



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 February 1987

Thank you for your letter about the story in the Independent. I had not seen it. It is hard to credit some of the things one reads in newspapers!

(Charles Powell)

His Excellency Mr. Tasos Panayides.



PA

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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 February 1987

Dear Lyn,

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Cyprus High Commissioner. I have sent him a cheerful response and do not see any need to reply further unless there are any particular comments you wish to make.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PA



FCA for
my comments
am 27/11

CYPRUS HIGH COMMISSION

93, PARK STREET,
LONDON, W1Y 4ET

TEL.: 01-499 8272

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Ref. No. P.O: 2.9

25th February, 1987.

Mr. C. D. Powell,
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1A 2AA.

Dear Charles,

I write to you in connection with a story which was published in the Independent on 13 February (of which I attach a photocopy) and in other publications in Israel and Austria, and would like to inform you of the following:

Following an investigation of the matter we have established that on the franking machine that we use at the High Commission, the symbol of $\frac{1}{2}$ p. is not included in the range of symbols that the machine can produce.

The envelope which was sent to the Jerusalem Post and which allegedly was franked on our machine, bore the stamp of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. This shows conclusively that the envelope in question could not have been franked on our machine.

I convey this to you in order to clarify the matter conclusively.

Yours sincerely,

Tasos

Tasos Panayides,
High Commissioner for Cyprus.

/EAP.

FOREIGN NEWS 9

Postal tales

Curiouser and curiouser. The purported letter from Austrian foreign minister Alois Mock to Mrs Thatcher suggesting that President Waldheim should develop a "diplomatic illness" and resign has caused embarrassment and denials all round.

Now the *Jerusalem Post*, which broke the original story, says that the letter may have been franked at the Cyprus High Commission. The Cypriots express astonishment that the envelope sent to the *Post*, containing a copy of the leaked letter, was franked on their machine. Explanations are few and far between.

reprinted

