



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

You will want

to look at Mr.

Noel-Baker's letter.

I don't know

whether you want

to comment in any

way on his last

point. Probably better

not.

C.D.P.

30 iii 1986

R8/4

Dear Margaret,

If you are good enough to see me before I leave on 11 April, it may save you time if I tell you the three matters on which I wanted your advice

1. I believe I know as much about Cyprus as anyone. I have been there 50 times since Eden sent me to mediate between Manding & Makarios. I know the leaders on both sides and I think they trust me - tho' I have a low opinion of Cyprianos. And I have written a book about it (copy enclosed).

As I said when we last met, I fear UN efforts will fail because they are too public, and Geoffrey Howe's attempt to influence Papandreu was not likely to help because many Cypriots hate the mainland Greeks (with good reason) and Papandreu has been consistently unhelpful with his mania about the Turks.

What is needed now is a quiet, unpublicised shuttle and I would be glad to undertake this again, given your blessing. I have a 'Team' of most senior Swiss & Austrian diplomats ready to help if wanted.

* separate cover

From the Honourable
Frank Noel-Baker

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If, in the end, efforts to unite the island fail, it would be no disaster for the two republics to coexist, provided that the Turkish area was substantially shrunken. This is a new approach, I think.

2. As President of the European Council for Villages & Small Towns, which will soon have consultative status with the Council of Europe, I & my colleagues want to help the C of E's & the Communities' countryside & environment campaigns and join the British national committee. May I talk to your environment man at No 10 and to Kenneth Baker?

3. If you did send me to the House of Lords, I could help you better if this were sooner rather than later, as I explained to Willie Whitelaw last week.

With all good wishes

Yours ever

Francis

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP