

CYPRUS

The position, (as I understand it), is that this morning the body calling itself the Assembly in Northern Cyprus passed a resolution approving the establishment of a Turkish Republic of North Cyprus and a declaration of independence. Her Majesty's Government deplore this action by the Turkish Cypriot community, which amounts to a declaration of secession. We have issued a statement which makes it clear that this is incompatible with the 1960 Treaties.

Our position has always been that we recognise only one Republic of Cyprus. That remains the position today. In our view this latest move cannot be seen as altering the status of the Turkish Cypriot community. We would deeply regret it if, as seems all too likely, this action provokes the breakdown of the inter-communal talks and the consultations carried out by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Both have had our full support.

There have for some time been reports that a move of this sort was being contemplated by the Turkish Cypriot authorities. We have throughout made it clear, most recently both to Mr Denktash personally and at a high level in Ankara, that we would strongly disapprove such a move. It must be a matter for ^{deep} regret that these representations have ~~not had the desired effect~~ ^{apparently been disregarded}. Our Ambassador at Ankara has this morning, on my instructions, called on the Turkish Government not to associate themselves with this move by the Turkish Cypriot authorities. My right hon Friend the Prime Minister has sent a similar message to President Evren urging him to help secure a reversal of the declaration.

In accordance with British responsibilities under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee I shall be proposing urgent consultations to both the Turkish and the Greek Governments. We are also in direct contact with the Government of Cyprus. My right honourable Friend the Prime Minister spoke this morning to President Kyprianou and I have just seen the Cyprus High Commissioner in London.

We shall consult urgently with other interested governments and also with the Secretary General of the United Nations, who has been playing a key role in the search for a peaceful solution to the long standing Cyprus problem. In addition, we are approaching the President of the Security Council with a view to securing an early meeting.



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cc MASTER SET

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 November 1983

CYPRUS : TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

President Kyprianou telephoned the Prime Minister at 1016 this morning.

The Prime Minister said that we were deeply disturbed by this morning's news of a Turkish Cypriot Declaration of Independence. We had made clear to the Turkish Government and to Mr. Denktash earlier our opposition to such a move. President Kyprianou said that he had no information in addition to that which had appeared in the media. The Prime Minister said that we similarly had no first hand information. We now had to find out precisely what had happened. We should then consider what action to take. But we would not recognise an independent state in Northern Cyprus. We would keep in close touch with President Kyprianou.

President Kyprianou asked whether there was any scope for pressure upon the Turkish Government to denounce the move. The Prime Minister replied that, when we had clarified the situation, we expected to be in touch with the Turkish Government.

President Kyprianou said that the Cyprus Foreign Minister would be leaving this afternoon for New York to see the UN Secretary General and to call a meeting of the Security Council. He had spoken with Mr. Papandreou and the Greek Government were at present meeting to consider the situation. What kind of common action could the guarantor powers take? The Prime Minister said that we first needed to establish the facts and we would then be in touch with the Cyprus Government. She repeated that we would not recognise a Turkish Cypriot State. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would doubtless be considering with our partners in the Ten how to respond.

/President Kyprianou

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President Kyprianou said that if it emerged that the Turkish Cypriot Declaration was final, the question would arise of whether we could neutralise it or reverse it. He would be sending a request to us based on the Treaty of Guarantee. He relied very much on the United Kingdom. If he had anything further to communicate to us, he would do this through the High Commission in London.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that she had been hoping to see President Kyprianou at CHOGM but clearly this development would be the most important matter on his agenda. We would remain in close touch.

The discussion ended at 1025.

I received separately this morning a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. Denktash. I enclose a copy, together with copies of the accompanying documents. I should be grateful for your advice on how these should be handled.

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

A. J. COLES

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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