

NOTE OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, MR. SPYROS KYPRIANOU, AT MULUNGUSHI VILLAGE, LUSAKA, ON  
31 JULY 1979 AT 1730

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Present: Prime Minister President Kyprianou  
Mr. B.G. Cartledge Mr. H. Vovides

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The Prime Minister said that it was her understanding that the inter-communal talks were now adjourned. President Kyprianou said that this was correct. He had entertained great hopes of the initial agreement but the Turks had quickly started to make statements which showed that they had no intention of abiding by it. His impression was that the Turks did not wish to continue the talks for the time being. They had tried to impose conditions on their resumption. The Greek Cypriots had told the Turks that they could raise any subject they wished during the course of the talks but that it was unacceptable that they should seek to impose pre-conditions. The Turks had rejected this approach and had talked about "bi-zonality". The Greeks had argued that there was no such term in any constitution. (The Prime Minister agreed that it was not a term in use in international law). The Turks, President Kyprianou continued, had then revealed the true purpose of this term, namely to rule out federation and substitute a disguised form of partition. This was completely unacceptable. The Greek Cypriots had been prepared to accept federation in order to facilitate matters, despite the fact that even British experts had ruled it out. The next step would be to find out what Turkey was really aiming at.

President Kyprianou told the Prime Minister that at the time of the agreement his impression had been that Mr. Ecevit genuinely wanted it and wished to make it work; subsequently, his position had become weaker. He had himself suggested that all troops should be withdrawn from the Republic of Cyprus (a term which excluded the SBAs), whatever their nationality. Troops could be replaced by a mixed local police force under U.N. supervision. This would remove fears about security and allow the people of Cyprus to make their own choice.

President Kyprianou said that he was very disappointed. A great deal of hard work had gone into securing the agreement of 19 May and the Turks had begun to create problems almost immediately. Some people said that the Turks

/ were simply

were simply playing for time so that their fait accompli would become solidified into confederation or partition. If this happened, the Cyprus problem would become permanent. It was, the President said, not a problem between the Greek and the Turkish Cypriots so much as a problem between Cyprus and Turkey. The Greek Government was careful not to become involved, since it had other preoccupations. There was a difficult period ahead.

The Prime Minister asked the President when he thought the inter-communal talks would resume. President Kyprianou said that they were unlikely to restart in the near future. Nobody was inclined to blame the Greek side for the present situation. The Turks could not be expelled from Cyprus by force: the only weapon available to the Greek Cypriots was the moral support of the international community. The Government of Cyprus would raise the issue once more in the forthcoming General Assembly and the problem would have to go to the Security Council, since the inter-communal talks had originated from a Security Council Resolution. He himself intended to raise the matter during the CHGM, under the "international political situation" item.

President Kyprianou said that the Commonwealth, and the UK in particular, could give significant help to Cyprus. He would welcome a bilateral discussion at some stage on the question of what the UK could and should do as a former colonial power, a guarantor power, a member of the Security Council and a member of the Commonwealth. President Kyprianou noted that one of the guarantor powers had engineered a coup while another had invaded the island. In any future structure of guarantees, the Cyprus Government could not accept Greece or Turkey as guarantor powers. The UK, however, could remain and would have an important role to play. The UK had been the only guarantor who had not been involved in recent developments, although it would have been open to her to intervene militarily. President Kyprianou said that, in his view, the UK should take the initiative and see what could be done to resolve the problem, especially by exerting pressure on Ankara.

President Kyprianou said that his Government would have preferred to deal with Ecevit over a settlement, since he had been Prime Minister at the time of the invasion. They had offered to meet Ecevit, but he had declined. Mr. Ecevit himself was probably in favour of a meeting but there were others, for example the military, who took a different line.

/ President Kyprianou

President Kyprianou said that in parallel with the inter-communal talks, which could not be resumed without some progress in Ankara, efforts could be made to create a helpful climate for a settlement in the various international fora. He, for his part, could never forget that 40% of the territory of Cyprus was under occupation and 70% of the island's resources was under foreign control. The refugee problem was also intense for Cyprus. The relatives of missing persons numbered thousands. An agreement on missing persons had been reached with the UN Secretary General but the Turks were refusing to implement it.

Turning to the sovereign bases, President Kyprianou said that despite some agitation from the Left, the UK had no cause to worry; the situation was quiet and there was really no problem. The main issue at present was the long delay in the UK's payments for the bases: payment had been agreed for the first five years but, since 1965, no further payments had been made. He asked the Prime Minister if she could let him have a note about the reasons for this. The Prime Minister undertook to do so. President Kyprianou added that there was no need for the whole sum to be paid at once.

The Prime Minister asked President Kyprianou how the rise in oil prices would affect Cyprus. The President said that Cyprus was well placed for hydro-electric power but agreed that problems could quickly arise.

The Prime Minister asked President Kyprianou whether Dr. Waldheim was now seeking a basis for a resumption of the inter-communal talks. President Kyprianou said that so far as he was concerned, the basis was already there. He agreed, however, that Dr. Waldheim was currently disillusioned. He should insist strongly on the withdrawal of foreign troops and on the implementation of the relevant UN Resolutions.

President Kyprianou said that meetings such as the CHGM were helpful to Cyprus; but there could be no solution unless discussions could be both continued and widened. Agreement on the communique would, he thought, be reached: the passage on Cyprus was not long and he would welcome the UK's help in securing it. The Prime Minister gave a non-committal reply.

The meeting ended at 1805.

*B. M.*

1 August 1979