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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 January 1985

*NBPM  
CDP 17/1*

*Dear Charles*

Cyprus

*attached,*

Thank you for your letter of 16 January about the telephone call from the Cyprus High Commissioner on behalf of President Kyprianou.

We immediately asked the Ambassador in Ankara to establish the truth of these reports and I attach an advance copy of his reporting telegram (which you will see has also been sent flash to UKMIS New York for use by Sir J Thomson). Fortunately, it emerges that the situation is much less polarised than President Kyprianou had thought, but it is quite understandable that he should have reacted with concern to the first reports reaching him. We have asked our mission in New York to pass the information to the Cypriots and we are speaking to the Cyprus High Commission here.

*Yours ever*

*John Biddell*

*BR* (C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
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From the Private Secretary

16 January 1985

CYPRUS

The Cyprus High Commissioner telephoned me this morning to say that President Kyprianou had rung him from New York to express great concern at statements by the Turkish Foreign Minister that Turkey would insist on keeping troops in Cyprus as the only real guarantee for the Turkish Cypriot population; and by Denktash to the effect that the high level meeting was purely ceremonial. In the light of these statements, Kyprianou was fearful that the high level meeting would be a fiasco.

I said that I thought it would be a mistake for President Kyprianou to allow himself to be rattled by statements such as these. The Turks and Turkish Cypriots no doubt saw themselves as engaged in a war of nerves and would be seeking to put maximum pressure on Kyprianou. He would recall what the Prime Minister had said at their meeting about Denktash's penchant for posturing.

The High Commissioner said that President Kyprianou wanted to keep in direct touch with No. 10. I did not feel that I could turn this down, but again encouraged him to make Sir John Thomson his point of contact.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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