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CONFIDENTIAL

FM NICOSIA 030835Z AUG 81

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 181 OF 3 AUGUST 1981

PS TO PM

AND PRIORITY TO UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, ~~NO, 10 DOWNING ST.~~ ANKARA, ATHENS

INFO SAVING MODUK (DS11) AND CBFC (ACTIONED BY NICOSIA)

MY TELNO 178: CYPRUS: INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

1. GOBBI HAS TOLD ME THAT HE HAD WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A TOUGH TALK WITH MITSOTAKIS ON 1 AUGUST. mf
2. GOBBI GAVE MITSOTAKIS AN OUTLINE OF THE TURKISH SIDE'S TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL SO FAR AS HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEDUCE THIS, EMPHASISING THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE MAP. MITSOTAKIS' REACTION WAS THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. HE WAS MUCH DISAPPOINTED AFTER WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE ASSURANCES WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM TURKMEN. THE TURKS HAD IN THE PAST TALKED ABOUT BEING SATISFIED WITH A 28 PER CENT SHARE. DID GOBBI HAVE AN IDEA OF THE PERCENTAGE WHICH THEY WOULD GIVE UP UNDER THE PRESENT PROPOSAL QUERY.
3. GOBBI SAID THAT HE COULD MAKE NO FIRM ESTIMATE OF A PERCENTAGE. SO FAR AS HE COULD JUDGE THE TURKISH OFFER MIGHT REPRESENT A CONCESSION OF SOMETHING LIKE 3 PER CENT (EXCLUDING THE BUFFER ZONE). HE WONDERED WHETHER TURKMEN HAD SPOKEN TO MITSOTAKIS OF A SPECIFIC PERCENTAGE.
4. MITSOTAKIS CONTINUED TO DESCRIBE THE PRESENT TURKISH OFFER AS UNSATISFACTORY AND, APPARENTLY AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE GREEK AMBASSADOR WHO WAS PRESENT, ASKED WHETHER GOBBI COULD NOT GO BACK TO THE TURKS AND GET THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR OFFER.
5. GOBBI RESPONDED STRONGLY BY SAYING THAT THE POSITION REACHED MUST BE PUT IN ITS PROPER PERSPECTIVE. NO-ONE HAD EXPECTED THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES TO BE RESUMED AND TO SURVIVE. NO-ONE HAD EXPECTED AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS. ALL HAD DEMANDED PROPOSALS ON TERRITORY FROM THE TURKISH SIDE. ALL THREE OF THESE POINTS HAD BEEN OR WERE ABOUT TO BE MET. IT WAS OF COURSE THE RIGHT OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TO REJECT WHAT THE TURKS WERE OFFERING BUT TO DO SO WOULD IN GOBBI'S VIEW BE A SERIOUS, PERHAPS AN "HISTORIC" MISTAKE. MANY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND SUCH AN APPROACH AND THE GREEK SIDE WOULD BE LIKELY TO FIND ITSELF ISOLATED, FOR EXAMPLE AT THE UNITED NATIONS.
6. GOBBI MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF GOING BACK AT THIS STAGE TO THE TURKS AND PRESSING FOR

IMPROVEMENTS. SO FAR AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE OFFER IT SHOULD FORM A REASONABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION.

7. MITSOTAKIS THEN PRESSED GOBBI TO AVOID 5 AUGUST AS THE DATE FOR PRESENTATION OF THE TURKISH PROPOSALS. HE EMPHASISED THAT HE COULD IN NO WAY BE INVOLVED WITH THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSALS. THE FACT THAT HE WAS LEAVING CYPRUS ON 5 AUGUST, THE DAY PLANNED FOR THE MEETING AT WHICH THE TURKISH PROPOSALS WOULD BE SUBMITTED, WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED. THE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE PRESENTED LATER.

8. GOBBI SAID THAT THE MINISTER'S REQUEST PUT HIM IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. HE HAD BEEN URGING THE TURKISH SIDE TO COME FORWARD QUICKLY WITH PROPOSALS. HE HAD TOLD, AMONG OTHERS, THE RUSSIANS THAT HE EXPECTED A MOVE ON 5 AUGUST. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN HIS CHANGE OF ATTITUDE TO THE TURKISH SIDE. NEVERTHELESS HE WOULD TRY.

9. MITSOTAKIS AND ZACHARAKIS PRESSED FOR A WEEK'S DELAY. GOBBI DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT HE CAN OR SHOULD MEET THEM TO THAT EXTENT. HE HOPES TO POSTPONE THE MEETING DUE ON 5 AUGUST UNTIL 7 AUGUST USING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AS A REASON.

10. MITSOTAKIS WAS MET AT LARNACA AIRPORT BY A GROUP OF SOME HUNDREDS REPRESENTING REFUGEES FROM KYRENIA. A SMALLER GROUP, APPARENTLY OF SUPPORTERS OF EDEK GREETED HIM BY THROWING EGGS AND TOMATOES AT HIS CAR AND DISPLAYING PLACKARDS SAYING THINGS LIKE "GO HOME TRAITOR". THE PRESIDENT AND ALL THE MAJOR PARTIES, (EXCEPT EDEK) HAVE BEEN QUICK TO CONDEMN THE FORM OF THIS DEMONSTRATION. BUT IT MAY HAVE PUT MITSOTAKIS AND ZACHARAKIS A LITTLE OFF THEIR STROKE. BEFORE SEEING GOBBI MITSOTAKIS HAD HAD A TWO HOUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADVISERS ON THE INTERCOMMUNAL PROBLEM AFTER WHICH IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT FUTURE TACTICS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. NO DOUBT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR FEARS OF BEING FACED BY TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS WHICH THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REJECT AND WHICH WILL IN EFFECT CONSTITUTE PRESSURE ON THEM TO MOVE ON THE CONSTITUTION.

11. DURING HIS SPEECH AT THE DINNER GIVEN BY ROLANDIS ON 1 AUGUST MITSOTAKIS TWICE CONFUSED CYPRUS WITH CRETE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING MODUK (DS11).

RHODES

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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CLAIMS D
NAD
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.
CYPRUS

[NOT ADVANCED]