



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister.

London SW1A 2AH

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13 January 1984

Joe John,

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Cyprus

In your letter of 9 January fixing a time for President Kyprianou to call on the Prime Minister on 18 January, you asked for a note on the question of consultations under the Treaty of Guarantee.

It is clear that there is considerable disagreement between the Greeks and Greek Cypriots about whether Greece should agree to take part in tripartite consultations under the Treaty of Guarantee. The initial Greek reaction was to reject our proposal on the grounds that they would not consult directly with the Turks unless the Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence was reversed. The Greek Cypriots however appear to see some advantage in tripartite consultations, in order to ensure that the UK remains actively involved and as a means of putting pressure on us to exert our influence in their favour. This different attitude by the Greek Cypriots led Mr Papandreou to be more equivocal about the Greek view of tripartite consultations when he spoke to the Prime Minister at the Athens Summit. But, more recently, Mr Papandreou has again said in public that Greece cannot accept the proposal for tripartite consultations.

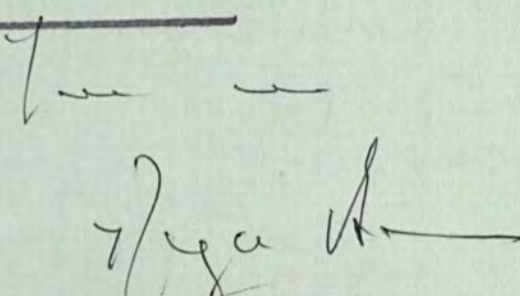
The Foreign Secretary believes it was right to fulfil our obligation under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee (copy attached) by proposing tripartite consultations. We should continue to express our willingness to take part in consultations whenever the other two Guarantor Powers are also prepared to do so. But we should not be concerned if, because of the unwillingness of Greece to take part, tripartite consultations are not held. Consultations between the Guarantor Powers would, in practice, be unlikely to contribute significantly towards a settlement of the Cyprus problem. They would be more likely to break down in mutual recriminations in which we would find ourselves under attack from both Greeks and Turks. Similarly, it would be unwise for us to take up the alternative Greek suggestion of conducting parallel consultations with both Greeks and Turks. This would inevitably cast us in the role of mediator with the likely consequence that we would be blamed by both sides for failure to make progress. The best means of both making progress on

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the Cyprus problem, and safeguarding our own interests, is to ensure that the UN Secretary-General is taking the lead in promoting negotiations between the two communities in Cyprus.

Given the difference between the Greeks and Greek Cypriots on Guarantor Power consultations, Sir Geoffrey Howe believes it would be better that we should not say anything further publicly on this issue in advance of President Kyprianou's visit. During that visit we shall need to make it clear to President Kyprianou that we do not see parallel negotiations as a substitute for the consultations together envisaged by the Treaty and that, if the Greeks continue to reject tripartite consultations, it would soon be necessary to confirm in public that it has not, so far, proved possible to arrange for Guarantor Power consultations. We should, however, also make it clear to the Greek Cypriots that we will persist in our efforts with all concerned to promote the cause of a settlement in Cyprus; in particular we shall give our full backing to the activities of the UN Secretary-General.


(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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