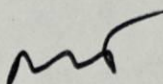


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FM ATHENS 181000Z OCT
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 324 OF 18 OCT 79

FOLLOWING FOR HEAD OF SED. 

MY TEL 313 AND TELCON OF 17 OCT.

KARAMANLIS' VISIT TO LONDON ON 24 OCTOBER.

KARAMANLIS HAS BEEN HEAVILY ENGAGED SINCE HIS RETURN FROM PRAGUE AND IT WAS MOLYVIATIS WHOM I SAW ON 16 OCTOBER, MY PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO ENSURE THAT HE WAS UP-TO-DATE ON VARIOUS BILATERAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES WHICH MIGHT COME UP IN LONDON ON THE 24TH. I ALSO EXPLAINED THAT I WOULD NOT MYSELF BE IN LONDON FOR THE VISIT AND THAT I WAS GOING AHEAD WITH LONG-STANDING PLANS FOR AN

OFFICIAL VISIT TO CORFU FROM 18 TO 21 OCTOBER. MILES WILL SEE MR KARAMANLIS OFF AT THE AIRPORT ON 20 OCTOBER.

2. IN PARA 4 OF MY TEL 323 I HAVE REPORTED OUR CONVERSATION ON DEFENCE SALES. I SPOKE OF THE COAL-FIRED POWER-STATION AND RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS. ON THE FORMER, MOLYVIATIS SAID THAT MITSOTAKIS HAD BRIEFED THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER. ON THE LATTER, THE LATEST POSITION IS IN MY TEL CRED A 112 . I ALSO COMMENDED DAVY INTERNATIONAL'S BID FOR THE ETVA FERRO-CHROME PROJECT WHICH IS DUE TO ADJUDICATED SHORTLY.

3. MOLYVIATIS CONFIRMED THAT MR KARAMANLIS WOULD WISH TO DEVOTE MOST OF HIS TIME WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HAVING SO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM MOSCOW AND EASTERN EUROPE (MY TEL 321) EAST-WEST RELATIONS WOULD BE IN THE FOREFRON OF HIS MIND. HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS GREECE AND NATO ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO EASY WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE, AND CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN TURKEY. HE LOOKED FOR A GENERAL EXCHENAGE OF VIEWS ON COMMUNITY PROBLEMS AND THE RUN-UP TO GREEK ACCESSION. HE WOULD BE SEEING THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WHO IS IN /ATHENS

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ATHENS THIS WEEK AND WOULD WISH TO TOUCH ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. CYPRUS WOULD NO DOUBT COME UP BUT MOLYVIATIS WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR ANY PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD WISH TO RAISE RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE AND PERHAPS DISCUSS THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE. I ASSUME THAT THESE SUBJECTS ARE COVERED IN THE BRIEFS FOR NO 10. IN GENERAL, MOLYVIATIS SAW THE TOUR OF WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW PERSONAL CONTACTS IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEK ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY.

4. I REFERRED TO MITSOTAKIS'S USEFUL MEETING WITH THE NOEL BAKERS ON 19 SEPTEMBER BUT DID NOT SUGGEST THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE RAISED WITH KARAMANLIS. MOLYVIATIS SPOKE OF HIS HIGH REGARD FOR LORD NOEL BAKER BUT OBSERVED THAT THE NEW FOREST LAW (THE PASSAGE OF WHICH MUST, ACCORDING TO MITSOTAKIS, PRECEDE DECISIONS ON THE NOEL BAKER ESTATES) WAS HAVING A VERY ROUGH PASSAGE IN THE GREEK PARLIAMENT.

5. M.I.F.T. CONTAINS A SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF KARAMANLIS'S CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS.

SUTHERLAND

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