

CYPRUS: ADVANCE COPIES 13

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 555 OF 16 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE NICOSIA, ATHENS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, ROME, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS

MODUK, CBFC AND ISTANBUL

CYPRUS : UDI : TURKISH PRESS REACTION

1. THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION HAS PREDICTABLY SWEEPED ALL OTHER NEWS FROM THE FRONT PAGES, MANY OF WHICH SHOW PROMINENTLY MAPS OF DIVIDED CYPRUS. THE GENERAL TONE OF HEADLINES AND NEWS STORIES IS ONE OF SELF-CONGRATULATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE ASSERTION THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE AT LAST GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED.

2. THE TONE OF THE EXTENSIVE PRESS COMMENT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN INTERESTINGLY DIFFERENT. IT IS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED THAT DENKTASH ACTED WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OR KNOWLEDGE OF ANKARA. IT IS ALSO ACCEPTED THAT HIS ACTION WAS ENTIRELY UNDERSTANDABLE AND MUST BE SUPPORTED BY ANKARA. HOWEVER, THERE IS A SURPRISING DEGREE OF REALISM, AND INDEED APPREHENSION, ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES INTO WHICH TURKEY HAS BEEN PLUNGED. IT IS THOUGHT LIKELY THAT:

(A) THE PROBLEM OF RECOGNITION OF THE NEW "STATE" WILL LINGER FOR MANY YEARS (SEMI COLON)

(B) THE GREEK LOBBY IN THE UNITED STATES WILL CREATE MAXIMUM TROUBLE OVER VITAL US MILITARY AID (SEMI COLON)

(C) TURKEY WILL FIND IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO NORMALISE

RELATIONS WITH THE EC AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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AS TO THE TIMING, ALTHOUGH IT IS RECOGNISED THAT DENKTASH HAS TAKEN  
ADVANTAGE OF A QUASI-INTERREGUM, THE INCOMING OZAL GOVERNMENT  
HAS NEVERTHELESS BEEN PUT IN A VERY AWKWARD POSITION IN ADDITION  
TO ALL OF ITS OTHER DIFFICULTIES.

3. ON THE MORE POSITIVE SIDE, COMMENTATORS POINT TO DENKTASH'S  
APPEAL TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, AND HOPE  
(BUT WITHOUT MUCH ARGUMENT TO JUSTIFY THAT HOPE) THAT THE DECLARATION  
WILL AT LAST ENABLE NEGOTIATIONS TO PROCEED ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY.  
MUMTAZ SOYSAL, WHO HAS BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH CYPRUS FOR MANY  
YEARS AND WHO HAS LONG BEEN A ADVOCATE OF UDI, HAS SAID THAT NOW  
IS THE TIME FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, HAVING MADE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ADVANCE OF DECLARING THEIR EQUALITY, TO LOOK FOR COMPROMISE AND  
RECONCILIATION. BUT NONE OF THIS RECOGNISES THE NEED TO TAKE  
ACCOUNT OF THE INEVITABLE ANGER AND FRUSTRATION OF THE GREEK  
CYPRIOTS.

4. THE CONDEMNATORY STATEMENTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE  
UK, HAVE SO FAR BEEN REPORTED FULLY AND FACTUALLY, BUT WITHOUT  
COMMENT.

RUSSELL

BT

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