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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 2038

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CYPRUS

The debate on Cyprus began Tuesday with massive statements by Greece, the UK and Turkey in which they put their familiar arguments fully onto the record. The tone has been relatively unemotional and there seems to be a general feeling that there is room for compromise.

2. Averoff (Greece) laid emphasis on the formation of Cyprus as an independent entity free from the "repressions" of any outside power. The Greeks of course totally rejected the "monstrous" British plan which set up a joint government of Greek and Turk Cypriots under a British Governor. They believed that this would "plunge the knife of partition into the body of Cyprus" and make partition of the island certain and permanent. They are trying, not repeat not very nimbly, to woo the Asian-African group to their side by making allusion to "independence and freedom".

3. Noble (UK) insisted that the UK plan for Cyprus was the best possible working compromise in the circumstances and denied vigorously the Greek contention that the island would remain divided. He stressed that the plan would be in effect "a partnership", but that at present no repeat no binding decision need be taken in regard to the island's distant future. He did not repeat not exclude independence as an ultimate possibility and expressed the UK opinion that partition was not repeat not a solution. This last factor was most interesting and did something to re-establish the individuality of the positions of the three protagonists which may in turn reduce the Greek feeling of isolation. It was hopeful to hear Noble express satisfaction with the cessation of violence between the two communities, refuting in part the Turk premise that they cannot repeat not live together.

4. The Turks have attempted to disguise their interest in partition and have sought to identify their case with the UK position. Zorlu in his statement based his argument on the history of two separate common entities with divergent cultures, and urged the continuation of this separation. He attacked Greece bitterly and declared that there was no repeat no ground for belief in an independent Cyprus. He said that there was no repeat no Cypriot nation, not repeat not even a Cypriot political entity, and that no repeat no one was in a position even to consider such a situation.

5. France has been the only other speaker and seemed to voice the general view of all in expressing the hope that those concerned could find a solution.

6. Yesterday the exchanges between the three continued without perceptible advance towards a solution within the committee. Today the meetings are adjourned and the speakers list may be closed tomorrow. The real activity is in the corridors where compromise resolutions are sprouting, but as yet none has taken firm root, we are reporting on this aspect of the item in a separate telegram.