BRITAIN'S envoy to Cyprus, David Hannay, started an intensive round of contacts on the divided island yesterday ahead of United Nations-sponsored settlement talks next month. Mr Hannay had an hour-long meeting with the Cypriot president, Glafcos Clerides, and was due to cross the barbed wire dividing the island for talks with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash.

envoy in Cyprus

Mr Denktash and Mr Clerides will meet in New York on July 9, their first meeting in three years, to try to end the 23-year division of Cyprus. Last week President Bill Clinton appointed Richard Holbrooke, negotiator of the 1995 Bosnia peace accord, as the US special emissary for Cyprus. — *Reuter, Nicosia*.