Message Text

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20
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01  EUR-25  ADP-00  IO-12  CIAE-00  DODE-00  PM-09  H-02

INR-09  L-03  NSAE-00  NSC-10  PA-03  RSC-01  PRS-01  SS-14

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R 140700 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO  SECSTATE WASHDC 7088
INFO AMEMBASSY AMKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUM
USDOCOSOUTH
USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICO SIA 522

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PIMT CQ
SUBJECT: CYPRUS: PATRIARCH OF AMTIOCH SUPPORT MAKARIOS AGAINST
         BISHOPS, GIVING ARCHBISHOP PROBABLE MAJORITY IN ANY
         APPEAL.

REF: NICO SIA 506 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: SEE SUBJECT.

1. CYPRUS PRESS AND RADIO REPORT THAT BISHOP OF ANTIOCH,
   ELIAS, HAS JOINED PATRIARCHS OF JERUSALEM AND ALEXANDRIA
   AND ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS IN DECLARING UNLAWFUL CYPRUS
   BISHOPS' MOVE TO DEFROCK MAKARIOS. ELIAS REPORTEDLY
   CABLED ARCHBISHOP THAT BISHOPS' ACTION WAS IN
   HIS VIEW "ABSOLUTELY VOID, IRREGULAR AND DEPLORABLE".
   HE REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS AND SAID HE
   CONTINUED RECOGNIZE HIM AS ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS.
   ARCHBISHOP OF SINAI AND BISHOPS OF PARAEUS AND MICAEA
   HAVE ALSO JOINED CHORUS OF ECCLESIASTICS SUPPORTING
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MAKARIOS.

2. COMMENT: ARCHBISHOP HAS SEVERAL COURSES OPEN TO HIM IN RESPONDING TO BISHOPS.

A) HE COULD APPEAL DECISION TO EXTRAORDINARY SYNOD. DEPENDING ON WHETHER SYNOD WERE CONSTITUTED ACCORDING TO CYPRUS CHURCH CHARTER OR CANON LAW, IT WOULD HAVE EIGHT OR 12 MEMBERS, DRAWN FROM FOUR GREEK PATRIARCHATES AND GREEK AND CYPRUS HOLY SYNODS.

B) HE COULD DEPOSE ONE OR MORE VYPRUS BISHOPS, CALLING FOR ELEVATIONS TO FILL VACANT SEATS.

C) HE COULD CONTINUE TO IGNORE BISHOPS, STANDING ON POSITION THAT SYNOD WHICH THEY CALLED TO TRY HIM, AND DECISIONS STEMMING FROM IT, ARE ILLEGAL.

3. SIGNS SO FAR ARE THAT ARCHBISHOP INTENDS TO IGNORE BISHOPS’ DECISION, WHILE MOVING TO DEPOSE BISHOP OF PAPHOS AT LEAST. BUT JUST POSSIBLY, HE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO APPEAL TO PARAMOUNT LEADERS OF GREE ORTHODOX CHURCH -- SO LONG AS VERDICT IS PREORDAINED. BISHOP OF ANTIOCH’S SUPPORT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS REGARD IN THAT IT PROBABLY ENABLES ARCHBISHOP TO WIN IN EITHER APPEAL XORUM. POLITICALLY, APPEALING TO SPECIAL SYNOD MIGHT HAVE ADVANTAGE OF CLEAR-VICTORY OVER BISHOPS, AND BY EXTENSION GRIVAS AND OTHERS WHO SET THEM IN MOTION, AND FROM STANDPOINT OF CYPRUS CHURCH, DECISION BY EXTRAORDINARY SYNOD WOULD PUT AN END TO DEVELOPING CHURCH SCHISM WHICH BISHOPS’ ACTIONS HAVE CREATED. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE ARCHBISHOP WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO INVOLVE OFF-ISLAND PRELATES.

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Subject: CYPRUS: PATRIARVH OF AMTIOCH SUPPORT MAKARIOS AGAINST BISHOPS, GIVING ARCHBISHOP PROBABLE MAJORITY IN ANY APPEAL
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