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YOUR TELNO 767: TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS IN YOU TUR I REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER THIS EVENING (17 NOVEMBER) ON THE TEXT IN MY SECOND IFT AND HAVE FORMALLY TABLED IT. IT WAS TOUCH AND GO THROUGHOUT THE DAY WITH THE CYPRIOTS PRESSING FOR MUCH MORE AND AT LEAST TWO MORE EXTREME WORKING PAPERS CIRCULATING IN THE COUNCIL. HOWEVER, ONCE WE HAD THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S AGREEMENT TO THE TEXT, ONLY PAKISTAN PRESSED AMENDMENTS IN THE COUNCIL THIS EVENING. WE RESISTED THESE AND BARRING LAST MINUTE HITCHES THE COUNCIL SHOULD VOTE ON THE TEXT TOMORROW MORNING (18 NOVEMBER) WITH AT LEAST 13 VOTES IN FAVOUR. A REPORT OF THE DEBATE SO FAR IS IN MY TELNO 1374 AND MIFT (NEITHER TO ALL).

DETAIL

2. THINGS BECAME DIFFICULT TODAY WITH THE APPEARANCE OF TWO MORE EXTERME WORKING PAPERS WHICH WERE BEING CIRCULATED IN THE COUNCIL. THE FIRST, FROM GUYANA, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE HAD THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED CONTACT GROUP, CONDEMNED THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION AND CALLED FOR SANCTIONS. THE SECOND, PRODUCED BY THE CYPRIOTS, WAS A MUCH STRENGTHENED VERSION OF OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION.

3. IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE COUNCIL AFTER LUNCH, THERE WAS GROWING PRESSURE FOR A LENGTHY DISCUSSION THAT EVENING OF OUR TEXT AND FOR US TO TAKE GREATER ACCOUNT OF CYPRIOT VIEWS.

4. ON RECEIPT OF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING THE PRIME MINISTER'S

4. ON RECEIPT OF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU, I HAD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH IACOVOU. I BEGAN BY GIVING HIM THE AMENDMENTS IN YOUR TUR TOGETHER WITH THOSE IN YOUR TELNO 759 REFERRING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS AND ITS NON-ALIGNED STATUS. HE RETURNED AFTER TALKING TO THE GREEKS AND TO HIS ADVISERS WITH A WHOLE RAFT OF ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE BASED ON HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED AT THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. THE AMENDMENTS INCLUDED AMONG OTHERS THE SUBSTITUTION OF "CONDEMNS" FOR "DEPLORES"; THE DELETION OF OPERATIVE PARAS 5 AND 8; OPERATIVE PARA 4 TO STOP AT "GOOD OFFICES"; I TOLD HIM FIRMLY THAT THIS WOULD BUST THE NEGOTIATIONS. I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT MY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS REFLECTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT HAD AGREED ON THE NEED FOR THE RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED QUICKLY (WHICH IACOVOU ACCEPTED). I SAID THAT WHETHER OR NOT HE COULD AGREE TO OUR REVISED DRAFT I WOULD HAVE TO TABLE IT FORMALLY THAT EVENING IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE POSSIBILITY OF A VOTE TOMORROW. I WARNED HIM OF THE RISKS OF THE VOTE BEING POSTPONED AND THE RESOLUTION BEING SUBJECTED TO CONFLICTING AMENDMENTS IF WE DID NOT MOVE AT ONCE.

5. AFTER GOING AWAY ALLEGEDLY TO CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU, HE RETURNED TO SAY THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT OUR NEW TEXT WITH ONE ABSOLUTE STICKING POINT WHICH WAS THAT OPERATIVE PARA 2 SHOULD ALSO DECLARE THE TURKISH CYPRIOT RESOLUTION LEGALLY INVALID. HE NOTED THAT THE FOURTH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH ALREADY USED THE WORD "INVALID". I AGREED TO ACCEPT THIS BUT NO MORE ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD CLINCH HIS SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT. AFTER A FURTHER LENGTHY DISCUSSION IN WHICH HE APPARENTLY SOUGHT AND GOT APPROVAL OF THE FOUR CYPRIOT POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS WHO HAD COME TO NEW YORK - CLERIDES, PAPAIOANNOU, GALANOS, LYSSARIDES - HE GAVE ME THE GO-AHEAD AND I FORMALLY TABLED THE TEXT WHICH IS IN MY SECOND IFT.

6. WHEN THE COUNCIL MET AGAIN IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS THIS EVENING, THE PRESIDENT WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR TEXT HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT. THIS CHANGED THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE. THE PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER PROPOSED A NUMBER OF PRO-TURKISH AMENDMENTS (TEXT BY FACSIMILE TO SED), MOST OF WHICH SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE REFERENCES TO THERE BEING OTHER PAST VIOLATIONS OF THE 1960 TREATIES. BUT GUYANA, NICARAGUA AND ZIMBABWE SAID FIRMLY THAT THEY SUPPORTED OUR NEW TEXT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WAS A COMPROMISE AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE SEVERAL (PRO-CYPRIOT) AMENDMENTS OF THEIR OWN IF DISCUSSION OF IT WAS RE-OPENED. WE STRESSED THE NEED NOT TO UNRAVEL WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED. THE RUSSIANS SAID THAT THEY TOO COULD SUPPORT THE TEXT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT PERFECT.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD MEET FOR FURTHER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT 1600Z TOMORROW (18 NOVEMBER) FOLLOWED BY A FORMAL MEETING AT 1630Z. THE PRESIDENT APPEALED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT TO OPEN A PANDORA'S BOX BY PROPOSING AMENDMENTS THOUGH HE LEFT IT OPEN FOR THEM STILL DO SO. THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION APPEARED TO BE THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD VOTE ON THE TEXT AS IT STOOD TOMORROW MORNING AND THAT ONLY JORDAN, WHICH RESERVED ITS POSITION, AND PAKISTAN MIGHT NOT SUPPORT IT.

THOMSON