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For Immediate Release

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Author Tuna Koprulu Reveals *Foreign Palaces in Istanbul*

Book Signing Event on November 7 Introduced Guests to Historical Treasures in Istanbul

New York, NY – November 8, 2006 – Tuna Koprulu, Consul General of Monaco in Istanbul and the author of “Foreign Palaces in Istanbul” addressed a group of more than 80 diplomats, scholars, and business leaders at a reception and book signing hosted by The American Turkish Society in New York.

Published in 2005 with Greater Istanbul Municipality’s sponsorship, “Foreign Palaces in Istanbul” is the first book that depicts the histories, stories, documents and photographs of thirteen palaces which were the residences of the ambassadors accredited to the Ottoman court. The palaces featured in the book belong to Britain, the United States, Italy, Holland, Germany, Sweden, France, Italy (Venice), Belgium, Austria, Spain, and Egypt. The book gives a detailed account of the exquisite objects of art found in the palaces as well as the fascinating stories surrounding their purchase and/or construction. For example, the American Palace, purchased in 1892 by Ambassador John Leishman, was the first foreign property of the U.S. government.

The event for “Foreign Palaces in Istanbul” was attended by H.E. Baki Ilkin, Ambassador of Turkey to the U.N.; H.E. Gilles Noghès, Ambassador of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations and to Washington, D.C.; The Honorable Maguy Maccario Doyle, Consul General of the Principality of Monaco in New York; and The Honorable Brigitta Blaha, Consul General of Austria in New York. In introducing Tuna Koprulu, H.E. Ambassador Noghès talked about the importance of Tuna Koprulu’s work in documenting the historical treasures in Istanbul and pointed out the critical role of Turkey in promoting intercultural dialogue.

In her address, Tuna Koprulu called the palaces “jewel boxes reflecting the characteristics of the countries they represent,” and promoted Istanbul as a “glorious and mystic capital of civilizations of more than 2,000 years” and encouraged the audience to visit the city.

Tuna Koprulu was born in and raised in Turkey. She went to Washington in 1966 after her husband was appointed as the Press Attache of the Turkish Embassy. As a diplomat’s wife, she became actively involved in representing Turkey. She frequently lectured at high schools as well as known clubs, such as Soroptomist, Lions, Pen Women’s and Capital Speakers. She was a White House correspondent for 15 years at which time she also covered the Congress, the World Bank and IMF.

The “Foreign Palaces in Istanbul” book signing was the latest in the American Turkish Society’s long history of providing public forums to discuss Turkish history and arts and culture. Tuna Koprulu donated 100 copies of “Foreign Palaces of Istanbul” to the Society, which are available for purchase in support of the education programs and cultural initiatives sponsored by the organization.

The American Turkish Society, founded in 1949, is America’s oldest not-for-profit organization seeking to enhance economic, political, and cultural ties between Turkey and the United States. The Society achieves its mission by bringing together leaders in government, including Prime Ministers, Ministers of State and Ambassadors, as well as business leaders, journalists, and scholars covering a spectrum of fields.

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Members of the press wishing to learn more about the American Turkish Society may contact Selen Ucak, Executive Director, at 212-583-7614.