

MFJ

6 April 1982

*BF*

Cyprus

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Kyprianou. I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature in due course.

JC

*S*

F N Richards Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SUBJECT



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T527/82

R6

Nicosia, 29th March, 1982.

cc Ops  
+ Mavis

Your Excellency,

I am addressing this message of appeal to you in connection with the tragic and purely humanitarian problem of missing persons in Cyprus.

More than seven years have elapsed since Turkey invaded militarily the Republic of Cyprus in July/August 1974. As you are aware, this flagrant violation of the sovereignty of Cyprus has created, inter alia, the grave problem of 1,619 persons reported missing, whose families have been living ever since in the agony of uncertainty as to the fate of their loved ones. There is concrete evidence that a number of missing persons were captured alive by the Turkish invading forces. Yet they were not released after the cessation of the fighting and no explanation whatsoever has been given as to their disappearance.

Despite repeated efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General and in complete disregard of several Special Resolutions adopted on this matter by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Turkey has unfortunately not responded to the humanitarian appeal for information as to the fate of missing persons.

The most recent striking example of Turkey's intransigent attitude in the matter is illustrated by the failure of the Committee on Missing Persons to function, despite a year of intensive efforts and the goodwill shown on our part. This Committee was established after long and arduous efforts culminating in the adoption of a number of United

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
and Northern Ireland,  
10 Downing Street,  
London.



- 2 -

Nations resolutions and included amongst its members the Representative of the Secretary-General. The obstructionist attitude of the Turkish Cypriot side has completely blocked the Committee's work and rendered its existence meaningless.

In view of the above-mentioned developments we earnestly request that you and your Government take an active interest in this humanitarian issue and lend your valuable assistance and support to our efforts which we intend to pursue before appropriate international bodies and forums, aiming at convincing Turkey to cooperate constructively in tracing the missing persons, so that the agony and suffering of their unfortunate families may be alleviated.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Spyros Kyprianou)  
President of the Republic of Cyprus.