

GRS 415

DESKBY FCO 021200Z

UNCLASSIFIED

FM NICOSIA 020950Z  
TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO  
TELEGRAM NO 57 OF 2 MARCH 85  
INFO PRIORITY ATHENS, ANKARA, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON  
INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, ROME, MODUK (SEC (O) AND (C)), CBFC  
INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL NATO

FOR RESIDENT CLERK TO INFORM SED DUTY OFFICER

MY TEL 64: GREEK CYPRIOT INTERNAL POLITICS

SUMMARY

KYPRIANOU REJECTS CALLS FOR HIS RESIGNATION.

1. IN HIS TELEVISED ADDRESS ON 1 MARCH, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SPRANG NO SURPRISES. IN A MEASURED AND SOLEMN RESTATEMENT OF HIS POSITION HE STUCK TO HIS GUNS ON ALL ISSUES. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAD OFFERED HIM THE CHOICE OF COMPLYING WITH ITS RESOLUTION OR RESIGNING AND CALLING ELECTIONS. THE FORMER WOULD CREATE A DAMAGING CONSTITUTIONAL PRECEDENT. THE LATTER WOULD NOT SOLVE THE CRISIS BUT ONLY LEAD TO NEW DANGERS.

2. KYPRIANOU AGAIN REJECTED ALLEGATIONS THAT HE WAS NOT SEEKING A SOLUTION; BUT HE WAS DETERMINED THAT ANY SOLUTION SHOULD BE VIABLE. THE PRESENT CRISIS, CREATED BY THE MAIN PARTIES, THREATENED THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS. AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION HE HAD DECIDED HIS DUTY WAS TO CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL REGULARITY AND TO WORK FOR AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. HE CALLED ON THE PARTY LEADERS TO RENEW CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM IN PREPARATION FOR THE QUOTE NEW PHASE UNQUOTE REPRESENTED BY HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON 11 MARCH. HE VALUED THE SEUPPORT OF GREECE AND CALLED FOR SIMILAR UNANIMITY WITHIN CYPRUS.

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3. INITIAL REACTIONS IN THE COMMUNIST AND RIGHT-WING PRESS WERE CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S ARGUMENTS. HEADLINES IN HARAVGHI (COMMUNIST) ON 2 MARCH DESCRIBED HIS SPEECH AS A QUOTE CHALLENGE TO THE PEOPLE UNQUOTE. THE PRESIDENT HAD INVOKED NONEXISTENT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO THE ALLIANCE WITH AKEL WHICH HAD SECURED HIS ELECTION. AN EDITORIAL IN SIMERINI (RIGHT-WING) SAID THAT DESPITE THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL AND LEGAL ARGUMENTS, THE PRACTICAL PROBLEM REMAINED; THE PEOPLE BELIEVED A MINORITY PARTY WAS IN GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTIES REPRESENTING THE MAJORITY DEMANDED THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION.

4. FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

WILBERFORCE

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