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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 October 1983

Cyprus - Threat of Turkish/Cypriot UDI

The Prime Minister saw over the weekend the passage in JIC(83)(WSI)43 on this subject.

Mrs. Thatcher has commented that we must now make contingency plans for a possible Turkish/Cypriot declaration of UDI. She has added that at present she does not see how we could deliver the guarantee.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Remarks made on JIC (83) WSI 43
Weekly Survey of Intelligence
21-27 Oct. '83.

Part I Page 4.

Lester is F/C.O.

↓ A.C. $\frac{31}{10}$

We must
consider

the reasons
contrary to basis.

I do not at
present see how

we could possibly
defeat the present
not



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 October, 1983

for John,

MB

Cyprus: Possible Turkish Cypriot Declaration of Independence

You asked for an assessment of the latest developments concerning a possible declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriots in Northern Cyprus. In the time available, this letter has not been seen by the Foreign Secretary: I shall be showing him a copy in the box tonight.

The Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Denktash, has long favoured the establishment of a separate Turkish Cypriot state. Periodically in the past he has threatened to declare independence. These threats were renewed with unprecedented persistence shortly after the UN debate on Cyprus in May this year when the resolution passed by a large majority (we abstained) was strongly pro-Greek Cypriot. More recently, when he was in London on 10 October on a private visit, Denktash described the Secretary General's latest ideas on Cyprus as a 'dirty trick drawn up in collusion with the Greek Cypriots'. The next day, in Strasbourg, he said that he would begin moves towards independence at the time of the Turkish elections (on 6 November). He threatened to declare independence by the end of the year if the Greek Cypriots did not withdraw their representatives from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and if Kyprianou refused to take part in a summit meeting with him as Denktash had suggested.

The key factor restraining Denktash from declaring independence in the past has been the views of the Turkish Government who have not seen it in their interests that he should do so. But there are signs that the Turkish Government's influence over Denktash, and their willingness to restrain him, may not be as great as formerly.

As a co-signatory of the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, the UK has obligations to guarantee the independence, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Cyprus and to prohibit activity aimed at the partition of the island. We therefore have a direct interest in this question. Just as we do not recognise Denktash's current administration in northern Cyprus (the 'Turkish Federated State of Cyprus') so we could not recognise an independent state.

It is still by no means clear whether or not Denktash



is bluffing, as he has so often in the past. Much may depend on how the Secretary General plays his hand over setting in train arrangements for a high level meeting between Denktash and Kyprianou. There is a reasonable chance that Denktash can be deterred from actually declaring independence in the near future, although he might still take some significant step pointing in that direction.

In view of the background described above we nevertheless believe it is right to take Denktash's threats seriously. Consequently we have instructed HM Representatives in Nicosia and Ankara to make further strong representations to Denktash and to the Turkish Government, backing up those which we made in the summer. We have also suggested to those allies with whom we co-operate most closely on Cyprus (the Americans, Germans, French and Italians) that they should act similarly. The Americans, who have the most influence with the Turkish authorities, have already spoken strongly to the Turks about the need to resume the intercommunal talks. They have also made it clear to the Turks that they would be opposed to a declaration of independence by northern Cyprus. For the moment, however, they appear to be reasonably sanguine that the Turks will be able to restrain Denktash from declaring independence or taking a significant step in that direction.

We intend to follow up this action as necessary. Lady Young, who is visiting Cyprus on 19-22 October, will underline our views with Denktash personally. Mr Heseltine's visit to Ankara on 17 October also provides an opportunity to make further representations to the Turks.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street