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THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

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Internal Situation
UK/Cypriot Relations
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Her Excellency
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
of the United Kingdom

Dear Prime Minister,

On several occasions in the last few months I had the opportunity to refer to the problem of Cyprus within the context of the more general problems facing us today. In this communication, I would like to be more specific on the role the countries of the European Community could assume towards the resolution of this problem. The need for a European Community contribution has become more imperative today since it is increasingly more evident that the intercommunal talks are headed towards a deadlock and there is an urgent need for new international initiatives.

Concerning the character of the problem of Cyprus, it seems to me necessary to point out from the beginning that it has an international and an internal, intercommunal dimension.

The international dimension, which constitutes the essence of the problem, consists of the continued Turkish military occupation of 36,4% of the territory of an independent state, member of the United Nations and an associate member of the EEC. The coup d'etat which was mounted against the Cypriot President, the late Archbishop Makarios, by the Greek military regime can by no means be an excuse for the policy of invasion and conquest carried out by Turkey in Cyprus, the first such violation of international norms of conduct in postwar Europe.

The presence of foreign occupation troops makes impossible any productive dialogue since the real interlocutor of the Cypriot government is not the Turkish Cypriot leadership but the government of Turkey. The intercommunal talks are looked upon by Turkey as a means for diverting international pressure and misrepresenting the issue as a dispute between the two communities. It is not surprising in this respect that, in spite of Greek Cypriot concessions and the continued United Nations efforts over the last five years, there has been no substantial progress in the intercommunal talks.

The intercommunal dimension of the problem consists of establishing certain principles of coexistence between the two communities. There is no doubt that this question can be easily solved, provided that the Turkish troops are withdrawn from the island. Under the auspices of the United Nations, a constitutional charter can be agreed upon, which will safeguard the independence and the unity of the Republic while at the same time ensuring equal rights and obligations for the members of the two communities. In this respect, the constitutional arrangement must guarantee the freedom of movement and settlement of all the citizens of the Republic in any part of their own country.

Following the departure of the Turkish troops, an expanded United Nations Force could be assigned to Cyprus to guarantee the achievement of a final and just solution. Greece is ready to make a substantial financial contribution towards meeting the additional expenses such a force would require. My government is also ready to withdraw from Cyprus even its small military contingent which is stationed there by virtue of the Zurich and London Agreements of 1959-60.

The countries of the European Community could make a major contribution towards the settlement of the problem. They should let it be known that what Turkey is doing in Cyprus is incompatible with the conduct of an associate member of the EEC, that is, Turkey, and that they will not accept the Turkish fait accompli in Cyprus and the continued presence of Turkish occupation troops on the Republic of Cyprus.

On the other hand, Greece which is a guarantor power of the Republic of Cyprus, is prepared to consider favorably the convening of an international conference for the implementation of the UN Resolutions on Cyprus, if this could contribute towards the resolution of the problem.

It is our view that the Cyprus crisis, although seemingly latent, is particularly dangerous, while its resolution can lessen the tension and facilitate the solution of other problems in the area.

Yours faithfully,



Andreas G. Papandreou