

MR. POWELL

He made this clear to
the President
CSP 5/4.

Mrs. Chalker received a telephone call this evening from Mr. Panayides, the Cyprus High Commissioner. He had a personal message from President Vassiliou relating to an article by John Dickie on 1 April in the Daily Mail. The article claimed Mrs. Thatcher was being asked to close Britain's two bases on Cyprus by President Vassiliou.

President Vassiliou's personal message to Mrs. Chalker was that he apologised for the appearance in the press of this article. It was the result of a misunderstanding. Mr. Dickie spoke only to the Cyprus press spokesman and not to the President. He apparently misunderstood a Greek phrase when it was translated back into English. It was not the President's intention at the time of the visit nor will it be in the future to raise a question over the presence of Britain's bases in Cyprus. He would be grateful if Mrs. Chalker ensured that Mrs. Thatcher knew and understood this.

The Cyprus High Commissioner is to see John Dickie tomorrow to correct the misunderstanding.

FIONA PATERSON

(Assistant Private Secretary to Mrs. Chalker)

5 April 1988

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