

CONFIDENTIAL

app



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 October 1988

Dear Charles,

Cyprus: Message to President Vassiliou

Thank you for your letter of ~~12~~^{attached} October enclosing a revised message to President Vassiliou.

The Foreign Secretary believes that in seeking to be more positive, the substance of the message, and the inferences President Vassiliou will draw from it, have been modified, and in a way which would increase the risk of causing offence in Ankara. The Foreign Secretary therefore suggests a revision of the second and third paragraphs as in the enclosed redraft - which is in fact little more than a reordering of yours. It does, however, omit the first sentence of the third paragraph of the text enclosed with your letter, since it seems likely to cause problems in Turkey, while also running a risk of seeming, in Cyprus, to protest too much.

*Yours ever,
L. Parker*

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DASAPK

You also raised with me the possibility that Cyprus might in due course apply for membership of the European Community. I certainly welcome your desire for closer links with the Community and you can be quite sure that the United Kingdom would take full account of our particularly close relationship with Cyprus when it came to considering any future application. I have sympathy with your view that membership could put the seal on a successful settlement of the inter-communal problem. But I doubt whether most of the Community's members would want to pronounce on an application until a political solution in Cyprus was clearly within reach. There would be the risk of distracting other countries, whose cooperation will be essential to achieving progress on the political front. Moreover the Community is preoccupied with assimilating Spain and Portugal and completing the Single Market.

Given all these considerations, I am sure that your own instinct to proceed cautiously is right. Meanwhile, I hope we can stay closely in touch on this issue, as on the question of your discussions with Mr Denktash. I look forward to seeing you again next month.

CONFIDENTIAL

file

KKIAFN



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 October 1988

CYPRUS: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT VASSILIOU

I enclose a copy of the message to President Vassiliou of Cyprus, in the form in which the Prime Minister has approved it. As you will see, there are substantial changes to the draft sent under cover of your letter of 10 October. While the general tone of the message is more positive than your draft, I do not think that in substance it goes beyond it. You will no doubt wish to show it to the Foreign Secretary. Subject to his views, I should be grateful if it could be despatched urgently.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

③

Faxed
12/10

PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT VASSILIOU

You wanted to send a message to President Vassiliou to follow up your talk and underline that the UK was not an obstacle to Cyprus applying for EC membership, recognising that our overriding interest is to preserve the SBAs. I attach a message which I think the FCO could just about live with, although their own preference is to be more cautious still.

CD?

Charles Powell
11 October 1988

"Dear Mr. President"
"With warm regards"

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

CONFIDENTIAL

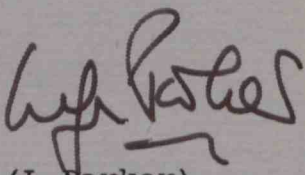
10 October 1988

Dear Charles,

Message to President Vassiliou

In your letter of 4 October ^{at 11.30} recording the Prime Minister's discussions over lunch that day with President Vassiliou of Cyprus, you asked for a draft message for the Prime Minister to send him to follow up their discussions. I enclose a draft.

You asked that the message should set out clearly our position on an EC application. The draft letter is constructive. It also confirms to President Vassiliou the Prime Minister's tactical advice that it would be better for the Cyprus framework to wait until major progress had been achieved in the negotiations with Denktash. The Prime Minister could also point out that the EC is currently in a phase of consolidation, rather than expansion. The Foreign Secretary advises that in writing to President Vassiliou about a possible Cypriot application, we should not go beyond the line taken by the Prime Minister with the Turks (whose application was already on the table) during her visit to Ankara last April. To go further would be likely to cause offence in Turkey, given the high risk that the Cypriots would publicise the Prime Minister's line. The draft message is therefore very positive on the UK/Cyprus relationship, and on developing EC/Cyprus links within the current association arrangements, but it stops short - as the Prime Minister did in talking to President Vassiliou - of a firm commitment to support a Cypriot application for membership.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

DEPARTMENT

TEL. NO:

PR2ACB

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to:

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

His Excellency

Mr George Vassiliou

President of the Republic

SUBJECT:

of Cyprus

Log AYW

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

I have been reflecting on reflecting

CAVEAT

~~Following our meeting over lunch last Tuesday, I wanted
on an air talk last week re ad your
you to know how very much I appreciated your giving me
very full account of
such a full and frank briefing on your talks with Mr~~

Denktash. There is obviously a very long way still to go; and no guarantee that the talks will ultimately succeed. But the fact that the talks have started and you are beginning to get down to substance is no small achievement in itself. I am sure you are right to persevere, and to go on repeating the same points about your willingness to reach a settlement, your vision for the future of a unified Cyprus, in which the two communities can live side by side in peace and prosperity, and the safeguards you are prepared to offer to take account of the concerns of the Turkish Cypriots.

Enclosures flag(s)

If you do this and, despite all your efforts, the talks do not succeed, at least the world will be in no doubt that you did your utmost to reach agreement. Meanwhile,

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

In Confidence

as I told you, I am ready at the right time to send a further message to the Turkish Prime Minister, if you think it would help.

I am also sympathetic to

We also talked about the possibility of an application for EC membership. I understand your view that an application by Cyprus for membership of the European Community might help to resolve the inter-communal problem. I am sure you are right to proceed cautiously.

by Cyprus

of the European Community

As I told you, my instinct is that any application should follow an agreement on a unified Cyprus, not precede it. If an application were made now, I doubt whether any action could be taken by the Community until there had been major progress towards the settlement of the political problem. Moreover, there is a strong feeling in the Community, which I share, that the Community's priority task must be to consolidate recent changes - assimilating Spain and Portugal and completing the single market.

I warmly welcome your desire for closer links with the Community. In considering any future membership application by Cyprus you can be assured that the United Kingdom would take full account of our close and historic relationship with your country. Meanwhile, we should work together to make maximum use of the existing Association Agreement and Customs Union arrangements. I believe there is scope for their further development. I think you are right to proceed with care. I hope we can stay closely in touch on this issue, as on the question of your discussions with Mr Denktash.

ten explained that an also then are would be a mix of people others whose cooperation is essential to be in the political forefront.

in considering any further application.

intercommunal problem. I am sure you are right to proceed cautiously. I think you are right to proceed with care. I hope we can stay closely in touch on this issue, as on the question of your discussions with Mr Denktash.

As I told you, my instinct is that any application should follow an agreement on a unified Cyprus, not precede it. I think you are right to proceed with care.

If an application were made now, I doubt whether any action could be taken by the Community until there had been major progress towards the settlement of the political problem. Moreover, there is a strong feeling in the Community, which I share, that the Community's priority task must be to consolidate recent changes - assimilating Spain and Portugal and completing the single market.

I warmly welcome your desire for closer links with the Community. In considering any future membership application by Cyprus you can be assured that the United Kingdom would take full account of our close and historic relationship with your country. Meanwhile, we should

work together to make maximum use of the existing Association Agreement and Customs Union arrangements. I believe there is scope for their further development. I think you are right to proceed with care. I hope we can stay closely in touch on this issue, as on the question of your discussions with Mr Denktash.



SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

I look forward to seeing you again next month.

- Top Secret
 - Secret
 - Confidential
 - Restricted
 - Unclassified
-

PRIVACY MARKING

.....
In Confidence

CYPRUS: Visit of
Pres. Sassi. 7/10/50

