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Briefing Item

Ilichev's Cyprus Mission: Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev's mission to Turkey, Greece and Cyprus seems to be a success.

Ilichev received a warm reception in Athens, and his Nicosia visit is going very well. He has portrayed the Soviet Union as sympathetic to the plight of the Greek Cypriots and has proclaimed an identity of views with his hosts. At the same time, he has sought to preserve the image of even-handedness by meeting with Denktash.

Ilichev's reception in Ankara was somewhat cooler than in Athens and Nicosia, but he went out of his way to avoid offending the Turks. He sought renewed Turkish assurances that Ankara is not opposed to a sovereign and nonaligned Cyprus. In return, he offered explicit Soviet approval of a federated state. In an attempt to keep bilateral relations on the right track, Ilichev promised that the Turkish finance minister will have a "most fruitful" visit to Moscow this October.

The Turks received the impression from Ilichev's conduct that Moscow is increasingly concerned that the situation on Cyprus will become frozen, amounting to a de facto partition that could result in US military use of the island.

RGates:9/19/74



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E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3

NSC Memo, 3/30/06, State Dept. Guidelines

By W NARA Date 3/22/11

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