CONFIDENTIAL (CORRECTED VERSION 29.3.88) FM ANKARA TO PRIORITY FCO TELNO 0180 OF 2913U5Z MARCH 88 INFO ROUTINE ATHENS, NICOSIA INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TEL NO 172: CYPRUS: TURKISH VIEWS

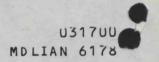
SUMMARY

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 PROGRESS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN STAGES: IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR TURKISH TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN IN ADVANCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE

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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.

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