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MO 25/2/30/2

7th December 1983

Prime Minister

Read in full.

Deho Roger.

RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY

A & C. $\frac{F}{12}$

The Defence Secretary was sitting with Mr Papandreou and Mr Bayulken at the lunch of Defence Ministers during the DPC meeting in Brussels today. I attach a record which he prepared afterwards of his conversation with them.

I am copying this letter and the attachment to John Coles (No 10) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office). I have also left copies of the attachment with our Delegation to NATO.

Yours truly,

R. C. Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)
Private Secretary

R L Bone Esq

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD OF THE DEFENCE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH MR PAPANDREOU AND MR BAYÜLKEN AT THE DPC MINISTERS' LUNCH ON DECEMBER 7TH 1983

I had lunch with Papandreou and Bayülken at which an extremely cordial relationship appeared to exist. The rather aggressive dialogue in the opening session continued on a "totally different note". Bayülken took the view that what was needed was a top-level bilateral meeting between the Prime Minister of Turkey and the Prime Minister of Greece which he believed would be capable of resolving the outstanding difficulties. On the Cyprus problem, Papandreou suggested at one stage a joint Greek/Turkish force to maintain peace with unified command throughout. Bayülken responded by saying that this had the difficulty that the Turkish Cypriots would need time to gain confidence because of their past experiences.

2. Papandreou told me privately after Bayülken had gone that it could be a moment for a significant British initiative, and having talked to the Prime Minister in Athens, he would be putting proposals forward through Rhodes, HM Ambassador Athens. Papandreou told me that he had tried several times but had never succeeded in finding out what the Turks actually wanted. If he could get a firm answer to that question he would understand how to judge the situation better. It was unthinkable to expect any government to concede the sovereign rights of territory to another. Papandreou again made the point to me privately that the cost of the present tensions between his country and Turkey were extremely expensive in terms of military commitment.

3. These are the significant points that emerged from what was a very cordial dialogue. In terms of any initiative between the two, Papandreou was not prepared to countenance a top-level meeting which might fail unless there had been careful preparation but he recognised the point that unless you got this issue raised to top level such was the attitudes on both sides that you were unlikely to find people prepared to break through the present impasse. I asked him if there was anybody at Bayülken's level that he could produce to talk at the second line level and he said that of course they did have such people.