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TELEGRAM NUMBER 2039 OF 18 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON ATHENS ANKARA NICOSIA

IMMEDIATE

PRENDERGAST'S TELELETTER OF 11 DECEMBER TO PLUMBLY (NOT TO ALL):
VISIT OF PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU.

1. MANSFIELD HAS DISCUSSED WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S TALKS THIS WEEK WITH ROLANDIS AND ATAKOL. GOBBI AND SHERRY WERE WERE ALSO PRESENT.
2. WALDHEIM APPARENTLY STUCK CLOSELY TO HIS BRIEF (SENT WITH PRENDERGAST'S TELELETTER UNDER REFERENCE). HE EMPHASISED THAT THE GOOD ATMOSPHERE THAT HAS BEEN CREATED IN THE FIRST THREE ROUNDS OF TALKS PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR STARTING TO TACKLE THE ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT GO INTO SPECIFIC DETAILS ON THE SORT OF CONCESSIONS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY EACH SIDE, HE DID SUGGEST THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS MIGHT SHOW READINESS TO EXPLORE PRACTICAL ECONOMIC MEASURES WHILE THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS PRODUCED SOME IDEAS ABOUT THE RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA UNDER U N AUSPICES. BUT HE MAINTAINED THE POSITION THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, OR THEIR MARGINS, RATHER THAN NEW YORK, WAS THE PLACE FOR NEW IDEAS TO BE PRODUCED AND DISCUSSED.
3. DE CUELLAR AND GOBBI WERE PLEASED AT THE WAY THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS HAD GONE SO FAR, BUT THEY SHARED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CONCERN THAT ALTHOUGH THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, IT WAS NOW ESSENTIAL FOR THE CREDIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOME TANGIBLE PROGRESS TO BE MADE. WALDHEIM THINKS IT WILL BE DISASTROUS

CONCERN THAT ALTHOUGH THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, IT WAS NOW ESSENTIAL FOR THE CREDIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOME TANGIBLE PROGRESS TO BE MADE. WALDHEIM THINKS IT WILL BE DISASTROUS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TALKS IF NO DEVELOPMENT EMERGES FROM THE NEXT MEETING SO THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS COME TO BE VIEWED INTERNATIONALLY AS ROUTINE AND STERILE. HE HAD THEREFORE CONCENTRATED IN HIS TALKS WITH ROLANDIS AND ATAKOL ON THE NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE NEXT ROUND. THE CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH SIDES HAD BEEN POSITIVE. ROLANDIS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND HAD APPRECIATED THE NEED FOR REALISM. GOBBI CONTRASTED ROLANDIS' ATTITUDE WITH KYPRIANOU'S REMARK TO HIM BEFORE HE LEFT CYPRUS THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS MUST GIVE UP VAROSHA UNCONDITIONALLY. GOBBI BELIEVES THAT BOTH ROLANDIS AND ICANNIDES RECOGNISE THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN ANKARA OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING PROGRESS FOR SOME TIME. BUT THE STUMBLING BLOCK REMAINS KYPRIANOU AND THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS UPON HIM. ROLANDIS APPEARED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF PERSUADING HIM TO BE REALISTIC.

4. GOBBI SAID THAT NOW WAS NOT THE TIME FOR THE U N TO BE QUOTE TOO IMAGINATIVE UNQUOTE. THEY HAD THROWN OUT SOME BROAD IDEAS, BUT MUST NOW WAIT TO SEE HOW THE TALKS DEVELOPED. THEY WANTED TO GIVE THE TWO SIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORKOUT THEIR OWN FORMULATION OF THESE IDEAS BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO INTRODUCE A SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO COME UP WITH POSITIVE IDEAS ON PRACTICAL MEASURES AND HAD TOLD ROLANDIS THAT AN OFFER OF THE OPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT IN RETURN FOR VAROSHA WAS NOT ENOUGH. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, GOBBI SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO BE PROCEDURALLY FLEXIBLE, BUT HE EVIDENTLY IS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE RIGHT STAGE HAS YET BEEN REACHED FOR INFORMAL TALKS IN THE MARGIN ON TERRITORY/CONSTITUTION. HE SEEMS TO PREFER THE PRIOR EXPLORATION OF A MINI-PACKAGE.

5. IN SHORT, THEREFORE, THE MESSAGE WHICH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HOPED WE COULD GET OVER TO KYPRIANOU IN LONDON WAS THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WAS CRUCIAL: THAT THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, BUT THAT IT WAS NOW ESSENTIAL TO BE FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE, WHILE THE OMENS IN ANKARA WERE NOT UNFAVOURABLE.

PARSONS