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MR POWELL

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FM NYMIS TO FCOLN  
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FM UKMIS NEW YORK AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 24/11  
TO DESKBY 240930Z FCO  
TELNO 1644  
OF 240415Z NOVEMBER 88  
INFO IMMEDIATE NICOSIA, ATHENS, ANKARA  
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, CBF CYPRUS

MY TELNO 1611: CYPRUS TALKS

SUMMARY

1. AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURE FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF TALKS. SURPRISE PRESENTATION BY DENKTASH OF PROPOSALS. THESE UPSET VASSILIOU, BUT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONSIDERS THEM A SIGNIFICANT MOVE, THE FIRST SUCH IN THE TALKS SO FAR.

DETAIL

2. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT VASSILIOU AND DENKTASH ENDED ON 23 NOVEMBER WITH AGREEMENT THAT THE NEXT PHASE OF THE TALKS EXPLORE A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS FOR EACH ISSUE IN THE DISPUTE. THE TALKS WOULD RESUME IN NICOSIA ON 19 DECEMBER AND A FURTHER REVIEW MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS PLANNED IN THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH (TEXT OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE IN MY IFT).

3. WHEN I SAW THE SECRETARY-GENERAL EARLIER ON 23 NOVEMBER HE RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE TALKS. DENKTASH HAD INDICATED SOME NEW 'APPROACHES' TO THE PROBLEM WHICH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOUND INTERESTING AND IN SOME RESPECTS POSITIVE. FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE WAS A REFERENCE TO TROOP REDUCTIONS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS. MOST SIGNIFICANT OF ALL, DENKTASH HAD TOLD HIM THAT THESE APPROACHES HAD BEEN BLESSED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE GREEK CYPRIOT REACTION HAD BEEN IMMODERATELY HOSTILE IF NOT HYSTERICAL. A DOOR HAD BEEN OPENED, AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS DID NOT KNOW HOW TO COPE. PEREZ DE CUELLAR WANTED THE PRIME MINISTER TO HAVE THIS NEWS BEFORE SHE SAW VASSILIOU ON 25 NOVEMBER, AND HAD ASKED HIS STAFF TO BRIEF US FULLY. HE WANTED HER TO KNOW THAT HE THOUGHT THE TURKISH APPROACHES REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT MOVE, THE FIRST SUCH IN THE PRESENT ROUND.

4. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STAFF ACCORDINGLY BRIEFED US. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO OUR REVEALING THE FACT TO VASSILIOU OR DENKTASH. OTHERS ARE NOT BEING BRIEFED IN THE SAME DETAIL, AND NOT ON DENKTASH'S PROPOSALS.

5. DENKTASH HAD SURPRISED BOTH VASSILIOU AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY PRESENTING ON 22 NOVEMBER AT THE START OF THE JOINT SESSION SIX PAPERS SETTING OUT THE TURKISH/CYPRIOT 'APPROACHES' TO THE THREE FREEDOMS, MILITARY FORCES IN THE REPUBLIC, GUARANTEES, THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE, THE FUTURE OF THE TALKS, AND DECONFRONTATION. (THE

SECRETARIAT DID NOT HAND OVER COPIES BUT PERMITTED US TO TAKE EXTENSIVE NOTES). DETAILS CONTAINED IN MY TELNOS 1648 - 1653 INC). VASSILIOU HAD REACTED BADLY, BOTH TO THE CONTENT AND TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED WITHOUT WARNING AT A REVIEW MEETING. THE SESSION HAD ENDED WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, AND WITH VASSILIOU FURIOUS. CAMILION (SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE) HAD MOVED SWIFTLY TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE BY GOING TO SEE VASSILIOU. HE HAD URGED HIM NOT TO LOOK AT THEM AS PROPOSALS TO BE REJECTED OR ACCEPTED, BUT AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXPLORATORY PROCESS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WISHED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE COMING PHASE. HE HAD ALSO COMMENDED THE VARIOUS OPENINGS OFFERED, SUCH AS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF THE THREE FREEDOMS, THE PROPOSAL THAT MILITARY BALANCE SHOULD BE ACHIEVED, AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WERE ESTABLISHED.

6. AT HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THE NEXT MORNING VASSILIOU HAD STILL BEEN UNHAPPY, BUT HAD AGREED TO CARRY ON. HE HAD WARNED THAT DENKTASH'S MOVE HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO BE UNHELPFUL. AT THE JOINT LUNCH THE ATMOSPHERE HAD IMPROVED, AND THE COMMUNIQUE AGREED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

7. CAMILION WILL VISIT ANKARA ON 1-2 DECEMBER AND ATHENS ON 5-6 DECEMBER TO BRIEF THE TURKISH AND GREEK GOVERNMENTS.

COMMENT

8. DENKTASH'S MOVE NEARLY PRECIPITATED A BREAKDOWN, AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT DAMAGE MAY BE DONE BY INEVITABLE LEAKS OF THE STORY. BUT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS STAFF HOPE THAT VASSILIOU HAS BEEN GIVEN A LESSON TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE CONCERNS OF THE OTHER SIDE AND TO COME UP WITH SOME THINKING OF HIS OWN. THEY HOPE THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT REINFORCE THE MESSAGE WHEN SHE MEETS HIM.

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PS/PUS 1  
PS/SIR J FRETWELL 1  
MR BOYD 1

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MIPT: CYPRUS TALKS

1. ON 23 NOVEMBER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE AGREED BY THE TWO SIDES: BEGINS

ON 22 AND 23 NOVEMBER THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE TWO SIDES IN CYPRUS. THEY HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PROCESS WHICH BEGAN IN GENEVA LAST AUGUST. THE TWO LEADERS REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO WHAT THEY HAD AGREED TO IN GENEVA AND TO PURSUE THIS EFFORT WITH GOODWILL AND DETERMINATION. THEY AGREED THAT THE FIRST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS HAD PROVEN HELPFUL IN BUILDING A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND IN CLARIFYING MANY OF THE ISSUES AND DIFFICULTIES FACING THE TWO SIDES.

THE TWO LEADERS AGREED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SUGGESTION THAT THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS BE DEVOTED TO EXPLORING, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITIONS OF EITHER SIDE, A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS FOR EACH OF THE ISSUES THAT MAKE UP THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND TO EVALUATING THEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WOULD BEGIN IN NICOSIA ON 19 DECEMBER. THE TWO LEADERS ACCEPTED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INVITATION TO MEET WITH HIM AGAIN DURING THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH TO LAUNCH THE NEXT PHASE ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WILL HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY THEN. ENDS

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