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FOLLOWING FROM SIR P RHODES

**CYPRUS: IMPRESSIONS AFTER 2 AND A HALF YEARS**

SUMMARY

1. MAIN IMPRESSION INCREASED REALISM ON THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TOGETHER WITH RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING THE PROCESS STARTED BY PEREZ DE CUELLAR. HOPE BUT NO OPTIMISM ON THE PART OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS: GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF ENSURING WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS IF AGREEMENT WERE REACHED. CONCERN OVER TURKISH CYPRIOT ATTITUDE ON EQUALITY WITHIN A NEW CONSTITUTION. AGREEMENT THAT THE GREEKS ARE STANDING BACK.

2. VITAL IMPORTANCE OF GETTING A SERIOUS TURKISH CYPRIOT OFFER ON TERRITORY ON THE TABLE.

DETAIL

3. IN A BRIEF VISIT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE A BROAD SECTION OF GREEK CYPRIOTS. WHAT FOLLOWS IS NECESSARILY IMPRESSIONISTIC.

4. MY MAIN IMPRESSION IS OF GREATER REALISM. IACOVOU AND STELLA SOULIOTIS, ATTORNEY-GENERAL BUT ALSO STILL LEGAL ADVISER TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT DELEGATION TO THE PROXIMITY TALKS, AND DINOS LORDOS PRESIDENT OF THE FAMAGUSTA REFUGEE ASSOCIATION ALL CONFIRMED THIS IMPRESSION. MRS SOULIOTIS SAID THAT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HIMSELF WAS BOTH MORE SELF CONFIDENT AND MORE REALISTIC THAN SHE HAD KNOWN HIM: ALL THE GREEK CYPRIOT DELEGATION HAD FOUND THIS. HE HAD GROWN INTO THE JOB. ALL SAID, WITHOUT PROMPTING, THAT TIME WAS NOT ON THE GREEK SIDE. IACOVOU EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROCESS. THE ACTING UN REPRESENTATIVE TOLD THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND MYSELF THAT MAVROMMATIS HAD MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR THE TALKS TO BE CONTINUED IF THERE WAS THE "SLIGHTEST GLIMMER" OF HOPE.

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5. BOTH IACOVOU AND MRS SOULIOTIS CONFIRMED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A BACK SEAT. BOTH WERE CLEARLY PLEASED AT THIS AND BOTH REALISED THE DANGERS OF TOO CLOSE GREEK INVOLVEMENT. IACOVOU REFERRED TO HIS NEED TO WORK TO "KEEP THE GREEKS HAPPY".

6. ON SUBSTANCE TWO MAIN POINTS EMERGED:-

- (A) THERE WAS GENERAL WORRY ABOUT THE TURKISH SIDE'S INSISTENCE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY THROUGHOUT THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CONSTITUTION. MRS SOULIOTIS MADE MUCH OF THE POINT THAT THE TURKISH SIDE'S IDEAS, SO FAR AS THESE WERE UNDERSTOOD, APPEARED TO BE A FURTHER RECIPE FOR A BREAKDOWN OF THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER A NEW CONSTITUTION:
- (B) THERE WAS GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT THE MEANS TO ENSURE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL TURKISH TROOPS. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD GONE BACK ON "UNDERTAKINGS" IN THE PAST TO WITHDRAW ONCE AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. IACOVOU AND MAVROMMATIS WORRIED ABOUT THE FACT THAT, ONCE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF THE CYPRUS REPUBLIC WAS DISSOLVED, THERE WOULD BE NO MEANS OF EFFECTIVE RESORT EG. TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE SAID THAT MEANS COULD SURELY BE FOUND TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM EG. A DIRECT UNDERTAKING BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUPERVISE WITHDRAWAL. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR (WHO PREDICTABLY EXPRESSED THE STRONGEST PESSIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE TALKS) SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE UN SENDING FORCES IN "TO DRIVE THE TURKS OUT".

7. DESPITE THEIR LACK OF OPTIMISM AND THE CONCENTRATION OF POINTS (A) AND (B) IN PARA 6 ABOVE, ALL AGREED THAT A KEY POINT WOULD BE TABLING BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF A REASONABLE OFFER ON TERRITORY. THEY WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS WOULD COME BUT ACCEPTED THAT IF THE FIRST DIGIT WERE "TWO" INSTEAD OF "THREE" THIS WOULD BE BOUND TO AFFECT BOTH THE ATMOSPHERE AND PROSPECTS FAVOURABLY. IACOVOU SAID THAT THIS WOULD ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT PROCESS.

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