

Cyprus



CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 September 1982

Dear John,

Type letter p.

AL 13/4.

Letter from President Kyprianou to the Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 31 August conveying the Prime Minister's request for a more detailed draft reply to the letter from President Kyprianou about developments in Northern Cyprus. I enclose a further draft for the Prime Minister's signature.

The background to President Kyprianou's letter was set out in John Holmes' letter to Tim Flesher of 26 August. We have now been given more details by the French of how they propose to reply to the identical letter sent by President Kyprianou to President Mitterrand. The Quai d'Orsay have sent an acknowledgement to the Cyprus Embassy in Paris and said that they are studying the letter. They have also asked their Embassy at Nicosia to look into President Kyprianou's allegations. But they intend to reply in general terms, not taking up specific points President Kyprianou has made. Our own proposed reply will therefore be as forthcoming a response as President Kyprianou will receive from any of our major allies. It is very likely that the letter will be published. Although even-handed, it could elicit a protest from the Turks, which the original, shorter, draft reply sent with John Holmes' letter of 26 August might have avoided. But if we are to send a more detailed reply this risk is unavoidable.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: ~~XXXXXX~~ letter / ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:  
President Kyprianou

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

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SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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

*The United Kingdom follows carefully*

~~It goes without saying that the United Kingdom is against any action which might make a settlement of the Cyprus problem more difficult to find. We continue to follow with care all developments in Cyprus and are 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.~~

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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

Secretary General 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.

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