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*Note du chef de la Direction européenne
pour le sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures²¹*

*Memorandum from Head European Division,
to Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs²¹*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], July 31, 1958

CYPRUS IN THE U.N. ASSEMBLY

In your memo of July 8 you discuss the role that Canada might play in promoting a helpful consideration of the Cyprus issue at the next General Assembly, and particularly the possibility that we could interest Krishna Menon in organizing support for a compromise resolution. Certainly this three-sided disagreement seems to be one calling for skilful assistance from the outside. Because of Canada's NATO and Commonwealth association, we are perhaps not the most acceptable to take up such a task. Menon would seem to have many qualifications, particularly in regard to the spheres in which he should be able to find support. You mention, however, that the end result would not be exactly what we would have designed ourselves and this raises the question whether the United Kingdom and perhaps the Turks would find Menon acceptable.

From what we can gather, there are indications that the Greeks would be prepared to work towards some compromise, at least in timing, although they maintain their ultimate goal of self-determination for Cyprus. Their chief concern at the moment seems to be the adoption of an interim arrangement which would not prejudice the final result in favour of partition. The Turks for their part seem set on creating a situation where partition will be inevitable. In assessing the validity of the Turkish contention that the two communities cannot live together, we must not lose sight of the fact that they did live peacefully together for many years in Cyprus, and that Turkish and Greek communities still manage to get along in Constantinople and elsewhere. Turkish propaganda has obviously played its part in exacerbating friction between the communities in Cyprus.

Thus there would seem to be ground for believing that a compromise could be found and if Menon were acceptable to the three parties, he would seem to be well qualified for the role of Good Officer in organizing Assembly support for a resolution which would facilitate its achievement.

In the last paragraph of your memorandum you touch on the general question of Canadian activity at the next Assembly, and we agree entirely with your point that we should decide in advance the issues where we will try to play a part in finding a solution, and then make our preparations accordingly. As you suggest, for Cyprus this might be in promoting Krishna Menon as the Good Officer. We may also find the French will look to us again, in view of last year's success, to help on the Algerian item.

HENRY F. DAVIS

²¹ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Mr. Davis: We might at least save Mr. Biblica-Rosetti's life. J.W. H[olmes]