



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 April 1982

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 29 March about the problem of missing persons in Cyprus.

I share your concern that so little progress has been made in resolving this serious humanitarian problem. The sympathy of the British Government is with all those in Cyprus who have suffered what you so eloquently describe as the agony of uncertainty about the fate of their loved ones. We welcomed the establishment of the Committee on Missing Persons in April last year as a major step forward in the process of resolving this difficult issue. It is certainly a matter of great regret that procedural difficulties have prevented the Committee from operating in the manner envisaged and getting down to the substantive task of investigating individual cases of missing persons.

Despite the problems encountered so far, I remain convinced that the Committee is the correct vehicle for tackling this serious problem and that the best course is to continue to try to make sure that it works effectively. To this end it is essential that both sides should make maximum efforts, on humanitarian grounds, to allow the Committee's work to proceed and not permit political

/ considerations

considerations to impede progress. With flexibility and goodwill on both sides it should surely be possible to bridge the remaining differences over procedure.

Over the problem of missing persons, as in the case of the wider issue of the intercommunal talks, the United Nations Secretary General, knows that we stand ready to assist him or his representatives in any way he would consider appropriate.

Yours sincerely
Raymond H. H. H.

His Excellency Mr. Spiros Kyprianou