

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR WHITNEY

PS/PUS

SIR J BULLARD

MR JENKINS

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~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

PS/No.10 DOWNING STREET

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO.,

TELNO 139 OF 8 MARCH 1984.,

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO.,

REPEATED AS IMMEDIATE INFO TO WASHINGTON AND ANKARA.,

REPEATED AS PRIORITY INFO TO OTHER NATO POSTS, NICOSIA, AND

UKMIS NEW YORK.

FOLLOWING FROM HULSE (IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE IN SALONIKA).

TURKISH/GREEK INCIDENT

1. I WAS SUMMONED BY CAPSIS THIS EVENING, TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER NATO EMBASSIES, TO BE BRIEFED ON WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A 'VERY SERIOUS PROVOCATION' BY TURKEY WHICH OCCURRED THIS AFTERNOON.
2. CAPSIS SAID THAT THE INCIDENT CONCERNED FIVE TURKISH WARSHIPS WHICH HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT EXERCISE EARLIER TODAY, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF KSIROS (PHONETIC), N.E. OF SAMOTHRACE. AT 1440 HOURS LOCAL TIME, TEN MINUTES AFTER THE END OF THE EXERCISE AND WHEN THE SHIPS WERE HEADING FOR THEIR HOME BASE AT CANAKKALE, THEY OPENED FIRE WITHOUT WARNING ON A GREEK DESTROYER 'THE PANTHIR'. THE LATTER WAS WITHIN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS AND 200 YARDS FROM A LIGHTHOUSE OFF THE SMALL ISLAND OF ZOURAFA.,  
THE SHIPS WERE 8 MILES FROM THE DESTROYER AND THERE

~~THE SHIPS WERE 2 MILES FROM THE DESTROYER AND THERE~~  
WAS GOOD VISIBILITY AT THE TIME. THE TURKISH SHIPS FIRED THREE SALVOS OF FIVE SHELLS EACH (SEMICOLON) THE FIRST OF WHICH PASSED WITHIN 200 YARDS OF THE DESTROYER, WHICH THEN TOOK RAPID EVASIVE ACTION. THE SECOND SALVO PASSED 800 YARDS FROM THE DESTROYER, AND THE THIRD EXPLODED VERY CLOSE TO A GROUP OF GREEK FISHING VESSELS CLOSE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE. AFTER THE INCIDENT THE TURKISH VESSELS STEAMED AT HIGH SPEED TOWARDS THE CANAKKALE STRAITS.

3. ON HEARING OF THE INCIDENT CAPSIS PHONED THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO ASK FOR FOR AN EXPLANATION. AFTER CONSULTING ANKARA, ALACAM REPLIED THAT THE TURKISH SHIPS HAD FIRED AWAY FROM AND NOT TOWARDS TSOURAPA. CAPSIS HAD SAID THAT THE EXPLANATION WAS QUITE UNACCEPTABLE.

4. A MEETING OF KYSEA, THE MINISTERIAL DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WAS CALLED AT 1830 HOURS AND THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN:-

(I) THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA IS TO BE RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS. THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IS TO BE ASKED TO LEAVE GREECE, 'PENDING A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION FROM ANKARA'.

(II) THE US AMBASSADOR WAS TO BE SUMMONED AND TOLD THAT THE INCIDENT DEMOSTRATED THAT US MILITARY AND MORAL SUPPORT FOR TURKEY ONLY SERVED TO INCREASE THE LATTER'S INSOLENC.

(III) CAPSIS WAS INSTRUCTED TO SUMMON NATO AMBASSADORS AND TO STRESS TO THEM THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROVOCATION, SAYING THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT A MEMBER OF A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE SHOULD TAKE SUCH PROVOCATION ACTION AGAINST ANOTHER UEMBER. SUCH ACTION COULD JEOPARDISE THE INTERESTS AND UNITY OF THE ALLIANCE.

(IV) THE GREEK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO NATO IS TO BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL.

5. CAPSIS REQUESTED THAT HIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE REPORTED TO NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

R H O D E S

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Repetition to REKTAUIC

referred for departmental decision.

repeated as requested to other posts.