

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 December 1988

Dear Stephen,

CYPRUS: MESSAGE TO THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 1 December covering a draft message from the Prime Minister to Mr. Ozal. I enclose a slightly amended version which the Prime Minister has approved and which can be despatched.

Yours sincerely,

(C.D. POWELL)

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*Final
DA
i/c*

MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY

As you know, I have been following closely the progress of the intercommunal talks on Cyprus.

I was glad to hear that Mr. Denktash had made a number of new proposals in the meetings with the UN Secretary-General in New York last month. I understand these have your Government's blessing. They certainly contain much of interest; for example the idea of creating military balance before the establishment of a federal government in Cyprus, and subsequently reducing the levels of non-Cypriot troops. I also welcome Mr. Denktash's acceptance of the principle of the "Three Freedoms". I am grateful to you for encouraging him in this direction.

I had a further talk on 25 November with President Vassiliou. I advised him most sincerely to respond and put forward proposals of his own. He is still anxious for a meeting with you, as he believes it would enable a lot of progress to be made. I indicated that this was unrealistic at this stage, although I undertook to make sure you were aware of his views. Mr. Vassiliou clearly finds great difficulty in Mr. Denktash's ideas for restrictions on property and settlement rights. I am, of course, aware of the historical background. But I also see Mr. Vassiliou's point: Cyprus is a part of Western Europe, where no Government places such sweeping limitations on the exercise of these rights. Indeed they are an integral part of the democracy which we all accept. I believe, therefore, that the Turkish Cypriots must endeavour to reach an accommodation with the Greek Cypriots on the regulation of the "Three Freedoms". There will have to be some sort of transitional period. But the 18 years Mr. Denktash has proposed almost takes one's breath away. It would mean in practice that many people would never see their land and homes again. Further negotiation is clearly necessary and I understand that Mr. Denktash accepts this.

Britain has a direct interest in Mr. Denktash's proposal that the three guarantor powers should consult among themselves in due course about how to provide "adequate and effective guarantees" for a settlement. We shall, of course, consider any proposals the two sides may put to us when they have made sufficient further progress. Meanwhile, I earnestly hope you will encourage Mr. Denktash to continue to negotiate with flexibility and imagination.

With best wishes.

ccc



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1988

Dear Charles,

Cyprus: Message to the Turkish Prime Minister

As requested in your letter of 25 November I attach a draft message from the Prime Minister to Mr Ozal.

This is largely self-explanatory. However, I should add for your information that the FCO Political Director had a reasonably productive discussion with Mr Denktash on 29 November. Sir John Fretwell probed in detail the Turkish Cypriot position as presented in the 6 papers tabled at the Secretary-General's meetings in New York. Mr Denktash was adamant that no settlement was possible if the Greek Cypriots could not accept bi-zonality and the maintenance of the existing system of guarantees (including the Turkish guarantee), backed up by the right to unilateral intervention in Cyprus. If they could accept these concepts, there was scope for "practical bargaining" on the options outlined in the 6 papers. So far as the "Three Freedoms" were concerned, Mr Denktash said he was not wedded to 18 years as the duration for the proposed moratorium. The length of time did not matter; the concept did. There were examples of federations in which settlement rights were restricted in various ways. Above all the Turkish Cypriots' right to security was fundamental and must be protected.

We have drafted the message in the light of this and of our knowledge that there is no divergence to speak of between Turkish Government thinking and Mr Denktash's ideas on those central points.

Lowes

high father

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to:

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CAVEAT

SUBJECT: DRAFT MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY

As you know, I have been following closely the progress of the intercommunal talks on Cyprus.

I was delighted that Mr Denktash had made a number of new proposals in the meetings with the UN Secretary-General in New York last month. These proposals, which I understand have your Government's blessing, contain much of interest; for example the idea of creating military balance before the establishment of a federal government in Cyprus, and subsequently reducing the levels of non-Cypriot troops. At first sight, this seems to be a significant concession. I also

welcome Mr Denktash's acceptance of the principle of the "Three Freedoms".

I had a full talk on 25 November with President Vassiliou. I told him that he should now respond and put forward proposals of his own. He is still anxious for a meeting with you. But I warned him that this was unrealistic at this stage although I undertook to make sure you were aware of his views.

/Mr....

glad to hear

had

very clearly

*is already in his hands - denktash
we only want to see it
I hope he will
agree*

(our reply)

Denktash

I am grateful to you for helping to encourage him in this direction

As he believed we would make a lot of progress we were in a bit of a hurry

Enclosures flag(s)

CYPRUS: Vis to of
Vassiliou Pt 2

Mr Vassiliou clearly finds great difficulty in Mr Denktash's ideas for restrictions on property and settlement rights. I am, of course, aware of the historical background ~~and can understand why Mr Denktash is so firm on these issues.~~

But I also see Mr Vassiliou's point: Cyprus is a part of Western Europe, where no Government places significant limitations on the exercise of such rights. ~~I sincerely believe,~~ ^{My assessment is} therefore, that the Turkish Cypriots will have to reach an accommodation with the Greek Cypriots on the regulation of the "Three Freedoms". There will have to be some sort of transitional period. ~~But~~ ^{is} the 18 years Mr Denktash has proposed ~~seems~~ ^{is} over-long. Further negotiation is clearly necessary. ² I understand that Mr Denktash accepts this.

Britain has a direct interest in Mr Denktash's proposal that the three guarantor powers should consult among themselves in due course about how to provide "adequate and effective guarantees" for a settlement. We ~~will,~~ ^{shall} of course, consider any proposals the two sides may put to us when they have made sufficient further progress. Meanwhile, I hope you will encourage Mr Denktash to continue to negotiate with flexibility and imagination.

With best wishes.