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From the Private Secretary

21 January 1985

CYPRUS

Thank you for your letter of 19 January.

Between lunch-time on 19 January and the evening of 20 January, the Greek Cypriots contacted me a further nine times. I discussed most of these approaches with you or with Dick Neilson at the time and shall not record them all here. Their substance, on the Greek Cypriot side, is in any case fully reflected in the reporting from New York. The points which I made to them can be summarised as follows:

- (i) we were taking a close and sympathetic interest in developments; but
- (ii) we could not intervene directly in fast-moving negotiations in New York without a direct request from the Secretary-General. Although we had checked on several occasions with him, he had not asked for any action from us.
- (iii) in any case, we had to take account of the fact that President Kyprianou had chosen to ignore the careful advice which the Prime Minister had given him about the tactical handling of the negotiations. While this was his right, the consequences for the negotiations of doing so were as the Prime Minister predicted.
- (iv) an adjournment sine die of the talks carried enormous risks for the Greek Cypriots. They would do far better to leave New York with some agreement even if an incomplete one. Their negotiating position should be flexible enough to accommodate this. Otherwise it must be likely that Denktash would move ahead to consolidate UDI; but
- (v) (this when it became clear that no substantive agreement was possible) we would be ready to press the Turks and Turkish Cypriots to set a date for new high-level talks.

The Greek Cypriots were consistently grateful for our interest and encouragement, while paying virtually no attention to what we said. They lamented the absence of Sir J. Thomson from New York, believing that he might have played a crucial role. It would in fact have been helpful to know that he was not going to be there before the Prime Minister and Secretary of State advised Kyprianou to stay in close touch.

C.D. POWELL

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