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Mike Freer MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Mike,

Thank you for your email and the attached letter of 7 October to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of Christos Karaolis, President of the National Federation of Cypriots in the UK, about Cyprus and the situation in Varosha.

The UK continues to be concerned by the announcement on 6 October by the Turkish President Erdoğan and Mr Ersin Tatar to open the beach within the fenced-off area of Varosha and the subsequent opening of this beach on 8 October. We have made representations to Turkey through our Embassy in Ankara both prior to and following the announcement. These have been reinforced by conversations with the Turkish Representative at the UN in New York and the Turkish Ambassador in London.

In response to the announcement, the UK called for the UN Security Council to hold closed consultations on the matter on 9 October. The UK continues to support the numerous Security Council Resolutions covering the issue of Varosha, notably 550 (1984) and 789 (1992). In this regard, we support the 9 October UN Presidential Statement reaffirming its support for the relevant Security Council Resolutions and expressing deep concern regarding the announcement.

The British Government continues to be a strong supporter of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus issue, based on the internationally accepted model of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. We welcome, therefore, the stated readiness of the sides to resume settlement talks and look forward to the resumption of dialogue. The issue of Varosha underlines the importance of reaching a comprehensive Cyprus Settlement as a matter of urgency and, as such, we continue to encourage the parties to engage constructively and demonstrate their commitment.

Yours ever,


Wendy Morton MP
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