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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 March 1988

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS

BFI
We spoke about the possible visit by President Vassiliou and the Foreign Secretary's advice that he should be invited before the Prime Minister's visit to Turkey. The Prime Minister's diary is extremely full but we can find an hour on the afternoon of Thursday 31 March.

I should be grateful if you could put this urgently to the Cypriots. I am afraid that it will not be possible for the Prime Minister to offer the President any hospitality on this occasion, and I would be grateful if this could be explained to the Cypriots in advance.

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 March 1988

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Dear Charles,

Cyprus: Possible meeting with President Vassiliou

Thank you for your letter of 16 March about the timing of a possible meeting between the Prime Minister and President Vassiliou.

The Turks would instinctively disapprove of such a meeting before the Prime Minister's visit to Ankara. But Timothy Daunt, whom we have consulted, agrees that this is not an overriding argument. Cyprus is on the agenda for the Prime Minister's talks with Mr Ozal. The Turks are curious about President Vassiliou, and Ozal might well be interested to hear the Prime Minister's personal impressions of him. A meeting before her visit would enable her to explore the prospects for renewed progress now that Kyprianou has gone, Greek/Turkish relations have improved following the Ozal/Papandreou meetings at Davos and Brussels, and the UN has appointed a new Special Representative. It could also be an important opportunity to urge Vassiliou to exercise restraint in his public utterances and flexibility in his dealings with Camilion and Denktash.

It would also be helpful to bring home authoritatively to Vassiliou how much we value our cooperation with the Government of Cyprus in connection with the Sovereign Base Areas (not that we have any reason to believe that their continued presence is under threat).

The Foreign Secretary therefore recommends that the Prime Minister should agree to see President Vassiliou before her visit to Turkey, if her diary permits. If the Prime Minister agrees, I should be grateful if you could let me have a time to offer. Vassiliou has said he could manage any day that suits the Prime Minister except for 30 and 31 March.

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

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CIPWS: Visits of President PTZ

