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After an emergency meeting of the North Atlantic Council this afternoon, NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington issued the following statement:

"Following receipt of a number of reports that tensions in the Aegean had reached a serious level, an emergency session of the Council was called this afternoon. The general feeling expressed, other than by those directly involved, was that the present situation damages the interests of Greece and Turkey, and of the Alliance as a whole. Any intensification would make things worse. The issues in dispute were complex, no attempt to resolve them was made at our meeting. Greece and Turkey were urged to avoid any action or statement that might aggravate an already tense situation, and to make full use of the peaceful remedies available to them. Greece and Turkey were also encouraged to begin immediate discussions, and to avoid recourse to force at all costs.

"In view of a long-standing commitment of NATO Secretaries General to follow closely questions affecting Greece, Turkey and the Alliance, I am of course anxious to help in any way I can, provided that both Greece and Turkey, and the other allies, would wish me to do so, and provided that I could make a useful contribution."