24.

Le chef de la délégation à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures

Chairman, Delegation to United Nations General Assembly, to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM 2045

New York, November 27, 1958

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY. OPIMMEDIATE. Repeat London, Washington (Information). By Bag Ankara, Athens from London.

CYPRUS DEBATE

It appears now that none of the three original resolutions is likely to be pressed to a vote. It is generally expected that suggestions for compromise will be made.

2. At an early stage the UK delegation were in touch with us and with the Norwegians on a very confidential basis in an effort to encourage us to put forward a short resolution in very general terms which would call for the end of violence and encourage the continuation of consultation between those interested. We made it very clear that, while Assembly agreement on such a formula would be in accordance with our aims, we were in no repeat no position to undertake to co-sponsor or even work for such a resolution at this stage and indeed might never be. We are, however, continuing in the most complete privacy to consider with the Norwegians the elements of a resolution which, according to our assessment of the changing situation, might have a chance of commanding the support of the three parties principally interested and thus of a majority of the Assembly.

3. While this has been going on the Japanese together with the Swedes and Austrians sought the views of the Norwegians and ourselves on the text of a draft which they had in hand. As it stood it appeared to have no repeat no chance in our opinion of attracting the support of the Greeks and would thus not repeat not qualify for our support since it would divide the three interested parties. As a result of the cold reaction of the Greeks and the general absence of encouragement from those he had consulted, the Japanese representative has reluctantly and with evident disappointment put his idea aside at least for the time being.

4. Menon has now come into the act and, although his ideas are far from clear, he seems to be thinking in terms of a resolution which would recognize the right to nationhood for Cyprus and constitute to some extent at least an endorsement of its unity. This would be a modification of the Greek thesis which, while it would avoid the danger which the Indians would see in supporting, unqualified, the concept of independence, would still be readily acceptable to the Greeks. The UK reaction has been definitely unfavourable to an Indian initiative. They are openly suspicious of any manoeuvre by Menon and clearly still hope that they may prevail upon us and the Norwegians to intervene in a way which will satisfy them.

5. We have been able so far, we believe, to avoid any commitment whatsoever. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that an extremely difficulty tactical situation is developing. The UK are trying to encourage us to develop a resolution tailored to their wishes and the Indians have asked us to seek instructions to co-sponsor the resolution they are planning. This we have not repeat not undertaken to do but there are two aspects of the Indian move