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FM ANKARA

(CORRECTED VERSION 29.3.88)

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 0180

OF 291305Z MARCH 88

INFO ROUTINE ATHENS, NICOSIA

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TEL NO 172: CYPRUS: TURKISH VIEWS

SUMMARY

1. OZAL READY TO WORK FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, BUT NOT TO MEET VASSILIOU.

DETAIL

2. CYPRUS WAS RAISED WHEN THE HEAD OF CHANCERY SAW OZAL'S ACTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER, TODAY. BOZKIR SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED CYPRUS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON 28 MARCH. HE WAS, AS WE KNEW, A PRACTICAL MAN, CONSCIOUS THAT THERE WAS NOW A POSSIBILITY FOR MAKING PROGRESS, AND READY TO PLAY HIS PART. OZAL NEVERTHELESS RULED OUT A MEETING WITH VASSILIOU UNLESS (A) THERE HAD FIRST BEEN DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES, AND (B) HE WAS CONVINCED THAT A MEETING WITH VASSILIOU WOULD HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS. BOZKIR CONFIRMED THAT OZAL WOULD ALSO REFUSE TO 'BUMP INTO' VASSILIOU AT THE UN OR SOME OTHER INTERNATIONAL OCCASION.

3. MORE GENERALLY, BOZKIR SAID THAT VASSILIOU'S POSITION SEEMED TO HAVE SOFTENED SINCE HIS TALKS WITH PAPANDREOU IN ATHENS: HIS STOCK HAD RISEN CORRESPONDINGLY IN ANKARA. HIS PACKAGE OF GOOD WILL MEASURES WAS NOW AWAITED: THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY THEM WITH CARE. DENKTASH'S PROPOSALS (NICOSIA TEL NO 65) WERE OF COURSE ALSO RELEVANT. PROGRESS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN STAGES: IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR TURKISH TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN IN ADVANCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE

SETTLEMENT, THOUGH THIS DID NOT RULE OUT A SYMBOLIC WITHDRAWAL OF A FEW THOUSAND TROOPS, SHOULD THE PRIME MINISTER CONSIDER THIS HELPFUL.

4. BOZKIR WAS ADAMANT THAT DENKTASH WOULD NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO PRGRESS: THE DUNA/AKBEL VISIT ON 14 MARCH HAD REASSURED HIM OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR HIS OWN POSITION AND FOR THE ESSENTIAL INTERESTS OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY.

DAUNT

FCO PEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES
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ADDITIONAL 12

CYPRUS

SAVING 2

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