

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND
PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU OF CYPRUS ON 18 JUNE 1984 AT
10 DOWNING STREET

Present

Prime Minister
Sir J Bullard
Mr C D Powell

President Kyprianou
Mr George Iakovu
Cyprus High Commissioner
Mr Vantias Markidies

The Prime Minister said that she was relieved to hear that UNFICYP's mandate had been renewed on 15 June. President Kyprianou said that he had been thinking what ought to be done in the wake of Security Council Resolution 550. His Foreign Minister had had some exchanges with the UN Secretary General. He understood that the Turkish side had very recently given the Secretary General some new proposals. He had no details. The Prime Minister said that she had no details either. But the Secretary General had asked her to tell President Kyprianou that he was turning his personal attention to the Cyprus issue and would be putting forward new ideas which he hoped would receive serious consideration.

Mr Iakovu said that he had gained the impression from the UN Secretary General that he would not be in a position to move ahead until July or even August. He appeared to be developing ideas for a comprehensive settlement. At the same time he stood by the need for the Turkish side to give tangible proof of their good faith as a first step. This might take the form of a freeze on constitutional actions for the handing over of Varosha to UN Administration pending a final settlement. President Kyprianou added that it was essential for the Turkish side to show good faith if there was to be any hope of an overall solution. The Secretary General's hand would be strengthened by the fact that the transfer of Varosha to United Nations administration was the only specific action point in Security Council Resolution 550.

President Kyprianou continued that more generally he feared the Turkish side were not seriously interested in a solution. He himself would support a new initiative by the UN Secretary General. But the Secretary General could not get very far on his own. He hoped therefore that HMG would get together with the United States and with the FRG to persuade the Turkish side to be more forthcoming. Chancellor Kohl had been receptive to such a suggestion. The longer the present situation lasted the more difficult it would become to reach a solution. It was unrealistic to expect Greek Cypriots to live with the present situation indefinitely.

The Prime Minister asked whether President Kyprianou expected the Turkish side's proposals recently put forward to the Secretary General to be new or simply an amalgam of earlier proposals. President Kyprianou thought the latter more probable. The Prime Minister observed that the Turkish side appeared to have behaved more reasonably than expected over renewal of UNFICYP's mandate and also to have retreated somewhat on Varosha. Mr Iakovu conceded that they had at least agreed not to interfere with the deployment of UNFICYP. They had also withdrawn settlers from a number of houses in Varosha. But the threat to Varosha remained. The Prime Minister said that she had the impression that the Turkish Government had put the Turkish Cypriots under pressure on this, by making it clear that their actions over Varosha had only put them in a bad light. Sir Julian Bullard noted that HMG had been very active with the Turkish Government. Sir Geoffrey Howe had seen the Turkish Foreign Minister twice recently. He had the impression that this had contributed to the Turkish Government's speaking more helpfully to Denktash.

The Prime Minister asked about the state of political feeling among the Greek Cypriots. President Kyprianou said he thought there was a general feeling that progress might be possible. The Prime Minister asked whether they were really concerned about the technicalities of how to get talks started. Would they really mind if President Kyprianou dropped his

insistence that Denktash reverse UDI? President Kyprianou replied that he must be able to convince his people that there were good chances for success. This was where some tangible proof that the Turkish side was in good faith was essential. He feared that the Turkish side wanted talks to resume only in order to reduce the pressure on them.

The Prime Minister asked whether she had correctly understood that President Kyprianou was prepared to start talks without implementing the letter of Security Council Resolution No 541 provided that the Turkish side gave an earnest of their good intentions? Mr Iakovu interjected that the Cypriot Government had to guard against erosion of its position. The old style talks had been used by the Turkish side simply to consolidate its position. Sir Julian Bullard asked whether the existence of private contacts between the two communities might not tie Mr Denktash's hands? President Kyprianou asked what kind of contacts? Sir Julian Bullard said that it would be for the Cyprus Government to propose. Mr Iakovu said that it would be difficult. The democratic process in the Turkish part of the island had been subverted by the influx of settlers from Turkey.

The Prime Minister said that she recognised that President Kyprianou had been very statesmanlike. She could well understand why he wanted some earnest of good intention from the Turkish side. She urged President Kyprianou to keep the high ground and not change tack just when the United Nations Secretary General was about to come back into the act. Meanwhile, it would be useful if there could be more detailed exchanges on the new Turkish Cypriot proposals, when they were available, between the Cyprus Foreign Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Scholarships

President Kyprianou said that he intended to raise the subject but perhaps it could be discussed between Foreign Ministers. Sir Julian Bullard observed that the matter had been settled up to 1986.

EC/Cyprus - Customs Union

President Kyprianou regretted that the Commission had not yet made a formal proposal to the Council on Customs Union. Mr Iakovu added that the Cyprus Government had the impression that the Commission was deliberately dragging its feet, claiming that it had to wait for the Council to issue a mandate. The Prime Minister said that she would ensure that President Kyprianou was informed of the latest position.

Treaty of Guarantee

President Kyprianou said that he was not clear where matters stood on the possibility of consultations under the Treaty. It might help the Secretary General's efforts if consultations could start on a bilateral basis. The Prime Minister said that the United Nations Secretary General must be the mediator. We would not get in his way and were certainly not prepared to take on the role of mediator. She had spoken to Mr Papandreou last December and had put it to him that refusing to participate in a tripartite conference placed Greece in an invidious position. She would be ready to speak to him again at the European Council at Fontainebleau next week. But every instinct told her that the right course was to stick with the United Nations Secretary General. President Kyprianou commented that there was some feeling in Cyprus that the instrument offered by the Treaty of Guarantee was not being used.

The meeting ended at 1605 hours.

18 June 1984

CC MASTER SET



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1984

Dear Peter

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU

I enclose a record of the Prime Minister's meeting with President Kyprianou this afternoon. You will note the suggestion that there should be further talks between the Cyprus Foreign Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe on the details of the new Turkish Cypriot proposals, once these are available. You will also note that the Prime Minister promised that we would bring the Cypriot Government up to date on the latest stage of play on discussions in the Community on customs union with Cyprus and promised to speak to Mr Papandreou at Fontainebleau on the subject of tripartite consultations.

I am sending a copy of this letter, and enclosure, to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

Yours sincerely,
Chris Hunt

P F Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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