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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 July 1988

Prime Minister

CBP

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Dear Charles,

Cyprus

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Following the delivery of the Prime Minister's message to Mr Ozal of 30 June, the Ambassador in Athens told Mr Capsis, the Greek Alternate Foreign Minister, of the gist. Mr Papandreou has since sent a message back to Sir Jeremy Thomas to say that he found it most helpful; and to express the hope that, if she felt it appropriate, the Prime Minister might feel able to take the same line with President Eyren next week (our briefing will, of course, cover this point).

We did not tell President Vassiliou of the Prime Minister's message, because of the risk that the Greek Cypriots might leak the information and thus box Mr Denktash further into the corner. However, the public announcement in Ankara on 5 July that Mr Denktash had agreed to accept the Secretary-General's proposals eliminates that risk and there would now seem to be no objection to telling the Greek Cypriots about the message. It seems that, encouraged no doubt by the Prime Minister's message, the Turks really did lean hard on Mr Denktash to bring this about.

There remains a slight possibility that Greek Cypriot objections might abort the proposed Geneva meeting. These could stem from the only qualification Mr Denktash has put on his acceptance, which has not been made public: that the Secretary-General's draft documents should either omit reference to the 1977 and 1979 agreements as a basis for negotiations or include others too (1980 and 1984, but not the March 1986 document, which the Greek Cypriots have never accepted). It is not clear how the Secretary-General (who has apparently accepted Mr Denktash's ideas) proposes to handle President Vassiliou. We are consulting the UN Secretariat. If Mr Perez de Cuellar says that British intervention with the Greek Cypriots would now be helpful, we may wish to recommend a personal message from the Prime Minister to President Vassiliou.

Yours ever, L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

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