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*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 2100

New York, December 5, 1958

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Repeat Washington, London, Paris, NATO Paris (Information).

## FIRST COMMITTEE: CYPRUS

Last night the First Committee cleared the Cyprus item from its agenda. Unfortunately it cannot repeat not be said that the issue has been advanced and in fact last night's result could just as well have been achieved at the beginning of the debate, since it appears only to have confirmed the well known divisions which separate the parties principally involved.

2. The Chairman of the Committee must bear some of the responsibility for the unsatisfactory results since he failed to get control of the discussion and the general impression throughout the Committee that an agreed compromise would be found during the dinner recess quickly evaporated when the Chairman allowed the drafting wrangle to continue and to wear through the cover of goodwill with which both the Greeks and Turks had attempted to cloak their differences, even up to the vote. It seemed to have been within the power of the UK delegation to say the word of encouragement which would have smoothed the way. Noble, however, put on a particularly austere performance and it is difficult to avoid the impression that the UK tactics were deliberately designed to keep the Greeks in isolation and force a vote which by a majority, at least would register approval of the UK's policy. In the end this is what happened but it may turn out to be a pyrrhic victory for the sympathy of the Committee had been engaged by the evident desire of the Greeks and Turks to produce a compromise to the extent that their foreign ministers were exchanging veiled compliments rather than ill-disguised insults. The unhelpfulness of the UK delegation was in contrast with the studied unpartisanship of the USA. Lodge abstained throughout the preliminary votes on the Turkish amendments and the Greek amendments to the Iranian resolution. They joined the majority however to vote in favour of the amended text which, despite the Greek objection, included their proposals and was in substance a reasonably satisfactory paper. The vote was 31 in favour (including Canada), 22 against, with 28 abstentions. Of the NATO countries, Greece and Iceland alone voted against and Italy, reflecting its more direct involvement in the question, abstained.

3. The UK, Greece and Turkey withdrew their resolutions and the contentious pro-Greek proposal inspired by India was also withdrawn.

4. The Colombian resolution which called for the UN and the Secretary General to participate in promoting a peaceful, just, and democratic solution to the problem, was put to the vote and rejected 17 in favour, 17 against (including Canada) with 47 abstentions.

5. The Belgian resolution, which had been considered unexceptionable and which recommended that all concerned should resume and continue their efforts in a spirit of cooperation with a view to reaching a friendly solution in accord with the purposes and principles