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TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 442 OF 12 OCTOBER  
INFO IMMEDIATE ATHENS, NICOSIA, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON,  
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TELECON NEILSON/RUSSELL: SECRETARY GENERAL'S INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE GIVEN TOHALEFOGLU. IT WILL BE PASSED ON. IN DISCUSSION WITH HALEFOGLU AND YAVUZALP BOTH EMPHASISED TURKEY'S INTEREST IN SEEING A SOLUTION. BOTH UNDERLINED DENKTASH'S GENUINE INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE AND EXPRESSED SCEPTISM ABOUT KYPRIANOU'S INTENTIONS.

DETAIL

2. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, NOR IN THE EVENT HAS IT PROVED POSSIBLE FOR ME TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO HAS DEPARTED FOR EASTERN TURKEY AND WILL NOW BE LARGELY OUT OF ANKARA FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. IN HIS ABSENCE I HAVE GIVEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE (YOUR TELNO 231) TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. I EMPHASISED TO HALEFOGLU THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOURSELF ATTACHED TO THE NEXT ROUND OF PROXIMITY TALKS, OUR BELIEF THAT KYPRIANOU WAS PREPARED TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY AND OUR STRONG HOPE THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD URGE MR DENKTASH TO SHOW EQUAL FLEXIBILITY PARTICULARLY ON TERRITORY.

3. HALEFOGLU REPLIED IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HAD USED WITH YOU IN NEW YORK. HE HOPED THAT OUR ASSESSMENT OF KYPRIANOU'S INTENTIONS WAS CORRECT. HE HIMSELF REMAINED SCEPTICAL, BELIEVING THAT KYPRIANOU WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THE FORM THAN THE REAL SUBSTANCE OF NEGOTIATION. BY RETREATING IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BEHIND THE 1960 CONSTITUTION KYPRIANOU WAS TRYING TO USE HIS ADVANCE TO THAT CONSTITUTION AS CONCESSIONS

TRYING TO USE HIS ADVANCE TO THAT CONSTITUTION AS CONCESSIONS WHEN IN REALITY HE MUST BE PREPARED TO GO FURTHER. HE COULD HOWEVER ASSURE ME THAT DENKTASH WAS FLEXIBLE, WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE GENUINELY INCLUDING FURTHER CONCESSIONS OF TERRITORY (THOUGH IF HE WERE ASKED FOR 10% OR MORE THAT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC). THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WERE CONSTANTLY URGING HIM IN THIS DIRECTION. TURKEY FULLY SUPPORTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND WISHED TO SEE THE PROXIMITY TALKS LEAD TO A SUMMIT BETWEEN THE TWO CYPRIOT LEADERS.

4. I HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD A FULL DISCUSSION WITH YAVUZALP AND SHOWN HIM THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. WITH HIM, IN ADDITION TO EMPHASISING ITS MAIN POINTS, I WENT THROUGH IN MORE DETAIL THE POINTS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF MYTEL NO 426 AND ALSO ADDED THOSE IN PARAGRAPH 2(1) OF SIR JOHN THOMSON'S TELEGRAM NO 1113 ON TERRITORY AND DENKTASH NOT INSISTING ON 100% POWER SHARING.

5. YAVUZALP TOO ASSURED ME THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT VERY MUCH WANTED A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. IT WAS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST AND CERTAINLY NOT TURKEY'S THAT IT SHOULD BE PROLONGED INDEFINITELY. HE WAS INTERESTED BY OUR VIEWS ON KYPRIANOU'S FLEXIBILITY. FROM HIS OWN LONG KNOWLEDGE OF KYPRIANOU HE REMAINED SCEPTICAL. BUT HE HOPED WE WERE RIGHT. DENKTASH FOR HIS PART WAS GOING TO NEW YORK IN A FLEXIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FRAME OF MIND. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY MR WILBERFORCE'S RECEIPT OF ASSURANCE FROM BOTH DENKTASH AND KYPRIANOU THAT THEY WANTED TO SEE RESULTS. I ALSO SAID THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS NOT ASKING FOR UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS. HE ROCOGNISED THAT CONCESSIONS BY BOTH SIDES MUST FORM PART OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE TO BE IMPLEMENTED SIMULTANEOUSLY. I SUGGESTED FINALLY THAT THE TURKS SHOULD NOT PAY TOO MUCH HEED TO ROLANDIS'S VIEWS (THE TURKS CONSTANTLY TROT HIM OUT AS EVIDENCE THAT KYPRIANOU IS NOT SINCERE). WE DID NOT THINK THAT THESE REPRESENTED THE REAL PICTURE. YAVUZALP SAID THAT THE TURKS WOULD BE INTERESTED TO SEE IF THIS WAS RIGHT.

COMMENT

6. YAVUZALP ASSURED ME THAT IN HANDING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO HALEFOGLU IT WOULD BE SEEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL (I.E. THE PRESIDENT). TURKISH SCEPTISM ABOUT KYPRIANOU IS STRONGLY HELD BUT I THINK THAT HALEFOGLU AND YAVUZALP ARE PROBABLY GENUINE IN EXPRESSING TURKEY'S WISH TO SEE HEADWAY MADE TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT. THAT SAID THEY ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE STRENGTH OF THEIR POSITION AND WILL CERTAINLY STRIKE A HARD BARGAIN.

RUSSELL