



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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Counter-Terrorist Training for the Cypriots

In view of the visit of President Vassiliou of Cyprus to the United Kingdom at the end of February, you may wish to know how matters stand on counter-terrorist training for the Cypriots.

Ministers were concerned last year that we should try to ensure that the mistakes made by the Cypriots during the Kuwait Airways hijack in April should not be repeated. We offered the Cypriots a Crisis Management Seminar, which took place on 29 and 30 November. It was given by representatives of the FCO, Home Office, Security Service, MOD and Police. On the Cypriot side it was attended by the Ministers of the Interior, Justice and Communications as well as a number of senior officials and police officers. Unfortunately the President, who had hoped to attend, was ill at the time. The Minister of the Interior told our High Commissioner afterwards that the Seminar precisely fitted Cyprus's needs.

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We also hope to arrange for President Vassiliou to be briefed during his visit on Britain's crisis management machinery. The Director General of the Ministry of the Interior is also due to visit the United Kingdom in March and we shall ensure that he is given a similar briefing.

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I am sending a copy of this letter to
Brian Hawtin in the Ministry of Defence.

Yours ever

Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce)
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