

Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T1908/88 *Ankara*, December 10, 1988

SUBJECT

CC MASTER

OPS

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 5 December. I was glad to learn that you appreciate the significance of the new proposals presented by President Denktas in New York. I understand President Denktas had the opportunity to further elaborate his views on these issues during his recent contacts in London. I would expect that the clarifications he has made on his proposals would meet the concerns expressed in your letter.

My Government, as I am sure you recognize, supports the aim of a bicomunal, bizonal federation based on the political equality of the two sides. This has been the agreed objective of all previous efforts under the mission of good offices of the UN Secretary-General since the Denktas-Makaros agreement of 1977. During the present negotiating process, President Denktas has been asking Mr. Vassiliou whether they are ready to share power, and to enter into a new partnership with the Turkish Cypriots on the basis of equality. The two sides, it may be recalled, started out as politically equal partners 28 years ago, and equality is the basic feature of the federal concept. So far Mr. Vassiliou has been evading a clear answer on these central questions which will determine whether a federation can be established in Cyprus.

Once this fundamental issue is satisfactorily resolved, all other ancillary matters, including the so-called "three freedoms", can be addressed with common sense and vision. President Denktas has already illustrated how this can be done. What matters at this stage

Rt. Hon.
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
London

./..

in this regard seems to be an agreement on questions of principle, such as the necessity of a "transitional period" and the "regulation" of these freedoms which you have also underlined in your letter. Let me just stress here that these are very valid Turkish Cypriot ideas which enjoy our support.

Mr. Vassiliou's allegation of "sweeping limitations" is unfounded. Such a description can only apply to the traumatic period when the Turkish Cypriots were denied not only these three, but the entire spectrum of rights and freedoms for more than a decade. The bicomunal system of 1960 was a democracy, but it turned into a tyranny when the Greek Cypriots monopolized all political and economic power through violence. Western Europe then preferred to ignore or act indifferent in the face of what was taking place in Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriots understandably now need to be assured that their right to life and a secure existence is not any less important than the "three freedoms" of the Greek Cypriots.

As I see it, the difficulty stems from the Greek Cypriot position which calls for an immediate and unconditional implementation of these freedoms. The Greek Cypriot side also presents them as the single decisive issue for a federal solution. This is clearly an exaggeration. I do not believe that such a position can be upheld either in the light of past experiences or of the criteria contained in the Denktas-Makarios agreement under guideline 3. The Greek Cypriot side should respond in a spirit of accommodation to the Turkish Cypriot proposals.

I do not think that it would be appropriate for me to go into the intricacies of the various matters to be addressed in order to reach a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. This is up to the two peoples there and their representatives. We shall continue to play a constructive role to promote a settlement under which the two peoples in Cyprus can peacefully coexist. I would hope that the Greek Cypriot leadership might be induced to respond positively to the legitimate concerns of the Turkish Cypriot side.

./..

Before concluding, I feel the need to touch on a matter which seems to have influenced the message carried in your letter. You have kindly reflected to us the concerns of Mr. Vassiliou since the Greek Cypriot leader had the opportunity to meet with you and to express personally his side's thoughts on the course of the ongoing negotiating process in Cyprus. With full respect and without prejudice to your government's policy of recognition regarding Cyprus, I think it would only be fair if you could also receive President Denktas in order to enable him to present the Turkish Cypriot case.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Turgut Özal', written in a cursive style.

Turgut ÖZAL

Cyprus: Vrestedher kypnam
pr 2

