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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS

You are to see Kyprianou on Monday 7 April. As always, your task is to persuade him to do something which he doesn't want to do. This time it's to accept the UN Secretary-General's revised documentation.

It seems fairly clear that the Turks will agree to sign. You can claim a fair bit of credit for this. The main point to bring home to Kyprianou is that if the Turks sign and he doesn't, they will hold the high ground.

Kyprianou's main aims are:

(a) to get new guarantees for Cyprus which exclude Turkey or at least remove Turkey's right of intervention. This is a fairly pointless goal. First it won't work, because the Turks will never agree. Second it wouldn't actually increase Greek Cypriot security, since the Turks could always intervene anyway if they were so minded. The best guarantee is a settlement endorsed by the UN Security Council. Once that is in place, the pressure on Turkey not to intervene again would be much greater.

(b) to get a firm commitment that all Turkish troops will be withdrawn before a transitional government is set up. This is unrealistic, but the Turks would probably agree to phased withdrawal. The chances of achieving this will be that much greater if Turkey continues to have a role on guarantees i.e. if the Greek Cypriots play ball on (a) above.

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The other main point to get over is that acceptance of the Secretary-General's documentation - which covers constitutional issues and territory - does not commit the Greek Cypriots to anything on guarantees and withdrawal of troops. They remain for negotiation and a settlement is implemented only when all the pieces are in place. The Greek Cypriots therefore have a money-back guarantee.

I have to say that all the indications are that Kyprianou (and the Greeks) want to duck out of this: and the likelihood is that Perez de Cuellar's initiative will fail. But it's worth another effort to get Kyprianou to accept reality before he chucks away half his country.

C.D.P

(C.D. Powell)

27 March 1986

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