

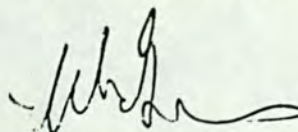
Mr Wilson, SED

Cyprus

The Secretary of State had a discussion with the Cypriot Foreign Minister Iacovou in the margins of the CDE lunch in Stockholm on 17 January.

Iacovou said that he was sorry not to be able to be present with President Kyprianou during the latter's visit to London on 18 January. He said that the Cypriot Government was not convinced that Perez de Cuellar was taking his own initiative on the Cyprus problem seriously, given that he had been unwilling to appoint a successor to Gobbi. Kyprianou and he, Iacovou, were anxious to try to make a bigger breakthrough on the Cyprus problem. That was why they had been reluctant to respond to Denktash's proposal with much enthusiasm. They took the view that Denktash mainly wished to make a strong presentational pitch aimed at winning favour from the forthcoming Islamic Council. The Secretary of State asked why the content of Denktash's proposal was unacceptable. Iacovou said that Cyprus needed a much more credible commitment to phased withdrawal of Turkish troops. Cyprus would therefore present Turkey with two negotiating alternatives: either a sustained, secret, diplomatic initiative to see whether differences could be resolved: or a public commitment to engage in intensive negotiations, coupled with public expressions of determination to get a breakthrough. The Cyprus Government felt that a solution could only consist of the maximum possible degree of autonomy for the two parts of Cyprus, including full economic autonomy for the Turkish sector, so that there could be no accusation of economic exploitation of the Turkish sector by the Greek Cypriots in the south.

Iacovou added that the new Turkish Foreign Minister and he had been in Bonn together as Ambassadors, and knew each other well. He recollected that he and his Turkish opposite number often used to say that if only they personally had the opportunity to tackle the Cyprus problem, it would soon be sorted out. He had recently reminded his Turkish colleague of this, and had elicited the response that perhaps their capacity to change the situation was, after all, rather minimal.



(~~R. B. Bone~~)

17 January 1984

cc: PS
 PS/Lady Young cc: Mr Coles, No 10 ✓
 PS/PUS
 Sir J Bullard
 Mr Jenkins