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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T52/82

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 March 1982

*Subject: Cyprus;
Internal Situation
Feb 1980*

Dear Mr. Papandreu,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March about Cyprus.

I entirely agree on the urgent need for a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem and share your concern about the risks inherent in the present situation. We have consistently tried to do what we can to help, both through our contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping force and through diplomatic efforts. We played our part in encouraging the resumption of intercommunal talks under United Nations auspices in Nicosia and have continued to give full support to the United Nations' efforts.

In my view the intercommunal talks have in recent months shown better prospects than before. I understand that a number of important areas remain for discussion within the terms of the evaluation made by the UN Secretary General. It seems to me that predictions of deadlock could in the end prove self-fulfilling. I believe that all concerned should do their utmost to help maintain momentum in the talks. I hope that you will feel able to use your influence to this end.

I have taken careful note of your offer to withdraw the Greek military contingent. So far as the question of foreign troops in the Republic is concerned, the British

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Government have always taken the view that a just settlement must be on the basis of the relevant United Nations Resolutions. But it is important to be realistic about what can be achieved in this respect in advance of more general progress towards an intercommunal settlement.

It seems to me imperative to avoid action which might cut across or undermine the intercommunal talks and the initiative which has been taken by the United Nations Secretary General. A settlement will only be achieved by agreement between Cypriots. In my view the countries of the Ten must concentrate on sustaining the intercommunal dialogue, which constitutes the only effective avenue towards a solution. I can assure you that the British Government will play their full part in this.

Yours sincerely
Raymond D. White

His Excellency Mr. Andreas Papandreou