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PS/MR WHITNEY
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SIR J BULLARD
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RESIDENT CLERK

~~PS/No.10 DOWNING STREET~~

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CONFIDENTIAL
FM UKMIS NEW YORK 200235Z DEC 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1690 OF 19 DECEMBER
INFO PRIORITY NICOSIA, ATHENS, ANKARA, WASHINGTON, CANBERRA,
GEORGETOWN, LAGOS, LUSAKA, NEW DELHI, PARIS, BONN, ROME

MY TELNO 1640: COMMONWEALTH ACTION GROUP

SUMMARY

1. THE FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND RAMPHAL SAW THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THIS MORNING (19 DECEMBER). HE URGED THEM TO BE CAUTIOUS AND THEY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS. NOTHING WAS ACHIEVED AND THE MINISTERS, PARTICULARLY HAYDEN, ARE FURIOUS WITH RAMPHAL FOR BRINGING THEM TO NEW YORK. ONLY RAMPHAL IS GOING TO WASHINGTON AS SHULTZ WOULD NOT SEE THE MINISTERS.

DETAIL

2. SHERRY GAVE US A COPY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE MINISTERS (COPY BY BAG). PEREZ DE CUELLAR TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD STRONGLY URGED ALL THE PARTIES TO IMPLEMENT SCR 541 IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. HE WAS ACTIVELY EXPLORING POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT HE WAS EXPLORING WITH THE TURKS AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DENKTASH'S OFFER ON VAROSHA.

3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT HE HAD APPEALED TO ALL THE PARTIES TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT. THE COMMONWEALTH ACTION GROUP COULD PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THIS REGARD. IN PARTICULAR HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO INTERNATIONALISE THE PROBLEM. HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE

~~HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO INTERNATIONALISE THE PROBLEM.~~ HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE FROM RAMPHAL'S LETTER TO HIM THAT THE GROUP INTENDED TO PROCEED BY "QUIET DIPLOMACY". APPROACHES TO THE PARTIES WERE BEST KEPT DELICATE AND CONFIDENTIAL. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE REMAINED READY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH THE GROUP.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REPLIED IN LOW KEY, ASSURING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS. THEY DID NOT PRESS HIM TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC ACTION. SHERRY'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER THINKING OF VISITING NICOSIA.

5. ONLY RAMPHAL IS GOING ON TO WASHINGTON. APPARENTLY SHULTZ WAS NOT PREPARED TO SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEY WERE NOT WILLING TO SEE AN OFFICIAL IN HIS PLACE.

6. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION THE MINISTERS' ONLY DECISION HAS BEEN TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER THROUGH THEIR MISSIONS IN LONDON AND NEW YORK. ALL THE MINISTERS ARE FURIOUS WITH RAMPHAL FOR DRAGGING THEM TO NEW YORK TO NO APPARENT PURPOSE. HAYDEN'S COMMENTS IN PRIVATE TO HIS MISSION WERE APPARENTLY QUITE UNPRINTABLE.

7. INDEED THE VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF A NON-EVENT. BUT THIS MAY BE NO BAD THING. THE MINISTERS CAN NOW FAIRLY CLAIM TO HAVE DONE THEIR DUTY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, AND THE VISIT HAS CAUSED THE MINIMUM OF DAMAGE. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSED RELIEF TO ME THAT IT HAD ALL GONE LESS BADLY THAN HE HAD FEARED. HE WAS GLAD THAT, DESPITE THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP, NO ONE HAD ARGUED THAT UDI MUST BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE RESUMED. HE COMMENTED THAT IN COMING TO NEW YORK THEY HAD ACTED MUCH TOO SOON AND THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO NEXT.

THOMSON

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