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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1984

Cyprus : UN Secretary-General's Activities

Thank you for your letter of 5 January about the UN Secretary General's behind-the-scenes negotiations on Cyprus. The Prime Minister has read and noted the contents of your letter.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

JK



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

A.S.C. 6/1.

5 January 1984

Jan John

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UN Secretary-General's Activities

In your letter of 29 December you asked for clarification of a reference in UKMis New York telegram No 1717 of 22 December to the UN Secretary-General being engaged in secret negotiations on Cyprus.

Sr Perez de Cuellar has been in touch with the Turks and Turkish Cypriots since early December, shortly before the Turkish Foreign Minister (who is an old friend of Sr Perez de Cuellar) relinquished his office after the Turkish elections. Our High Commissioner in Nicosia, and the US Embassy there were told of these contacts in strictest confidence by Mr Holger, the acting UN special representative in Cyprus. Neither Sr Perez de Cuellar himself nor the UN Secretariat in New York has referred to them in conversation with UKMis New York and the Greek Cypriots and other interested countries will know nothing about them. Sr Perez de Cuellar's objective appears to have been to build upon an earlier proposal by the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Denktash, to hand over Varosha (a sealed off and uninhabited suburb of Famagusta under Turkish control since 1974) to UN administration for Greek Cypriot resettlement as part of a "mini-package which would also have involved the re-opening of Nicosia airport. Sr Perez de Cuellar appeared to have obtained Mr Turkmen's agreement to "de-couple" the Varosha idea from that of Nicosia airport (which is of little attraction to the Greek Cypriots) and to make certain other improvements.

These ideas seemed to be a good basis for progress and we encouraged Mr Holger to pursue them. The departure of Mr Turkmen and intransigence by other elements in the Turkish government and Denktash seemed initially to have run them into the sand. On 2 January, however, Mr Denktash issued a statement which he described as containing "proposals of goodwill, so that first steps could be taken

/towards



towards a comprehensive solution". These reiterated points which have long been matters of contention but included several positive features. The most significant of these related to his earlier proposal about Varosha. It is not clear to what extent these proposals were a direct result of Sr Perez de Cuellar's efforts or of Turkish pressure, but they appear to merit close attention.

Although it would have been helpful to have had more formal and detailed information of the Secretary-General's ideas, these contacts showed that he was in fact being active behind the scenes in a potentially useful way. As you know, we have been urging the UN Secretary-General to take a higher public profile on Cyprus. In particular, we would like him to appoint a new special representative to succeed Dr Hugo Gobbi who has returned to a senior post in his native Argentina. We have persuaded some of our major allies to make similar approaches to Sr Perez de Cuellar and are instructing the UK Mission in New York to pursue this further and encourage him to do his utmost to build upon the positive elements of Mr Denktash's more recent proposals.

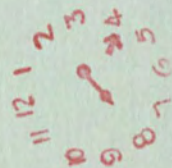
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone', written in a cursive style.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Cyprus : Internal Sit PART 2.

15 JAN 1984



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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*I have asked for an
up-dated version of the
letter which has been
overlaid.*

4 January 1984

John D. M.

A.F.C. 4/1

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UN Secretary-General's Activities

Cyprus int Sit A 2
In your letter of 29 December you asked for clarification of a reference in UKMis New York telegram no 1717 of 22 December to the UN Secretary-General being engaged in secret negotiations on Cyprus.

Sr Perez de Cuellar has been in touch with the Turks and Turkish Cypriots since early December, shortly before the Turkish Foreign Minister (who is an old friend of Sr Perez de Cuellar) relinquished his office after the Turkish elections. Our High Commissioner in Nicosia, and the US Embassy there, were told of these contacts in strictest confidence by Mr Holger, the acting UN special representative in Cyprus. Neither Sr Perez de Cuellar himself nor the UN Secretariat in New York has referred to them in conversation with UKMis New York and the Greek Cypriots and other interested countries will know nothing about them. Sr Perez de Cuellar's objective appears to have been to build upon an earlier proposal by the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Denktash, to hand over Varosha (a sealed off and uninhabited suburb of Famagusta under Turkish control since 1974) to UN administration for Greek Cypriot resettlement as part of a 'mini-package' which would also have involved the re-opening of Nicosia airport. Sr Perez de Cuellar appears to have obtained Mr Turkmen's agreement to 'decouple' the Varosha idea from that of Nicosia airport (which is of little attraction to the Greek Cypriots) and to make certain other improvements. Mr Denktash was not told of these negotiations until a relatively late stage.

These ideas seemed to be a good basis for progress and we encouraged Mr Holder to pursue them. But the departure of Mr Turkmen and intransigence by other elements in the Turkish government and Denktash seemed to have run them into the sand. There seems little immediate prospect that the Secretary-General will be able to revive them.

Although it would be helpful to have more formal and detailed information of the Secretary-General's ideas, these contacts showed that he was in fact being active behind the scenes in a potentially useful way. As you know, we have

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been urging the UN Secretary-General to take a higher public profile on Cyprus. In particular, we would like him to appoint a new special representative to succeed Dr Hugo Gobbi who has returned to a senior post in his native Argentina. We have persuaded some of our major allies to make similar approaches to Sr Perez de Cuellar and now have it in mind to make a further approach to him ourselves.

True
Robert Bone

(R B Bone)tts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Telegrams : Internal Set 175.

4 JAN 1984

