First Grade Military High School in Sivas (Asia Minor); Military Artillery College of Istanbul and Military Academy of Istanbul, from which he was graduated in 1906 with the grade of Captain of General Staff. He was attached in 1906 to the Second Army in Edirne, European Turkey, where he organized the local section of the secret patriotic society, The Party of Union and Progress. This secret society strived for the overthrow of the despotic absolute monarchy and for the declaration of a constitution. In 1908 this aim was achieved and the constitutional monarchy was proclaimed. İsmet was then appointed to the General Staff of the Fourth Army Corps in Edirne, European Turkey. In 1910 he was appointed to join the expeditionary force which was going to operate against insurgents in Arabia, then a part of the Ottoman Empire, and in 1912 he was promoted for distinguished service to the grade of Major, and was appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Army of Yemen, Arabia. In April, 1913, he was appointed Director of the first section of the Great General Staff in Istanbul, and in August of that year he was appointed Military Advisor to the Turkish delegation

which was going to negotiate peace with Bulgaria (Balkan War) . He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1914; Colonel and Chief of General Staff of the Second Army stationed in eastern Thrace, European Turkey, 1915; Commander of Fourth Army Corps operating on eastern frontier against the Russians in 1916, and Commander of the 20th Army Corps and later of the 3rd Army Corps operating in Syria in 1917. After the Armistice he was appointed in 1918 as Under-Secretary of the Ministry of War in Istanbul. In 1920 İsmet left Istanbul and joined Mustafa Kemal, who was to be known later as Kemal ATATÜRK, to take part in the national struggle against the invading Greeks. The close cooperation and real friendship which had already started at the Military Academy between these two men was then renewed and later proved of great importance. İsmet gained the full confidence of Mustafa Kemal and became his right-hand man. The same year he entered the Great National Assembly, which met at Ankara for the first time, as the Deputy of Edirne, and at the same time he was given by the Assembly the charge of Chief of the Great General Staff, which was then a ministerial position. In 1920 he was appointed Commander of the Western Front, winning two brilliant victories over the Greeks at the same locality called İnönü in Asia Minor. These victories, which were known as the First and Second Battles of İnönü, stopped the Greek advance, marking a turning point in the history of the Turkish National Struggle. In 1921 İsmet was also promoted to the grade of Brigadier-General, and in 1922 he was promoted to Lieutenant-General. He signed the Armistice with the Allied Powers at Mudanya on October 11, 1922, which ended the Turk's struggle for independence victoriously. On October 26, 1922, he was appointed

Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in accordance with the then existing constitution he could also keep his army rank. In his official capacity he signed, on July 24, 1923, the Treaty of Lausanne which consecrated the creation of the New Turkey. The Republic having been declared on October 29, 1923, next day he was appointed Prime Minister, at the same time being in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On November 19, 1923, he was elected Acting Chairman of the Republican People's Party. He resigned the Premiership on November 22, 1924, because of ill-health, but was reappointed on March 3, 1925. In 1926 he was promoted in the army to the grade of General, and in 1927, on his own demand, was placed on the retired list. On October 25, 1937, he again resigned as Premier for reasons concerning his health. On November 11, 1938, he was elected Second President of the Republic of Turkey. On April 3, 1939, March 8, 1943 and August 5, 1946 he was reelected due to the renewal of the electoral terms. The speeches delivered by the President from 1920 to 1933 have been compiled in a volume entitled "İsmet Paşa'nın Siyasî ve İçtimaî Nutukları" (İsmet Pasha's Political and Social Speeches) Ankara (1933), and those delivered after his election as President have been published under the title of "Millî Şef'in Söylev, Demeç ve Mesajları" (Addresses, Messages and Speeches of the National Chief), Istanbul (1945). A volume entitled "İnönü'nün Söylev ve Demeçleri" (Speeches and Addresses of İnönü), Istanbul (1946), comprises all of his speeches delivered from 1919 to 1946. In 1916 İsmet was married to Mevhibe, daughter of a well-known Turkish family in Istanbul. They have two sons and one daughter: Ömer, Erdal and Özden. Address: Ankara, Turkey.