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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 42
OF 150830Z FEBRUARY 88
INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
INFO PRIORITY ATHENS, ANKARA, HQBFC

MOSCOW FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

MY TELNO 39: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SUMMARY

PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HAS LOST. CLERIDES (RIGHT-WING) AND VASSILIOU (COMMUNIST-BACKED INDEPENDENT) MUST COMPETE FOR THE CENTRE VOTE IN A RUN-OFF ON 21 FEBRUARY.

DETAIL

1. NO SURPRISES IN ROUND ONE OF THE ELECTIONS WHERE THE VOTING (WHICH IS COMPULSORY) BROADLY REFLECTED TRADITIONAL PARTY STRENGTHS:

SPYROS KYPRIANOU (DEKO: CENTRE)	27.29%
GLAFCOS CLERIDES (DESY: RIGHT WING)	33.32%
GEORGE VASSILIOU (INDEPENDENT WITH AKEL, COMMUNIST SUPPORT)	30.11%
VASSOS LYSSARIDES (EDEK: SOCIALIST)	9.22%
THRASSOS GEORGIADIS (INDEPENDENT)	0.06%

2. CLERIDES AND VASSILIOU MUST NOW FIGHT FOR THE CENTRE VOTE TO OBTAIN A MAJORITY IN THE RUN-OFF ON 21 FEBRUARY. THE RESULT MAY BE CLOSE. DEKO AND EDEK'S VOTING INTENTIONS SHOULD BECOME CLEARER AFTER CONTACTS WITH THE TWO REMAINING CONTESTANTS LATER THIS WEEK. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT MOST EDEK SUPPORTERS WILL VOTE FOR VASSILIOU.

3. IN A STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING DEFEAT AFTER 10 YEARS IN OFFICE, KYPRIANOU PLEDGED TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF CYPRIOT HELLENISM. IN THEIR STATEMENTS, CLERIDES AND VASSILIOU BOTH STRESSED THE NEED FOR UNITY.

COMMENT

4. A GOOD RESULT FOR THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WHERE SOME MOVEMENT
CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE GREEK CYPRIOTS UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP.

WILBERFORCE

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