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FM ANKARA

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TELNO 0172

OF 240920Z MARCH 88

INFO PRIORITY ISTANBUL (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

INFO PRIORITY ATHENS (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

INFO PRIORITY NICOSIA (PERSONAL FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER)

ATHENS TELNO 102 AND NICOSIA TEL NO 95: CYPRUS:

VASSILIOU'S VISIT TO LONDON

1. THE GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOT LINES OF ARGUMENT SEEM TO BE DEVELOPING MUCH AS I ANTICIPATED (MY TEL NO 140).
2. I ADVISE STRONGLY AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER GIVING THEM ANY SUPPORT OR ENDORSEMENT DURING HER VISIT TO ANKARA. THE TURKS ARE RESERVING THEIR JUDGEMENT ON VASSILIOU. SO FAR, HOWEVER, HE HAS MADE A POOR IMPRESSION HERE, AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE MERELY CONTINUING THE KYPRIANOU LINE. ALTHOUGH THE TURKS DO NOT SERIOUSLY EXPECT HIM TO ACCEPT DENKTASH AS AN EQUIVALENT, OZAL WILL CERTAINLY NOT AGREE TO MEET HIM EVEN SEMI-OFFICIALLY, LET ALONE SECRETLY, UNLESS HE FIRST SHOWS THAT HE IS INDEED A PRACTICAL MAN (CF PARA 3 OF NICOSIA TEL NO 95) BY DOING BUSINESS WITH DENKTASH. I VERY MUCH DOUBT WHETHER OZAL WOULD FALL FOR VASSILIOU'S PLOY OF AN INFORMAL MEETING: AN MFA SPOKESMAN SAID YESTERDAY THAT A MEETING WAS 'OUT OF THE QUESTION'. SEE ALSO MY TEL NO 167.
3. IF THE PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS TO OZAL ABOUT TURKISH TROOPS AS PAPANDREOU SUGGESTS (PARA 3 OF ATHENS TEL NO 102), HE WILL PROBABLY REPLY THAT WITHDRAWAL CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE ONCE AN INTERIM REGIME IS IN PLACE PENDING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THIS DOES NOT, OF COURSE, EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A TOKEN WITHDRAWAL (EG OF 5,000 TROOPS). WE HAVE URGED SUCH A GESTURE ON THE TURKS IN THE PAST (AND BEEN TURNED DOWN). I WOULD NOT ADVISE AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER PRESSING FOR A SYMBOLIC WITHDRAWAL AGAIN, BUT THE TURKISH REACTION WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON WHAT WAS AGREED AT DAVOS.

PAGE 1
SECRET

SO TOO WILL THEIR ATTITUDE TO A POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF UNFICYP. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AUTHORITATIVE ACCOUNT OF THE DAVOS DISCUSSIONS, IT IS HARD TO BE SURE, BUT I WOULD NOT EXPECT OZAL TO FAVOUR AN INCREASE EXCEPT POSSIBLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

DAUNT

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