NOUVEL HAY MAGAZINE
SANS FRONTIÈRES

La Maison Blanche aurait demandé au Sénateur républicain Lindsey Graham de bloquer la résolution sur le génocide des Arméniens (par le gouvernement « Jeunes Turcs »)



Many were perplexed and outraged when, right after clashing with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a heated Oval Office meeting on Nov. 13, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham hurried back to the Senate floor and did something that likely delighted Erdogan. Graham blocked a resolution that would have formally recognized

Turkey's genocide of the Armenian people, axios.com reports.

Graham had just scolded Erdogan over his invasion of Syria and attacks on the Kurds, according to sources in the room. Erdogan pulled out his iPad and showed the Oval Office group a propaganda video depicting the leader of the primarily Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces as a terrorist.

The South Carolina Republican then chided him over the clip. "Well, do you want me to go get the Kurds to make one about what you've done?" he said.

What happened next, which has not been previously reported: As Graham was leaving the Oval Office, senior White House staff asked him to return to the Senate and block the Armenian genocide resolution — a measure that would have infuriated Erdogan. Graham confirmed this in a phone interview on Saturday.

"After the meeting, we kind of huddled up and talked about what happened," he said. A White House legislative affairs official told Graham that Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) was going to bring up his Armenian genocide resolution and asked if Graham could "please object."

"I said sure," Graham said. "The only reason I did it is because he [Erdogan] was still in town. … That would've been poor timing. I'm trying to salvage the relationship if possible."

Asked whether he felt uncomfortable blocking the Armenian genocide resolution, Graham replied: "Yeah. Because I like Bob [Menendez]. He's been working on this for years, but I did think with the president of Turkey in town that was probably more than the market would bear."

"I'm not going to object next time," Graham added.

The "next time" happened last week. Menendez and his Republican Senate colleague Ted Cruz introduced the Armenian genocide resolution again. This time, the White House asked another Republican Senate ally, David Perdue, to block it.

sources : Massis media , axios.com

"Senator Perdue objected