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COMMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ANKARA

TO DESKBY 250900Z FCO

TELNO 0544

OF 241530Z NOVEMBER 88

INFO PRIORITY NICOSIA, ATHENS, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, CBF CYPRUS

CORRECTED VERSION

UKMIS NEW YORK TEL NO 1644: CYPRUS TALKS

SUMMARY

1. DENKTASH'S APPROACHES ARE, ACCORDING TO THE TURKS, A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, WITH WHICH THEY ARE FULLY ASSOCIATED. MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH OFFERED AHEAD OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT; THEN FURTHER WITHDRAWALS.

2. TURKS DISCOURAGED BY INSTANT LEAKS AND NEGATIVE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. HOPE PRIME MINISTER WILL PERSUADE VASSILIOU TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY.

DETAIL

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFED ME TODAY ON THE SIX PAPERS TABLED BY DENKTASH IN NEW YORK. THEY CONFIRMED THAT HIS 'APPROACHES' WERE FULLY ENDORSED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD INDEED 'HELPED SUBSTANTIALLY' OVER PAPER NUMBER TWO, ON ARMED FORCES AND TROOP WITHDRAWALS. THESE 'APPROACHES' WERE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESIGNED TO TEST DURING THE NEXT PHASE OF TALKS IN NICOSIA WHETHER VASSILIOU'S POLICY DIFFERED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM KYPRIANOU'S, OR WAS JUST A BETTER PRESENTATION. IF VASSILIOU WAS SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING PROGRESS AND WAS PREPARED TO 'KEEP THE RULES' HE NOW HAD THE OPPORTUNITY.

4. DENKTASH HAD TAKEN HIS INITIATIVE AT THE NEW YORK MEETING BECAUSE THE FORMAT OF NICOSIA TALKS RESTRICTED HIS ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION-MAKERS, WHILE VASSILIOU'S RAN ROUND THE MAIN CAPITALS AS PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS, ONLY THUS COULD HE ENSURE THAT A MAJOR INITIATIVE HAD THE IMPACT IT DESERVED.

5. IN THE TURKISH VIEW, THE 'APPROACHES' OVER THE THREE FREEDOMS, TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND DECONFRONTATION WERE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT. ON THREE FREEDOMS, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE CONCEEDED THE PRINCIPLE OF THEIR DEMAND AND THE WAY WAS OPENED TOWARDS 'FEDERATION BY EVOLUTION'.

6. THE TURKS CONFIRM THAT PAPER 2 IS DESIGNED TO PROCURE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN THE TURKISH NORTH AND THE GREEK SOUTH AHEAD

OF THE FORMATION

OF A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND FURTHER AGREED REDUCTIONS SUBSEQUENTLY. AN EXPLANATORY ANNEX TO PAPER NUMBER TWO WAS TABLED IN NEW YORK IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM VASSILIOU. NEAR VERBATIM TEXT IN MIFT

7. NO FURTHER ELABORATION AT THIS STAGE. EG OVER SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS ON GUARANTEES.

8. DENKTASH REMAINED WILLING TO DISCUSS THE BROAD ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE TO WHICH VASSILIOU GAVE PRIORITY, BUT VASSILIOU MUST NOW ALSO DISCUSS THE KEY QUESTIONS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, INCLUDING FEDERAL STRUCTURE. PAPERS 4 AND 5 WERE INTENDED TO FACILITATE THIS AND TO ESTABLISH WHETHER VASSILIOU WAS, LIKE KYPRIANOU, MAKING PRECONDITIONS.

9. THE TURKS PROFESS TO BE MUCH DISCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT ALL SIGNIFICANT DETAILS OF DENKTASH'S APPROACHES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS TODAY, ACCOMPANIED BY STRONGLY NEGATIVE COMMENT. THIS DESPITE DENKTASH'S PLEA IN NEW YORK FOR CONFIDENTIALITY, AND MEANWHILE IAKOVOU HAD BEEN BRIEFING EC GOVERNMENTS IN BRUSSELS.

10. THE TURKS HOPE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL TRY TO PERSUADE VASSILIOU THAT THERE IS A REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS, AND THAT IT IS UP TO HIM TO RESPOND POSITIVELY.

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