

ADVANCE COPIES

1520

CYPRUS

PS (6)  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
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PS/PUS  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR JENKINS

PS/No.10 DOWNING STREET

D I O CABINET OFFICE

HD/SED  
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19.11.85

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 34 OF 19 JANUARY 1985

INFO IMMEDIATE NICOSIA ATHENS ANKARA WASHINGTON  
INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO UKREP BURSSELS BONN PARIS ROME  
INFO SAVING UKDEL STRASBOURG

MY TELNO 33 AND TELECONS WITH NEILSON: CYPRUS: HIGH LEVEL MEETING

SUMMARY

1. THE TALKS REACHED A CRISIS POINT THIS EVENING BUT WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW MORNING (20 JANUARY). THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS TO PUT YET ANOTHER COMPROMISE FORMULA TO THE TWO SIDES BUT HIS CHANCES OF SUCCEEDING DO NOT LOOK GOOD.

DETAIL

2. THIS AFTERNOONS SESSION OF THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING STARTED AT 4.30 AND CONTINUED UNTIL AFTER 8.00PM. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAW THE TWO SIDES SEPARATELY FOR MOST OF THE TIME, THUS REVERTING IN EFFECT TO PROXIMITY TALKS.

3. ABOUT 6.00PM IACOVOU TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT THE SITUATION WAS CRITICAL. THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD PROPOSED A SECOND HIGH LEVEL MEETING WHICH WOULD HAVE A LIMITED AGENDA AND ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS. THIS HAD BEEN REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY DENKTASH. HE WAS ALSO IMPOSING ALL SORTS OF TOUGH CONDITIONS ON THE SECRETARY GENERALS PROPOSAL TO HOLD A SECOND MEETING AT THE END OF FEBRUARY TO ADOPT HIS PROPOSAL OF THIS MORNING (IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO WHICH PROPOSAL IACOVOU WAS REFERRING). THESE CONDITIONS INCLUDED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER

MUST BE A TURKISH CYPRIOT, THAT ALL THE WORKING GROUPS WOULD HAVE TO START IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING, THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF TWO STAGES NOT TWO PROVINCES AND THAT THE QUESTIONS OF DEFENCE AND QUARANTEES WOULD HAVE TO BE FIRMLY LINKED. DENKTASH, ACCORDING TO IACOVOU, SEEMED TO BE WORKING FOR A BREAK-DOWN: IN FACT HE WAS PROPOSING THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD ANNOUNCE THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN A FAILURE. IF THE MEETING COLLAPSED THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IF THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD NOT CONVENE IT THEY WOULD DO SO THEMSELVES. IACOVOU CONCLUDED BY ASKING FOR HELP: IN PARTICULAR HE APPEARED TO THINK THAT AN INTERVENTION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD HELP TO SECURE A SECOND HIGH LEVEL MEETING.

4. WE IMMEDIATELY GOT IN TOUCH WITH PICCO WHO CONFIRMED THAT THINGS WERE AT A CRISIS. HE HEARD THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS OVER BUT DID NOT SEE HOW ANYONE COULD HELP FROM THE OUTSIDE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD NOT KNOW WHAT TO ASK OF US. HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE WHAT HE COULD FROM THE MESS, BUT IT WOULD ONLY BE "CRUMBS". HE DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAIL, COMMENTING ONLY THAT IT HAD BEEN "ABSOLUTE MADNESS" AND HE WOULD TELL US THE WHOLE STORY LATER.

5. IACOVOU TOLD ME THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED THE CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON AND WASHINGTON TO CONVEY HIS ACCOUNT OF THE SITUATION TO HMG AND THE US GOVERNMENT. AS WE LEARNED FROM THE HEAD OF SED AND ALSO FROM THE US MISSION, LATER REPORTS THROUGH THE SAME CHANNELS INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION. WHEN DENKTASH LEFT THE MEETING THIS EVENING HE ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT THE TALKS WOULD RESUME AT 0930 TOMORROW MORNING FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A "LAST ATTEMPT".

6. WE SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE TO SHERRY WHO DESCRIBED THE EVENINGS SESSION AS "PRETTY GROTESQUE". HE SAID THE OUTLOOK WAS NOT GOOD. THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS GOING TO TRY ONE MORE FORMULA ON THE TWO SIDES TOMORROW. THIS WOULD STATE THAT THE TWO PARTIES "ENDORSED THE DOCUMENTATIONS PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS OPENING STATEMENT AS GUIDELINES FOR PROCEEDING IN CONFORMITE WITH THE INTEGRATED WHOLE APPROACH TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM." HE DID NOT KNOW IF THIS WOULD WORK. THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD BEEN ADAMENT THAT THEY WOULD ONLY SAT THAT THEY ENDORSED THE DOCUMENTATION AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. DENKTASH FOR HIS PART WANTED JUST ENDORSEMENT. SHERRY EXCLAIMED THAT IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE APPARENTLY WILLING TO LET THE WHOLE THING COLLAPSE RATHER THAN ACCEPT THE SECRETARY GENERALS FORMULA. IN DOING SO THEY WOULD THROW AWAY EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN GAINED SO FAR.

7. WE ALSO SPOKE BRIEFLY TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. THEY HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON A FORMULA. THEY SAID THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN REJECTED BY KYPRIANOU, ADDING THAT THESE WERE NOT VERY PALATABLE FOR THEM EITHER. THINGS, THEY SAID, HAD PRACTICALLY COME TO A FULL STOP.

COMMENT

8. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE MEETING IS ON THE EDGE OF COLLAPSE AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE HARD PUT EVEN TO GET AGREEMENT TO A DATE FOR A FURTHER HIGH LEVEL MEETING. I HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN DO TO FURTHER THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS BUT THERE CONTINUES TO BE NO SUGGESTION FROM HIS STAFF THAT THEY THINK THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF THE POWERFUL REASONS IN TERMS OF THE PARTIES OWN INTERESTS FOR REACHING SOME AGREEMENT NOW ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO DO THE TRICK, FURTHER INTERVENTION BY US AT THIS VERY LATE STAGE COULD NOT AFFECT THE OUTCOME.

C WA IN CONFORMITY (PARA 6)

FCO PASS SAVING

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