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3 PRIVATE OFFICE
1 FILE

139287

ATTN: MR JOHN COLES

FROM: SIR FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER

CYPRUS

cc. Resident Clerk
fco.

1) Copy to Mr. Bone (Fco)

2) Return to me.

FR 2/11

1. ON TUESDAY, I RETURNED FROM MY 45TH VISIT SINCE EDEN SENT ME TO CYPRUS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN MACARIOS AND HARDING. I VISITED BOTH SIDES AND MET LEADING GREEK - AND TURKISH - CYPRIOTS, AND THE (HIGHLY INTELLIGENT) TURKISH 'AMBASSADOR' TO THE NORTH.
2. INTER-ALIA, WE DISCUSSED UDI AND I WARNED THEM, VERBALLY AND ON PAPER, AGAINST IT BECAUSE IT WOULD: FREEZE THE PRESENT PARTITION: DELAY TALKS WITH GREEK CYPRIOTS: AND DISTURB MAINLAND TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY.
3. PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, I DO NOT BELIEVE GREAT DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE IN CYPRUS.
4. I HAVE LONG THOUGHT THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S 'MEGAPHONE DIPLOMACY', THROUGH INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS, WAS DOOMED TO FAIL.
5. I AM NOW MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED THAT THE BEST HOPE IS A SUSTAINED AND PERSISTENT, LOW PROFILE SHUTTLE MISSION, WITHOUT PUBLICITY, TO SOUND OUT THE FOUR PARTIES (OF WHOM ANKARA AND GREEK NICOSIA ARE DECISIVE). THIS MIGHT CONSIST OF ONE CANADIAN (THEY HAVE TROOPS THERE), ONE YUGOSLAV AND ONE OTHER. IT COULD EVEN START WORK AS A 'RESEARCH TEAM'. IT COULD SEEK TO ESTABLISH THE REAL POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES AND REPORT IN, SAY, 3 MONTHS. IF A BASIS FOR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS EMERGED BY THEN, THE PARTIES COULD BE INVITED TO MEET - NOT BEFORE. IF NOT, NO HARM WILL BE DONE.

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