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CCAC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 May 1986

Dear Charles,

CDP
14/5

Cyprus

Thank you for your letter of 8 May about Cyprus. I am sorry you felt we had not yet addressed your main point of concern.

We have had another careful look at the telegrams reporting the Secretary-General's requests for help and the briefing we submitted to you for the Prime Minister's use before each of her last three meetings with President Kyprianou (14 January and 8 March 1985; 7 April 1986). All three took place at Kyprianou's request and Perez de Cuellar's input in our preparation for them came about because we ourselves suggested that he might wish to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the meetings. For this he has been genuinely grateful.

If there is a difference of perception between us, we think it may stem from the interpretation of the Secretary-General's wish to stress to Kyprianou (including through the Prime Minister) the importance and urgency of a positive response to his various proposals and the dangers he sees rejection would entail (ie the end of his initiative and eventual partition of the island). The fact that Kyprianou has not yet had to face these realities is fortunate for him (and for us). But they are increasingly likely if he continues on his present course. We never intended to suggest, nor we believe did the Secretary-General, that the Prime Minister should set deadlines for Kyprianou's response. Nor do the records of the meetings suggest that she did so. We do not therefore believe that the Prime Minister's approach, of spelling out the truth to Kyprianou, has been in any way discredited.

Nevertheless, we entirely take your point that the Prime Minister has expended quite enough effort on Kyprianou in the last year or so. Until he shows genuine signs of shifting from his entrenched position we should keep our distance. Equally, since the Secretary-General's efforts are so much in our interest and the alternatives look so unattractive, we should continue to do what we can to help him keep his show on the road.

Yours ever,
Colin Budd

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