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CYPRUS PROBLEM: DISCUSSIONS WITH CAMILION, 24 FEBRUARY

1. THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CYPRUS CALLED ON SIR J FRETWELL ON 24 FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS PROGRESS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. DISCUSSION CONTINUED OVER A LUNCH HOSTED BY RATFORD.

2. CAMILION SAID THAT VASSILIOU AND DENKTASH HAD BEGUN TO THINK THE UNTHINKABLE, BUT THEIR POSITIONS REMAINED LOCKED. EACH WAS CONVINCED THE OTHER WAS NOT PLAYING FAIR. EACH WAS JOCKEYING FOR POSITION FOR QUOTE THE DAY AFTER THE TALKS COLLAPSE UNQUOTE. IF THE TALKS DID COLLAPSE, QUOTE THE AFTERMATH WOULD NOT BE QUIET UNQUOTE. ON THE ONE HAND, THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM THE TURKS WOULD TRY TO BEGIN A DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE WITH ICO COUNTRIES OVER RECOGNITION OF THE QUOTE TRNC UNQUOTE. THIS, CAMILION SAID, CARRIED THE PROSPECT THAT THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WOULD BE SEEN IN TERMS OF MUSLIMS VERSUS CHRISTIANS, WHICH WOULD BE MOST UNHELPFUL IN THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE BUYING TOO MANY MILITARY TOYS. SOME OF THEM WISHED TO PLAY WITH THEM. DENKTASH'S WARNINGS THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE PREPARING A TACTICAL ATTACK WERE NOT AS ABSURD AS THEY SEEMED: THEY MIGHT TRY TO QUOTE INTERNATIONALISE THE PROBLEM, NOT THROUGH UNGA, BUT BY PROVOKING A CRISIS UNQUOTE. THE UN WERE NOW TRYING TO GET THE TWO SIDES TO DO WHAT THEY HAD AGREED IN NEW YORK IN NOVEMBER: ANALYSIS OF THE OPTIONS, PUTTING THE POSITION PAPERS ON ONE SIDE. THERE WERE SOME POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN THOSE PAPERS, BUT EACH TENDED TO SEE THE OTHER'S IN THE WORST POSSIBLE LIGHT. CAMILION SPOKE IN FAMILIAR TERMS OF THE NEED TO USE THE NEXT 4 WEEKS TO BEST ADVANTAGE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS BY 1 JUNE.

3. ACCORDING TO CAMILION, THE TALKS COULD NOT SUCCEED UNLESS VASSILIOU REALISED THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HIS NEGOTIATING WITH DENKTASH AND THAT NEITHER THE UN NOR OTHERS, INCLUDING BRITAIN, COULD FULFIL HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIM. THE ONLY WAY FORWARD WAS FOR HIM TO PRESENT ATTRACTIVE PROPOSALS TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. HE WAS GROWING IN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW

TO ADDRESS THEIR THREE MAIN DEMANDS: EQUAL POLITICAL STATUS, BIZONALITY, AND A TURKISH GUARANTEE WITH THE UNILATERAL RIGHT OF INTERVENTION. HE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SATISFY DENKTASH ON EQUAL POLITICAL STATUS AND BIZONALITY AND THEN SEEK TO GET THE BEST DEAL POSSIBLE ON ADJUSTMENT OF ZONAL BOUNDARIES. IF THIS APPROACH WORKED, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE TURKS ON GUARANTEES LATER ON.

4. CAMILION SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD VERY GREAT INFLUENCE ON VASSILIOU. IT HAD BEEN ONLY AT HER URGING THAT HE HAD CLIMBED DOWN FROM HIS INITIAL INSISTENCE ON NEGOTIATING DIRECT WITH OZAL. BUT HE CLUNG TO THE BELIEF THAT DENKTASH'S HOPES FOR ACHIEVING WIDER RECOGNITION OF THE QUOTE TRNC UNQUOTE, SHOULD THE TALKS COLLAPSE, WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO FULFIL. THE FEELING THAT OTHERS WOULD STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING HAD BRED INERTIA. IF THE PRIME MINISTER COULD PERSUADE VASSILIOU THAT HE WAS WRONG, SHE WOULD HAVE REMOVED A MAJOR BARRIER TO A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION.

5. A FULLER RECORD OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH CAMILION FOLLOWS BY BAG.

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