



PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No.

T 206/84

a MASTER

Nicosia, 5th December, 1984. OPS

Personal and Confidential

Already seen
by PM

17/12

Dear Prime Minister,

I feel that I must first of all express to you my gratitude for your keen personal interest in the Cyprus problem and for your understanding of our difficulties which was very clear to me in the course of our several meetings over the past 18 months.

I trust that you have been informed of developments since our last meeting in London. I had asked our Foreign Minister to keep your Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Sir John Thomson, fully informed of the developments in the third round of the proximity talks in New York.

I feel that the relative improvement in the position of the Turkish side cannot be unrelated to your efforts. Although, this improvement cannot be regarded as a breakthrough, I must say that I am encouraged to believe that prospects for positive developments for a solution to the Cyprus problem are now better than at any time before since 1974.

In view of this crucial stage in the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and further to our previous discussions I would like to share with you some of our concerns and thoughts.

There cannot be any doubt of your special interest in a reasonable and workable solution to the Cyprus problem, as well as of Britain's unique experience in the workings of constitutional arrangements of other countries which were faced with problems similar to those of Cyprus.

We are particularly concerned that any constitutional arrangements should ensure stability. Good sense, tolerance and cooperation will clearly be of great importance in the functioning of the constitution. However, I feel strongly that what is, in effect, a power of veto on all decisions of the federal executive and the federal legislature, apart from being objectionable from the point of view of principle and unacceptable to the vast majority of the people of Cyprus, it would certainly render the system totally unworkable and will unavoidably lead to friction, disunity and instability with predictably disastrous consequences. We recognise that a system of safeguards should be worked out and we have made specific proposals to this effect. We are ready to negotiate a list of specific safeguards on matters which may be reasonably considered as of special concern to the Turkish Cypriot community.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland,
10, Downing Street,
London.

.../2.



PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

- 2 -

As regards the territorial aspect we stressed the need that the areas that are "returned" should include such population centres as would allow substantial numbers of displaced persons to return to their homes under Greek Cypriot administration. You can well imagine the bitterness of those of our fellow citizens who will be unable to return to their homes under their own regional administration. Apart from obvious considerations of justice, we are preoccupied by the consequences of large numbers of such dissatisfied displaced persons. The larger their number the larger the permanent damage to the political fabric of our country and the greater the probability of instability in the future.

One of the important population centres is Varosha. According to the Turkish proposals only about 15,000 people or 1/3 of the town will be "returned" for resettlement by its inhabitants. In statements made in the past by Mr. Denktash on about the return of the inhabitants of the town a figure of 35,000 was used. Mr. Edjevit in a statement in June, 1978, stated that the number of former inhabitants returning would be 30,000. The Anglo-American-Canadian proposal of 1978 implied the return of 32,000. The return of the inhabitants of Varosha was part of the high level agreement of May, 1979, the validity of which was recently re-affirmed in New York by both sides. I recall well that the then Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim in the presence of the present Secretary-General (then Special Representative) Mr. de Cuellar rebuked Mr. Denktash for daring to suggest another divided city. Excuses, such as "security", are inadmissible and are contrary to the principles on which a federal solution must be based. By making this special reference to Varosha it does not mean that other population centres are not important.

We are very concerned at the disinclination of the Turkish side to commit itself firmly to the withdrawal of Turkish occupation troops to at least coincide with the entry into force of the new agreement and definitely before the administration of the country is taken over by the federal government or any transitional government. All settlers from Turkey must also leave Cyprus.

We are anxious to maintain the unity of our country under a federal structure. We feel strongly that the federal arrangement should guarantee the fundamental freedoms of all citizens including the freedoms of movement, settlement and the right to property.

I strongly feel that a high level meeting should have a successful outcome; failure of a high level meeting would be extremely dangerous and we must therefore take every care to avoid such failure. We are determined to persevere with the present negotiating process until a substantive agreement is reached.

.../3.



PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

- 3 -

I wish to express once again my gratitude for your deep concern for Cyprus and my earnest hope that you will continue your endeavours until a just and lasting solution is reached.

With my best wishes,

Spyros Kyprianou

(Spyros Kyprianou)
President of the Republic of Cyprus.