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FM NICOSIA 031410Z DEC 83
DESKBY 050900Z DEC 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 342 OF 03 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE DESKBY ATHENS 041000Z FOR PRIME MINISTER'S
PARTY AND SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY
INFO PRIORITY ANKARA WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO ROUTINE BONN PARIS ROME UKDEL NATO CBFC

MY TEL 329: DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH CYPRUS: 'CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'
1. ON 2 DECEMBER THE TURKISH CYPRIOT 'LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'
MET AND ADOPTED BY 24 VOTES TO 16 A RESOLUTION ON THE FORMATION
OF A 'CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'. THE 70 MEMBERS OF THE NEW
'ASSEMBLY' WILL INCLUDE THE 40 EXISTING 'DEPUTIES', 10 MEMBERS
APPOINTED BY DENKTASH, AND A FURTHER 20 REPRESENTATIVES OF
TRADES UNIONS, MINOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER
ORGANISATIONS. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE NEW 'ASSEMBLY'
WILL BE SUPPORTERS OF DENKTASH. THE NAMES OF THE 30
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE KNOWN, BUT THE
'CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY' IS TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON
6 DECEMBER AND WILL IMMEDIATELY BEGIN WORK ON A NEW
CONSTITUTION.

2. THE OPPOSITION CALLED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR ANY NECESSARY
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION TO BE MADE BY THE EXISTING
'LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY' (IN WHICH THE 'GOVERNMENT' COMMANDS
LESS THAN THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY NECESSARY TO AMEND THE
CONSTITUTION).

3. THREE VIEWS ARE HELD IN NORTH CYPRUS ON THE LEGALITY OF
DENKTASH'S ACTIONS IN ORGANISINT THE PREPARATION OF A NEW
CONSTITUTION:

(A) THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE 'LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY' ON INDEPENDENCE IMPLIED A DECISION TO
CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION, AND AMOUNTED TO A DELEGATION
OF AUTHORITY TO DENKTASH TO DO THIS AS HE THOUGHT
FIT. THE CONDITION OF A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY WAS
THUS SATISFIED

(B) THE DECLARATION OF 15 NOVEMBER CONSTITUTED A COUP
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(C) CETSHE 15 NOVEMBER DECLARATION DID NO MORE THAN CHANGE THE NAME OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION, AND IT LEFT ALL EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS INTACT. FURTHER CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WOULD THUS REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS VOTE BY THE 'LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'.

4. DENKTASH HAS USED (A) TO JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS. VIEW (B) IS HELD BY SOME OF HIS EXTREME SUPPORTERS. (C) IS THE VIEW TAKEN BY THE LEFT WING OPPOSITION, WHICH ACCUSES DENKTASH OF MOUNTING A 'SECOND COUP' IN CREATING THE 'CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY' WHICH HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE TO REALISE HIS OWN OBJECTIVES, MUCH ON THE MODEL OF THE NSC-DIRECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH FRAMED THE NEW TURKISH CONSTITUTION.

5. SINCE THE DECLARATION OF STATEHOOD DENKTASH HAS PRESSED ON WITH INCREASING CONFIDENCE AND LITTLE REGARD FOR THE OPPOSITION IN NORTHERN CYPRUS OR FOR INTERNATIONAL OPINION. HE HAS DISMISSED THE COMMONWEALTH ACTION GROUP AS 'NON-EXISTENT', SINCE THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD NO PART IN ITS ESTABLISHMENT. THERE ARE NO SIGNS HERE OF ANY INTENTION BY ANKARA TO RESTRAIN DENKTASH FROM HIS PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE THE 'TRNC'.

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