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Cyprus: UK relations: Feb 80



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 September 1982

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 179/82**

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 31 July drawing my attention to recent action by the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

The United Kingdom follows carefully all developments in Cyprus and is studying closely the measures recently introduced by the Turkish Cypriots which you describe in your letter. We are concerned at the implications that the amendment to the "Equivalent Property Law" and the economic measures recently announced in northern Cyprus might have for the intercommunal process and the search for a settlement to the Cyprus problem. We have made our concern on these matters clear to the Turkish authorities. We do not, however, believe that the measures concerned are designed to integrate northern Cyprus more closely with Turkey or lead to partition of the island. I am confident that the Turkish authorities are fully aware of the grave consequences of such a step.

You can rest assured that the British Government will not lose sight of the gravity of the situation in Cyprus. As you know, it is our firm belief that the intercommunal talks which are being held under the auspices of the UN Secretary General

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offer the best way forward in the search for a solution to the Cyprus problem. I sympathise with those who are concerned that the talks have moved slowly but I have been encouraged to note the real, if limited, progress which they have recently made. The United Nations Secretary General knows that we stand ready to assist him or his representatives in any way he would consider appropriate. I am confident that you will continue yourself to give your fullest support to the intercommunal talks.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

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His Excellency Mr. Spiros Kyprianou