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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 January, 1985

Dear Charles,

Cyprus

Mr Prime Minister  
CDP

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In the No 10 press office bulletin issued after the visit of Kyprianou on 14 January (attached) it was reported that "the Prime Minister repeated our support for a unitary Cyprus .....".

The word "unitary", although, as far as an English dictionary is concerned, synonymous with "unified", appears to upset the Turks and Turkish Cypriots. They interpret it as implying the very opposite of a bi-zonal bi-communal federation as proposed in the UN Secretary General's draft high level agreement. We understand that, constitutionally, a "unitary" state does imply a concentration of authority in central government which would be inconsistent with those proposals. The Turks have complained to us in London, New York and Nicosia, finding it difficult to accept that all we mean by it is a single state of Cyprus.

As far as we are aware, the first time "unitary" was used in relation to our aspirations for Cyprus was by the Prime Minister during questions in the House on 12 June 1984 (extract attached). Since then we have adopted the word in contacts with Parliament and the Press. However, in view of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot sensitivities and the current delicate situation in Cyprus, we believe it would be prudent to substitute the word "unified" for "unitary" in any future statements we may make.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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# PRESS OFFICE BULLETIN

date:

14/1/85

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## MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU

The PM had a further exchange with President Kyprianou on the Cyprus issue, for just over one hour on Monday 14 January. Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Cyprus High Commissioner were also present.

The President brought her up-to-date on the preparations for the high level meeting scheduled to take place in New York on 17 January. The Prime Minister repeated our support for a unitary Cyprus, and expressed her full confidence in the efforts of the Secretary-General to bring about a solution to the problem. The two agreed to keep in close touch.

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Mr. Atkinson: Is the Prime Minister aware that Mr. Denktash and some other Turkish-speaking Cypriots are shortly to host a dinner at the Savoy hotel which 40 or 50 of the Prime Minister's Back Benchers will attend and which will be addressed by the right hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Mr. Amery) who will associate the Tory party with the Turkish annexation of Cyprus? Will she dissociate herself from that annexation and assure the House that no Government facilities will be made available for any trade negotiations during Mr. Denktash's visit to the United Kingdom?

The Prime Minister: As the hon. Gentleman is aware, the Government have condemned the attempts to declare

an independent northern Cyprus. The Government wish there to be a unitary state of Cyprus and have supported and will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations to bring both sides together to achieve the restoration of a unitary state of Cyprus. With regard to other matters, right hon. and hon. Members are free to do as they wish.