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VASSILIOU'S INAUGURATION SPEECH

SUMMARY

VASSILIOU SETS OUT HIS POLICY AND OFFERS TO MEET OZAL TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

DETAIL

1. ADDRESSING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT HIS PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION CEREMONY ON 28 FEBRUARY, VASSILIOU GAVE A BROAD-BRUSH VIEW OF HIS FUTURE POLICY (FULL TEXT TO SED BY BAG).

CYPRUS PROBLEM

2. VASSILIOU BLAMED TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE FOR THE CURRENT DEADLOCK IN THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S INITIATIVE. PRESSURE MUST BE PUT ON TURKEY, TO INCREASE THE POLITICAL COST OF CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF PART OF CYPRUS. A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BASED ON THE UN RESOLUTIONS (PARTICULARLY SCR 550) AND HIGH LEVEL AGREEMENTS OF 1977 AND 1979 MUST PROVIDE FOR: THE WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS AND SETTLERS SEMI CLN THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE THREE FREEDOMS, PARTICULARLY THE RIGHT OF ALL REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES SEMI CLN AND THE SECURING OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES WHICH EXCLUDED THE RIGHT OF UNILATERAL INTERVENTION. SINCE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE PRIORITIES WAS A PREREQUISITE FOR NEGOTIATION, A PERSONAL MEETING WITH OZAL WAS NECESSARY, AT A DATE AND PLACE OF OZAL'S CHOICE. TIME-LIMITS SHOULD BE SET FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. VASSILIOU ALSO REPEATED THE CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN. ONE OF THE FIRST TASKS OF HIS PROPOSED NATIONAL COUNCIL WOULD BE TO DRAW UP A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN, PREPARING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND GETTING THE GREEK-CYPRIOIS READY FOR A FUTURE UN INITIATIVE.

4. AS IN HIS MANIFESTO (FOSTER'S LETTER TO PEASE OF 3 NOVEMBER, NOT TO ALL), VASSILIOU TRIED TO BALANCE HIS CALL FOR A STRONGER DEFENCE POLICY AGAINST THE NEED FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH TURKISH-CYPRIOTS. HE CLAIMED THAT PRIDE IN THE NATIONAL HELLENIC IDENTITY WAS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH CREATING THE NECESSARY MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND GOOD-WILL WITH THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT COMMUNITY, NECESSARY TO DEPRIVE TURKEY OF THE EXCUSE THAT THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS NEEDED THE TURKISH ARMY FOR THEIR PROTECTION.

FOREIGN POLICY

5. CYPRUS' FOREIGN POLICY IS TO REMAIN NON-ALIGNED AND PEACE-LOVING. IT WILL AIM TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES THAT CAN HELP SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND SAFEGUARD CYPRUS' INDEPENDENCE AND STATEHOOD. THE COUNTRY'S ROLE IN EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH IT BELONGED (COUNCIL OF EUROPE, CSCE) WOULD BE STRENGTHENED. VASSILIOU MADE NO REFERENCE TO EC CUSTOMS UNION NOR TO BRITISH INTERESTS HERE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROMOTE COOPERATION WITH GREECE, 'THE MAINSTAY OF THE STRUGGLE OF CYPRIOT HELLENISM'.

INTERNAL POLICY

6. VASSILIOU SAID LITTLE ON DOMESTIC POLICY THAT WAS NOT ALREADY INCLUDED IN HIS MANIFESTO, EXCEPT TO PROMISE A SECOND TELEVISION CHANNEL. THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND HIS DOMESTIC GOVERNMENT WILL BE MERITOCRACY, COLLECTIVE ACTION AND A SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF PROBLEMS. THE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT, WOULD BE EXTENSIVELY OVERHAULED. REFERENDA WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE EVENT OF DISAGREEMENT ON CRITICAL MATTERS. PROMOTIONS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND NATIONAL GUARD WOULD BE BY MERIT. THE CENTRAL INFORMATION SERVICE (CIS) AND THE NATIONAL GUARD WOULD BE MADE TO ABOLISH ALL POLITLICAL FILES ON CYPRUS CITIZENS. THE FORMER WOULD BE PLACED UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE PRESIDENCY.

7. THE DOMESTIC PROGRAMME SOUNDS EXTENSIVE. THE EMPHASIS IS ON INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND MODERNISATION OF SOCIETY IN ITS CURRENT MOULD.

COMMENT

8. ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, THE SPEECH REPRESENTS A CAUTIOUS

START BY VASSILIOU, REFLECTING HIS NEED TO STRESS CONTINUITY. HE HAS NOT MADE A RADICAL BREAK WITH THE POLICIES OF KYPRIANOU: INDEED, HIS POSITION APPEARS LESS COMPROMISING THAN EXPECTED, IN PART BECAUSE HE COMMITTED HIMSELF IN THE ELECTION TO A STAND DESIGNED TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE SOCIALISTS, WHO ARE THE MOST INTRANSIGENT OF THE PARTIES. VASSILIOU'S RETENTION OF IACOVOU AS FOREIGN MINISTER FURTHER UNDERLINES THIS.

9. VASSILIOU'S OFFER TO MEET OZAL EMPHASISES THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DISMISSED AS PROPAGANDA BY THE TURKISH-CYPRIOU 'FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE MINISTER', ATAKOL.

10. UNTIL VASSILIOU REACHES AGREEMENT WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, WE CANNOT EXPECT A CLEAR PICTURE OF HIS POLICY ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM TO EMERGE. HE WILL ALSO WAIT TO TEST THE WATER AT HIS FIRST MEETINGS WITH CAMILION AND PAPANDREOU (THE LATTER OF WHICH HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR 13 MARCH, IN ATHENS).

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