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TO IMMEDIATE ATHENS

TELEGRAM NO 501 OF 16 NOV 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE ANKARA, NICOSIA, WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, ROME,
UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, ISTANBUL, STRASBOURG, UKREP BRUSSELS,
CBFC.

CYPRUS: TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME THIS EVENING AT HIS OWN REQUEST. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KOUTSOGIORGAS, MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER. KOUTSOGIORGAS, SPEAKING IN GREEK, DID ALL THE TALKING ON THE GREEK SIDE.
2. I EXPLAINED THE ACTIONS WE HAD TAKEN SO FAR AS REFERRED TO IN MY STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE YESTERDAY. IN ADDITION WE VERY MUCH REGRETTED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD CHOSEN TO RECOGNISE THE NEW SO CALLED STATE. WE HOPED THAT NO OTHERS WOULD FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE AND WERE TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION IN A NUMBER OF CAPITALS.
3. I EMPHASIED THAT WE SHOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH. ALL CONCERNED SHOULD AVOID ACTION WHICH MIGHT MAKE THE PRESENT SITUATION WORSE. WE WOULD BE GUIDED BY THIS PRINCIPLE AND HOPED THAT THE GREEKS WOULD BE TOO. REFERRING TO OUR CALL FOR CONSULTATIONS, I SAID THAT THE PRELIMINARY REACTION FROM THE TURKS WAS TO SAY

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THAT THEY ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE PROVIDED THE GREEKS ALSO ACCEPTED. WHAT WAS THE GREEK REACTION?

4. KOUTSOGIORGAS SAID THAT, GIVEN THE ACTIONS BY TURKEY IN VIOLATION OF THE TREATY, THE POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS THAT THEY COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY TRILATERAL OR THREE-SIDED CONSULTATIONS. THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO ENVISAGE A REPETITION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OF 1974 WHICH HAD MERELY SERVED AS A CLOAK FOR THE TURKISH INVASION. THEY WERE HAPPY TO CONSULT WITH THE UK. THE UK WAS ALSO FREE TO CONSULT WITH TURKEY IF SHE WISHED. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION HE SAID THAT GREECE WOULD NOT CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH TURKEY. I SAID THAT THE TREATY CALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE GUARANTOR POWERS TOGETHER. I WOULD REFLECT ON WHAT HAD BEEN SAID BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT THE WAY FORWARD WOULD BE. I HOPED THE GREEKS TOO WOULD REFLECT. PRESUMABLY WE COULD EXPECT A CONSIDERED REPLY FROM HARALAMBOPOULOS. KOUTSOGIORGAS SAID THAT WE COULD EXPECT A REPLY FROM HARALAMBOPOULOS VERY SOON. NO ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE OF THE GREEK RESPONSE UNTIL THE REPLY HAD BEEN SENT. BUT THE POSITION HE HAD DESCRIBED WAS A FIRM DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

5. KOUSOGIORGAS SAID THAT THE TURKS BORE A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DESTROYING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INTERCOMMUNAL DIALOGUE. NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT RESUME UNLESS THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DECISION WAS REVERSED. GREECE WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS.

6. I ASKED KOUSOGIORGAS IF HE COULD GIVE ME AN ASSURANCE THAT GREECE WOULD DO NOTHING TO MAKE THE SITUATION MORE SERIOUS OR INCREASE THE RISKS OF CONFLICT ON THE ISLAND. HE REPLIED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER TAKEN ACTION WHICH PROVOKED VIOLENCE. BUT THEY HAD TO TAKE ALL MEASURES THEY CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR THE SECURITY OF CYPRUS. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THERE WAS ANY DEFINITE PLAN FOR ACTION. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ITS POSITION AFTER THE UN DEBATE. THEY HAD

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NOT ENVISAGED SENDING TROOPS IN THE PAST. BUT THE PRESENT SITUATION REPRESENTED A SERIOUS CHANGE. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT DEFINITELY PLANNING TO SEND TROOPS, HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY. HE APPRECIATED THE UK REACTION TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE INITIATIVE WE HAD TAKEN IN THE UN. HE HOPED IT WOULD PRODUCE RAPID RESULTS LEADING TO A REVERSAL OF THE DECLARATION. I SAID IT WAS OUR STRONG WISH THAT NOTHING WOULD BE DONE WHICH MIGHT ADD TO TENSION. ANY INCREASE IN TROOP STRENGTHS WOULD GIVE THE WRONG SIGNAL.

7. AS HE WAS LEAVING THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WISHED TO CONFIRM THAT GREECE WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE FALKLANDS RESOLUTION. THEY HAD COME UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM ARGENTINA TO BE ABSENT FROM THE VOTE. BUT THEY WOULD BE THERE AND WOULD ABSTAIN. I THANKED HIM FOR THIS INFORMATION.

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