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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 115

OF 040045Z FEBRUARY 86

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MY TELNO 110: CYPRUS: UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S INITIATIVE.

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY CALL WITH FERGUSSON ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THIS MORNING, 3 FEBRUARY TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS.
2. PEREZ DE CUELLAR WHO WAS DELIGHTED THAT IT HAD AFTER ALL PROVED POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY, CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING IT BECOME JUST ONE MORE IN A SERIES OF LOW-LEVEL TALKS. THIS WOULD BE A ONE-OFF AFFAIR AFTER WHICH HIS AIDES WOULD REPORT TO HIM AND HE WOULD THEN PRESENT THE TWO SIDES WITH 'THE SAME DRAFT WITH ANY NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS'. HE MIGHT ONCE AGAIN HAVE TO CALL ON THE UK ('MY ONLY REAL SUPPORT') FOR ASSISTANCE.
3. PEREZ DE CUELLAR DESCRIBED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL AS 'OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES' WHICH WAS 'MORE OR LESS INTENDED AGAINST THE WESTERN PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND.' BUT HE ADMITTED THAT IT MADE IT MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO SHOW THAT HIS INITIATIVE WAS ALIVE. WHEN DELIVERING THE PROPOSAL THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD INSISTED THAT IT WAS AIMED AT THE EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH UN EFFORTS. SO HE HAD TURNED THIS ROUND BY SAYING THAT A PERMANENT MEMBER COULD HARDLY UNDERMINE A SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATE.
4. I SUGGESTED THAT THE LESS SAID ABOUT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL THE BETTER: THE MORE LIKELY IT WAS TO DISAPPEAR. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GOULDING (WHO WAS PRESENT) SAID THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION AND WOULD SAY NOTHING MORE IN PUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT.
5. IN PARA 2 (A) OF MY TUR FEBRUARY SHOULD OF COURSE HAVE READ MARCH.

THOMSON

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