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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO TURKEY: GREEK PRESS REACTION

SUMMARY

1. WIDE AND POSITIVE COVERAGE IN GREEK MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS THE PRIME MINISTER'S DISCREET PRESSURE ON OZAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

DETAIL

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT RECEIVED GOOD AND LARGELY FACTUAL COVERAGE IN THE GREEK PRESS AND ON TV. PRESS REPORTS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT OZAL'S DINNER IN WHICH SHE SINGLED OUT CYPRUS AS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE. THIS IS CONTRASTED WITH OZAL'S SILENCE ON THE SUBJECT. MOST NEWSPAPERS QUOTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARK THAT TURKEY'S INTERESTS LIE IN A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE. THIS IS SEEN BOTH AS A REFLECTION OF OUR OWN DESIRE FOR A SETTLEMENT AND AS AN IMPLIED THREAT HANGING OVER TURKEY'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP. SOME NEWSPAPERS CARRY UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF SOME TURKISH TROOPS AND SETTLERS ON THE ISLAND. THE PRIME MINISTER'S REFUSAL TO COMMIT HERSELF ON TURKISH EC ACCESSION IS NOTED, AND ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTS A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS ON THE QUESTION OF INSTALLATION OF NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN TURKEY.

3. OVERALL, THE PRIME MINISTER'S LINE FINDS FAVOUR WITH THE GREEK PRESS, ONE GOING SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT SHE WAS DOING PAPANDEOU'S WORK FOR HIM. THOSE SECTIONS OF THE MEDIA, CRITICAL OF THE PRINCIPLE OF THE VISIT, MERELY PLAY IT DOWN.

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