

GR 190

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FM NICOSIA 220655Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 218 OF 22 SEPTEMBER 83

INFO IMMEDIATE ROME, MODUK, CBFC (ACTIONED), COSBAA
INFO PRIORITY BEIRUT, WASHINGTON, PARIS, UKDEL NATO
AND UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TEL 215: ITALIAN REQUEST TO USE AKROTIRI

1. I EXPLAINED THE REASON FOR OUR DECISION TO
VENIAMIN THIS MORNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR TEL 161.
HE SAID THAT HE RAGARDED IT AS A WRONG DECISION, TAKEN
ON GROUNDS OF POLITICAL CONVENIENCE RATHER THAN ANY REAL
MILITARY NECESSITY. IT COULD COMPLICATE OUR USE OF THE
BASES IN POTENTIALLY MORE IMPORTANT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE
FORESAW SOME UNPLEASANT EXCHANGES WHICH WOULD NOT BE
GOOD FOR EITHER BRITISH OR ITALIAN RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS.
AS WE KNEW THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER THAT WE
HAD THE RIGHT TO ACCORD USE OF THE BASES TO OTHER COUNTRIES.
(I COUNTERED THIS BY SAYING THAT THE PRESENT DECISION
WOULD NOT ALTER OUR HITHERTO CONSISTENT POLICY OF AVOIDING
EMBARRASSMENT TO THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT FROM OUR EXERCISE
OF OUR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS IN THE BASES.) VENIAMIN ALSO
HINTED THAT THE DECISION MIGHT JEOPARDIZE CONTINUED
ITALIAN USE OF LARNACA FOR SUPPLYING THEIR MNF CONTINGENT.

2. MY ITALIAN COLLEAGUE HAS RECEIVED PARALLEL
INSTRUCTIONS AND WILL SEE VENIAMIN LATER TODAY.

WILBERFORCE

BT

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