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YOUR TELNO 160: CYPRUS: TALKS WITH PRESIDENT EVREN AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY

1. VASSILIOU'S REACTION TO BRIEFING. SUSPICIOUS OF TURKISH MOTIVES IN STRESSING CONCEPTS WITH WHICH, AS PRESENTED, HE HAS LITTLE DIFFICULTY. VASSILIOU FIRM ON ECONOMIC EMBARGO.

DETAIL

2. I BRIEFED VASSILIOU ON PARAS 1 - 7 OF YOUR TUR AT 151430Z. HE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES, ESPECIALLY OF THE NEED TO AVOID DAMAGING PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND THE USE OF THE TERM MINORITY. HE ASKED ME TO SAY HE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND YOUR CONTINUING INTEREST AND EFFORTS. HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO HIS BEST TO FIX A MEETING AND TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS. HE REPEATED THAT IT WAS NOT HIS STRATEGY TO TRY TO PUT PUBLIC PRESSURE ON DENKTASH.

3. VASSILIOU SEEMED GENUINELY SUPRISED BY YILMAZ'S AND ESPECIALLY EVREN'S CRITICISMS OF HIS ALLEGED REFERENCES TO THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS AS A 'MINORITY'. HE DENIED USING THE TERM IN A SENSE DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE THEIR EQUAL STATUS AS A COMMUNITY.

4. (COMMENT: WE OURSELVES COULD FIND ONLY ONE NOTABLE RECENT REFERENCE BY VASSILIOU TO THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT MINORITY: IN A SPEECH TO THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS ON 7 JUNE, OF WHICH I REMINDED THE PRESIDENT, HE ARGUED THE NEED TO CONVERT THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS FROM A STRATEGIC MINORITY AS A TURKISH FIFTH-COLUMN IN CYPRUS TO A NORMAL, NATIONAL MINORITY IN A DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION).

5. VASSILIOU CATEGORICALLY ACCEPTED THAT A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE ON A BI-ZONAL AND BI-COMMUNAL BASIS. A FEDERATION IMPLIED EQUALITY OF STATUS FOR THE TWO COMMUNITIES. INTERESTINGLY, VASSILIOU EXPRESSED IN PASSING REGRET THAT IT WAS NOW TOO LATE TO CONSIDER

THE CANTONAL STRUCTURE ENDORSED BY THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S REPORT OF 1987.

6. THE PRESIDENT WAS WARY OF YILMAZ'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE DENKTASH ATTACHED TO MEETING ON AN 'EQUAL FOOTING'. DENKTASH COULD NOT HOPE TO BE ACCEPTED AS A HEAD OF STATE. WE AGREED, HOWEVER, (MY TELECON WITH WESTON ON 15 JULY) THAT THE UNSG'S CURRENT INITIATIVE IS BASED ON THE CONVENTION HE HAS APPLIED THROUGHOUT HIS GOOD OFFICES MISSION: NAMELY, THAT HE DEALS WITH BOTH SIDES ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STATUS OF THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT (COMMENT: THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS ARE SOMETIMES RESTIVE ABOUT THIS FORMULA, BUT VASSILIOU DID NOT QUIBBLE).

7. VASSILIOU NOTED YILMAZ'S PROMISE THAT PASSPORT-STAMPING WOULD STOP. HE APPLAUDED YOUR COMMENT (LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 4): HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MODIFY THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO IF VAROSHA WAS RETURNED, FAMAGUSTA PORT REOPENED UNDER UN SUPERVISION AND GREEK-CYPRIOT ASSETS IN THE NORTH PLACED UNDER UN ADMINISTRATION. IT WAS TYPICAL OF DENKTASH TO MAKE A FORWARD MOVE AND THEN CLAIM A REWARD FOR RESTORING THE STATUS QUO ANTE. VASSILIOU APPEARED UNAWARE THAT TOURISTS WERE NO LONGER PERMITTED TO CROSS FROM SOUTH TO NORTH. HE SAID IT WOULD BE WRONG TO ALLOW FOREIGN TOURISTS 'MORE' FREEDOM (EG. TO STAY OVERNIGHT IN THE NORTH) IN RESPONSE TO A WITHDRAWAL OF THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS' PASSPORT STAMPING PROCEDURES SO LONG AS CYPRIOTS COULD NOT CROSS THE GREEN LINE.

8. (COMMENT: THIS IS AN ARGUMENT THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT MUCH USED BEFORE. PREVIOUSLY THEY HAVE ARGUED THAT FOREIGNERS ENTERING CYPRUS LEGALLY SHOULD HAVE FREE ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OVER WHICH THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT CLAIM DE JURE SOVEREIGNTY. VASSILIOU'S LINE HAS POPULAR APPEAL. IT SUGGESTS DENKTASH'S WITHDRAWAL OF PASSPORT-STAMPING MAY NOT EVOKE A HELPFUL RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTH).

9. CONTRARY TO LOCAL PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT THE REASON FOR MY CALL, I WAS NOT ASKED TO EXPLAIN THE MEDIA REPORT ALLEGING THAT YILMAZ WAS TOLD THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP TO ENSURE THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS MADE NO DIFFICULTIES OVER THE UNSG'S PROPOSALS. WESTON'S DENIAL TO PANAYIDES HAS SATISFIED THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT, AND THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE WEEKEND PRESS.

GENERAL COMMENT

10. VASSILIOU WAS AWARE OF COURSE, THAT THE UNSG WAS NOW THINKING

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OF A FIRST MEETING IN LATE AUGUST. HE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF LOSING PATIENCE. FOR HIS PART, CAMILION BELIEVES HE IS FORTUNATE IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH VASSILIOU ALONE, IN THE ABSENCE OF IACOVOU IN THE FAR EAST. I AGREE THAT, WITH IACOVOU AAROUND, VASSILIOU WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDER PRESSURE TO BE LESS ACCOMMODATING TO DENKTASH. I ALSO BELIEVE THE BRIEFING ON EVREN'S AND YILMAZ'S POINTS WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS WELL-RECEIVED HAD IACOVOU BEEN PRESENT.

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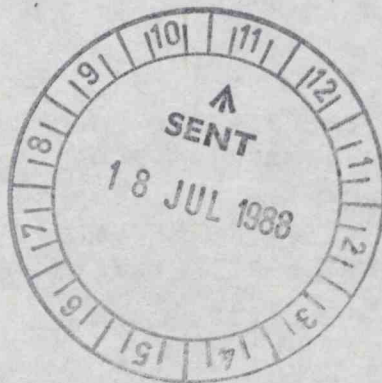
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