



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister: Cyprus

to recommend that  
there should be no  
acknowledgement to  
the lengthy letter from  
Mr Denktash (attached).

Peter Ewing  
Deputy Clerk

ME

18. 11. 83

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*I don't see how we can influence him if we don't acknowledge his letters and*

*Put the facts right* 18 November 1983

*John - give our view. He doesn't have to be addressed as President*

Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot Declaration of Independence

*attached*

Thank you for your letter of 15 November reporting the Prime Minister's telephone conversation of that date with President Kyprianou. You also enclosed a letter from Mr Denktash and asked for advice on how it should be handled.

Mr Denktash's letter is a long justification of the Turkish Cypriot decision, enclosing a text of the declaration made by the Turkish Cypriot 'Assembly'. We have always in the past recommended that the Prime Minister should not acknowledge letters from Mr Denktash since that would have implied recognition of his status as 'President' of the then 'Turkish Federated State of Cyprus'. A fortiori we recommend that there should be no acknowledgement this time.

Some of the points that Denktash makes in the letter are reasonably justified. He refers, for example, to the actions of the Greek and Greek Cypriot leaderships which hampered the chances of reconciliation between the two peoples of Cyprus. He refers in particular to their action in taking the Cyprus problem to the UN Assembly last May - a move which sparked off the train of events which gave Denktash the excuse he needed to declare independence and which we had advised them against. Mr Denktash also mentions his proposal for a summit meeting with President Kyprianou, claiming that the proposal received 'totally irresponsible treatment' from the Greek Cypriots and that they attempted to turn it into another futile exercise of political manoeuvring and familiar delaying tactics. In fact President Kyprianou was sensitive to the dangers of rejecting Denktash's proposal and thus giving him an excuse to declare independence, or of rushing into an ill-prepared summit. Kyprianou's agreement in principle to the meeting made it more difficult for Denktash to find a good excuse to go ahead with his declaration of independence. Perez de Cuellar believed that the meeting needed careful preparation and could not have taken place before January at the earliest. It is therefore unfair for Denktash to accuse the Greek Cypriots of 'delaying tactics'. In the end, Denktash decided to go ahead with UDI despite the lack of a reasonable excuse and

/thus

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thus flew directly in the face of the Secretary-General's endeavours.

The Foreign Secretary has not seen this letter: I shall be submitting a copy in parallel to him this evening.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone', written in a cursive style.

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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