

Subject Cyprus
Int Sit Feb 80

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Ankara, 17 November 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T188A183

Your Excellency,

I have studied carefully your message of 15 November 1983 regarding the proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The decision of the Turkish Cypriots to set-up their own independent state should be judged in the light of the convulsive history of Cyprus. The Government of the United Kingdom knows better than any other government the oppression and humiliation suffered by the Turkish Cypriots whenever the Greeks were holding ascendancy over them. The Government of the United Kingdom cannot also ignore that the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee has never been applied for the safeguarding of the basic and constitutional rights of the Turkish Cypriots. The Treaty remained a dead letter during the onslaught against the Turks in 1963/64, in 1967 and finally in 1974 when Greece attempted to annex the Island.

Since 1975 the Government of Turkey has constantly supported and encouraged a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus issue between the two communities. Despite the frustration justifiably felt by the Turkish Community over the lack of any progress and the refusal of the Greek Cypriots to recognize them as equal partners, the Turkish Government persisted in urging the Turkish Community to persevere in the dialogue. You have been regularly informed of our efforts to dissuade the Turkish Cypriots from embarking on a different course. But we have also indicated that we cannot deny their right to self-determination, since that right is inherent

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- The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
LONDON

in the very creation of the Cyprus State in 1960 and in the recognition by the international community that the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots should work out between themselves a negotiated solution regarding their future. It would have been inconceivable for Turkey not to recognize the new State particularly in view of the reaffirmation of its commitment to continue the intercommunal talks. The Government of Turkey will no doubt pursue its efforts in support of the good offices mission of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Our Foreign Minister will be in contact with Sir Geoffrey Howe on the suggestion that there should be consultation between the three Guarantor Powers. Like the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus we recognize the legal validity of the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee.

Kenan EVREN
President