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TELNO 716

OF 072230Z JUNE 88

INFO PRIORITY NICOSIA, ANKARA, ATHENS, WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 639 : CYPRUS : UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

1. SECRETARY-GENERAL PERPLEXED BY AN APPARENT HARDENING OF THE TURKISH POSITION.

DETAIL

2. ON 7 JUNE THE SECRETARIAT TOLD US THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING ON 3 JUNE WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT. OZAL HAD STARTED BY SPEAKING WITH AUTHORITY AND CONFIDENCE ON IRAN/IRAQ, BUT WHEN THE SUBJECT CHANGED TO CYPRUS HAD BECOME HESITANT AND EVASIVE. THE TURKISH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (TURKMEN), WHO WAS PRESENT, HAD INDICATED THAT THE TURKS SAW A PROBLEM IN THE PROPOSED COMMITMENT BY THE TWO PARTIES TO HOLD TALKS WITH NO PRE-CONDITIONS. THE PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN VASSILIOU AND DENKTASH WAS ACCEPTABLE, BUT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MODALITIES PAPER, AND BY EXTENSION HIS DRAFT STATEMENT, CONTAINED PROBLEMS.

3. THE SECRETARIAT SAID THEY HAD SOUGHT CLARIFICATION AFTERWARDS WITH THE TURKISH MISSION, WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WISHED THERE TO BE A MEETING BETWEEN VASSILIOU AND DENKTASH (FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE LEDRA PALACE HOTEL), BUT WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW UP ACTION. THEY ALSO CAST DOUBT ON WHETHER DENKTASH WAS READY TO DROP HIS INSISTENCE ON THE MARCH 1986 DOCUMENT.

COMMENT

4. THE SECRETARIAT IS BAFFLED BY OZAL'S UNEXPECTED LUKEWARMNESS. THEY WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT IT REFLECTS NO MORE THAN TACTICS IN ADVANCE OF THE ATHENS MEETING NEXT WEEK, BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY LIGHT WE COULD CAST.

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