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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 September 1988

CYPRUS: POSSIBLE WORKING VISIT BY PRESIDENT VASSILIOU

Thank you for your letter of 2 September about President Vassiliou's wish for a meeting with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister could manage a small working lunch on 4 October. I should be grateful if you could put this proposal to President Vassiliou. It would be limited to the President plus one (or at most two).

I should be grateful if you would note that the Prime Minister does not now wish to be asked to receive any more foreign visitors in the period 16 September to 20 October.

(C. D. POWELL)

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF PRESIDENT VASSILIOU

I fear this is a bit of an imposition - but all foreign Heads of Government want to see you; and you can uniquely influence people like Vassiliou who rightly have enormous respect for your judgment. You have got the Cyprus talks started again and this is a chance to follow up.

The timing is not ideal, but is still 7/10 days before the Party Conference. You could do a small working lunch again on 4 October or a meeting on 4 or 6 October.

Agree?

CDP

(C. D. POWELL)

2 September 1988

Will do lunch
as well

mf

No - the Party Conference begins the following Monday evening

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CW
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Please no more

engagements in that

period. We

have far too

little time left

aside for the speech.

mf

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cc PC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 September 1988

Dear Charles,

Cyprus: Possible working Visit to London
by President Vassiliou

President Vassiliou told the Acting High Commissioner in Nicosia in mid-August that he attached great importance to discussion with the Prime Minister and would wish to brief her in person on his meetings with Mr Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader. President Vassiliou added that he would be glad to come to London on whatever basis and at a time we proposed.

The President next expects to transit London on about Thursday 6 October, on his way to New York. A brief working visit on or about that date built around a meeting with the Prime Minister would be very conveniently timed. It would follow the first substantive talks between President Vassiliou and Mr Denktash, who will lead their respective teams when negotiations begin in Nicosia on 15 September. It would thus provide an opportunity for a first-hand assessment of progress. And it would precede the President's attendance at the UN General Assembly, enabling the Prime Minister to urge upon him the need for restraint in the way he addresses the Cyprus problem in New York, should that be necessary.

The various parties concerned, including the UN Secretary-General, are likely to seek our help and support frequently over the next few months, particularly if the negotiations get bogged down. It will be in our interest to be seen to be doing what we can; and we shall need to have a very clear picture of how the negotiations are developing, in order to assess where best to put our weight. President Vassiliou is obviously a key player and his views are of crucial importance. He has said repeatedly how much he values the Prime Minister's advice. The Foreign Secretary believes this offers a significant chance to influence President Vassiliou's thinking in the direction of a settlement in Cyprus. The Foreign Secretary therefore recommends that the Prime Minister should agree to meet President Vassiliou in the

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period immediately before he goes to New York, if her diary allows. If the Prime Minister agrees, perhaps you could let me know if any time on 4,5 or 6 October would be convenient.

If President Vassiliou is to come to London in October, we shall have to consider what hospitality to offer. Last time he came (on 31 March), the talks with the Prime Minister took place over a working lunch. The Prime Minister may wish to consider a similar arrangement this time. If not, we shall see if an FCO Minister could host a lunch instead.

Yours,
Stephen Wall
(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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