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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 January, 1987.

I attach a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the President of the Republic of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me as early as possible please.

(C.D. Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, consisting of a curved line that loops back and ends in a small hook.



PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

Fco for draft reply
COP
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SUBJECT

CC OPS
MASTER

Nicosia, 3rd January, 1987.

The Rt. Honourable
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister
of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
10, Downing Str.,
London.

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 39/87

Dear Prime Minister,

On the occasion of the New Year and in the spirit of this season I am addressing this message to you in connection with a most tragic aspect of the Cyprus problem, the question of missing persons.

As a result of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974, 1619 persons, including 112 women and 26 children, disappeared and are still missing. Their families and relatives have in vain been waiting for news of their beloved ones for more than 12 years now, and their grief becomes even greater during these days when families traditionally get together.

The Turkish Government claims that there are no Greek Cypriots in its custody. However, there is clear evidence that some of the missing persons were seen alive in the hands of the Turkish invasion forces after the cessation of hostilities, or in prisons in Turkey. This we know from photographs of prisoners of war held in Turkey, from lists of prisoners of war which included persons that were never released, from indications given by the International Red Cross, from live messages given by some of the missing persons over Turkish radio, and from information given by fellow prisoners held in Turkish prisons.

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PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

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After persistent efforts by my Government and a number of Resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations calling for the ascertainment of the fate of missing persons, the Turkish side finally agreed to the establishment in 1981 of an Investigatory Committee, with the participation of a third member selected by the International Committee of Red Cross and appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, to look into the matter. However, our hopes that progress would be made in this issue have not materialised due to the negative attitude of the Turkish side and its persistent refusal to provide convincing information about the fate of missing persons that would make an effective investigation possible.

On behalf of the relatives of missing persons, whose agony is shared by the entire people of Cyprus, I earnestly request you to show an active interest in this purely humanitarian problem and lend your support to our efforts to persuade the Turkish side to cooperate in good faith in a thorough investigation that would lead to a resolution of this tragic humanitarian problem.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration together with my best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

(Spyros Kyprianou)
President of the Republic of Cyprus.