



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/448
13 September 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
Item 23 of the provisional agenda*

QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 11 September from the Permanent Representative
of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President
of the General Assembly

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 11 September 1980 addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, representative of the Turkish Federated State of Kibris.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 23 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Coskun KIRCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/35/150.

ANNEX

Letter dated 11 September 1980 from Mr. Nail Atalay
to the President of the General Assembly

In view of the resumption, on 16 September 1980, of the talks between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot sides (Secretary-General's report A/35/385-S/14100 of 11 August 1980), and taking into consideration that a political truce is absolutely essential if the talks are to be carried out in a climate conducive to achieving success at the negotiations, and considering that a debate at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the question of Cyprus will have negative repercussions on the climate of the talks, we request that the item on the question of Cyprus not be included in the agenda of the General Assembly.

However, if the General Assembly decides otherwise, we would very much appreciate the revision of the procedure followed at the Assembly last year in connexion with the question of Cyprus and the allocation of the item not to the plenary, but to an appropriate committee (e.g., Special Political Committee), so as to enable the Turkish Cypriot side to participate in the debate on the basis of equality with the Greek Cypriot side.

This, I believe, will no doubt be in accordance with the letter and spirit of General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX) adopted on 1 November 1974, on the question of Cyprus, and relevant Security Council resolutions, which recognized the principle of equality between the two parties and stressed that the dispute could only be solved through negotiations on an equal footing between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot sides. Further, this principle of equality was endorsed by the Denktas-Makarios framework agreement of 12 February 1977, a/ which was confirmed by the leaders of the two concerned national communities, Mr. Denktas and Mr. Kyprianou, at the summit meeting on 19 May 1979, which took place in Cyprus under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

Furthermore, our request is also in line with the Secretary-General's recommendation that "substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee" (A/34/320, para. 19).

The procedure followed during past sessions of the General Assembly has been contrary to the principle of intercommunal equality, and also prevented the Assembly from becoming fully aware of the views of the Turkish Cypriot side, one of the two principal parties to the Cyprus dispute, and hence made a meaningful and constructive debate impossible.

a/ See Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1977, document S/12323.

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If we are to have a meaningful and constructive debate, it is essential that this year the question of Cyprus should be allocated not to the plenary, but to an appropriate committee where the two national communities can participate fully in the debate on the basis of equality.

Once again, I would like to emphasize the unwavering adherence of the Turkish Cypriot side to the principle of non-alignment, and to reiterate that we will continue to show goodwill in order to reach an early solution to the Cyprus problem, based on a bi-national, bi-zonal, independent, non-aligned Federal Republic.

In view of the above, I would be most grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 23 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY
Representative of
the Turkish Federated
State of Kibris
