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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 17 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN (DESKBY 180645Z FOR ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT),

NICOSIA, ATHENS, ANKARA, WASHINGTON

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, ROME, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, MODUK

INFO SAVING UKDEL STRASBOURG

MY TELNO 22: CYPRUS: HIGH LEVEL MEETING

## SUMMARY

1. THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING HAS GOT OFF TO A DIFFICULT START WITH THE TWO SIDES IN APPARENT DEADLOCK.

## DETAIL

2. THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING BEGAN THIS MORNING (17 JANUARY) WITH A SYMBOLIC PUBLIC HANDSHAKE BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS WHICH DENKTASH WITH A TOUCH OF HYPERBOLE DESCRIBED AS 'THE HANDSHAKE OF THE CENTURY'. BOTH LEADERS, ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIALS, MET TOGETHER FOR OVER AN HOUR THIS MORNING AND FOR A FURTHER HOUR LATE THIS AFTERNOON. KYPRIANOU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MAVROMMATIS, SOULIOTI AND POLYVIYOU; DENKTASH BY ERTEKUN, ONAN AND ATALAY. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD PICCO AND SHERRY WITH HIM. KYPRIANOU AND DENKTASH ALSO HAD A SECRET PRIVATE MEETING ALONE WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL DURING THE AFTERNOON. THE TWO SIDES WILL MEET AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING (18 JANUARY).

3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OPENED THE MEETING WITH A PREPARED STATEMENT ON THE LINES OF HIS STATEMENT ON TUESDAY TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (UKMIS TUR). THE TEXT OF THIS WAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS AND IS IN MIFT (SAVING TO CERTAIN ADDRESSEES). THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS SPOKESMAN SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE ASSERTED, WITH QUOTES FROM THE STATEMENT, THAT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING WOULD NOT BE A SIGNING CEREMONY BUT A 'NEGOTIATING SESSION' INTENDED TO LEAD TO THE FRAMEWORK FOR AN AGREEMENT. HE DENIED THAT THERE WAS A SINGLE DOCUMENT WAITING TO BE SIGNED SAYING THAT THE MEETING HAD 'SEVERAL DOCUMENTS' BEFORE IT.

4. AS AGREED IN TELECON NEILSON/HUMFREY, I CONTACTED THE CYPRIOT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE THIS MORNING TO ASK FOR A MEETING TO CONVEY THE GIST OF ANKARA TELNO 34 AND TO BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS. IT WAS ARRANGED THAT MAVROMMATIS WILL SEE ME TOMORROW.

5. BOTH SIDES WERE TIGHT LIPPED AFTER THIS MORNING'S MEETING. THE FIRST INDICATION THAT THINGS HAD NOT GONE WELL CAME TO US FROM THE US MISSION WHO HAD BEEN TOLD BY WASHINGTON THAT THE CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR THERE HAD JUST BEEN INTO THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO SAY ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM KYPRIANOU THAT THE MORNING HAD GONE BADLY AND THAT US HELP WAS NEEDED. THE US MISSION IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED SHERRY WHO TOLD THEM THAT HE THOUGHT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE OVER-REACTING AND THAT HE DID NOT WANT THE US TO DO ANYTHING. SHERRY

-1-  
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/SAID.

SAID THAT KYPRIANOU HAD GONE THROUGH THE AGENDA PAPER IN DETAIL AND TAKEN A HARD LINE. HE HAD FOR EXAMPLE CALLED FOR TURKISH SETTLERS TO LEAVE CYPRUS AND SET OUT HIS VIEWS ON BI-ZONALITY AT LENGTH. SHERRY CONSIDERED THAT THIS HAD BEEN UNHELPFUL AND THAT KYPRIANOU HAD GONE TOO FAR. WHEN DENKTASH HAD STARTED TO APPEAR ANGRY KYPRIANOU HAD LOOKED NERVOUS.

6. SHERRY WAS UNABLE TO SEE US AND THE AMERICANS AS PROMISED THIS EVENING. HE DID HOWEVER SPEAK TO THE US MISSION BY TELEPHONE AND ASKED THEM TO PASS ON TO US WHAT HE HAD SAID WITH THE CAVEAT THAT HE HAD GONE FURTHER THAN HE WAS AUTHORISED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. HE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN A 'LOUSY DAY' AND ADMITTED THAT HE WAS DISCOURAGED. THE SITUATION WAS 'SORT OF DEADLOCKED'. DENKTASH WAS SITTING PRETTY AND SAYING THAT ALL WAS SETTLED AND THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAITING TO BE SIGNED. KYPRIANOU FOR HIS PART WAS TRYING NOT JUST TO MODIFY THE DRAFT BUT TO INTRODUCE CONTROVERSIAL NEW ELEMENTS (SHERRY DID NOT ENLARGE ON THESE). ATTEMPTS TO GET KYPRIANOU TO LIMIT HIS DEMANDS TO THE ESSENTIALS HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. THE PRIVATE MEETING WITH JUST THE TWO LEADERS AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK. THE SECRETARIAT WERE NOW TRYING TO BUILD ON A SUGGESTION FROM DENKTASH ABOUT DRAFTING GUIDELINES FOR THE WORKING GROUPS. THIS WORK MIGHT BE PUT INTO A SECOND DOCUMENT. IF THIS FAILED, SHERRY WAS NOT SURE HOW THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY FORWARD.

7. WE SPOKE THIS EVENING TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WHO SOUNDED GLOOMY. THEY CONFIRMED THAT THINGS WERE NOT GOING WELL AND COMPLAINED THAT KYPRIANOU APPEARED TO WANT TO START FROM SCRATCH AND RE-NEGOTIATE THE WHOLE AGREEMENT.

8. THE TURKISH DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO WHOM WE ALSO SPOKE TOOK A SLIGHTLY LESS GLOOMY VIEW. HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS STILL VERY FLUID. THIS MORNING'S MEETING HAD BEEN A 'NEAR TRAGEDY' BUT BY THIS EVENING IT HAD REVERTED TO 'MELODRAMA'.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING TO UKDEL STRASBOURG.

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-2-  
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