

CONFIDENTIAL



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CPC

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

17 October 1988

**MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT VASSILIOU**

The Prime Minister declines to send the amended version of the message to President Vassiliou which you sent me. She thinks it will heighten his doubts. Perhaps the best course is simply to let it drop.

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT VASSILIOU

You recently signed a message to President Vassiliou designed to erase any impression that the United Kingdom was the principal obstacle to a Cyprus application to the EEC. You thought this necessary in the light of our overriding interest in preserving the SBAs.

The Foreign Secretary, however, thought that the letter went too far and has proposed a redraft of the section on the European Community. There is actually only one change of substance and that is to omit from the version you signed the words: "it is difficult to strike the right balance from among these conflicting considerations and I would not want you to think that the United Kingdom was in any sense an obstacle".

I have had an alternative version typed up with the Foreign Secretary's amendment. It is very much a matter of political judgement.

Agree to sign the amended version?

C D P

C. D. POWELL  
14 October 1988

DASAPL

*I have <sup>not</sup> signed - ~~but~~ wonder whether it is worth sending. It will only heighten his doubts. Perhaps best to leave things where they are now*

NOT SENT



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

*Dear Mr. President,*

I was grateful for the very full account of your talks with Mr. Denktash which you gave me last week and congratulate you on your refreshingly buoyant and constructive approach. The fact that the talks have started and you are beginning to get down to substance is no small achievement and one for which you deserve great credit. 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. 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, I am ready at the right time to send a further message to the Turkish Prime Minister, if you think that would help.

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 intercommunal problem. On the other hand, the Community itself is pre-occupied with assimilating Spain and Portugal

and completing the single market. I doubt whether most of its 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 co-operation will be essential to achieving progress on the political front.

It is difficult to strike the right balance from among these conflicting considerations and I would not want you to think that the United Kingdom was in any sense an obstacle. But I think your own instinct to proceed cautiously is probably 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.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

*Nargant Shalita*

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His Excellency Mr. George Vassiliou