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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 December 1983

Duty Officer  
No 10 Downing Street

*Dear Duty Clerk,*

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The Cyprus High Commissioner telephoned the FCO this afternoon on instructions to pass on comments by President Kyprianou about the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on Thursday 1 December, and in particular about her answer to a Supplementary on Cyprus from Mr Norman Atkinson MP.

The Prime Minister said: 'It may <sup>be</sup> that by getting talks going between President Kyprianou and Mr Denktash one might be able to help to restore the unitary state of Cyprus.' President Kyprianou was anxious that the British Government should not seem to encourage talks between himself and Mr Denktash before the purported Turkish-Cypriot Declaration of Independence had been reversed. He would be very ready to talk to Mr Denktash but only after reversal.

President Kyprianou also said, in connection with the Prime Minister's remarks about tripartite consultations under the Treaty of Guarantee, that he continued to hold the position he had explained to the Prime Minister in London and New Delhi. He did not want the possibility of parallel exchanges (between the UK and Greece and the UK and Turkey) to be excluded, at least at first. Both the presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus and the purported Declaration of Independence made tripartite consultations difficult.

President Kyprianou was worried that these remarks by the Prime Minister might be exploited in Athens and Nicosia. Asked to clarify, the High Commissioner said that in Athens the Opposition might exploit these remarks; and in Nicosia AKEL and others. (The High Commissioner at no point suggested that either the Turks or Turkish Cypriots would 'exploit' the Prime Minister's remarks.) President Kyprianou hoped that the Prime Minister would not repeat similar remarks. Meanwhile he would refrain from commenting himself

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and hoped thereby to maintain the good relations he had established with the Prime Minister at their recent meetings in London and New Delhi.

I have consulted the Department concerned and the Duty Private Secretary. They suggest that this letter should be attached to the Prime Minister's briefing for her meeting with Papandreou on Cyprus. But they do not consider that it affects the line that the Prime Minister has been recommended to take with him. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has not seen this letter but I will be showing him a copy in parallel.

Yours sincerely,

*T. P. Hollaway*

T P Hollaway  
President Clerk

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