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EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR
ON CYPRUS AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Letter dated 22 December 1965 from the United Nations Mediator on Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

Quito, 22 December 1965

You will recall that after the Government of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership made known last April their negative reaction to my report on the mediation activities on Cyprus, I agreed at your request, to remain at the disposal of the parties concerned for the continuation of the mediation effort in accordance with the Security Council resolution of 4 March 1964.

It was not without long and painstaking thought that I took this decision, for I found myself faced with a most difficult dilemma. On the one hand, the controversy that had arisen over my report did not concern me alone, but through me it affected the principle of United Nations mediation and therefore all future mediation activities. On the other hand, I was fully aware that as long as the Turkish side maintained its negative attitude, I could not function effectively as Mediator.

In spite of this, I agreed to remain at the disposal of the parties because I was still hopeful that certain new elements would be injected into the Cyprus question in the foreseeable future, which might help overcome the impasse reached in the mediation effort. I was thinking particularly of the fact that the General Assembly was scheduled to take up the question of Cyprus at its twentieth session, for the first time since the outbreak of intercommunal struggle on the island in December 1963.

This debate of the General Assembly has now taken place. As you know, I have closely followed the recent consideration by both the General Assembly

and the Security Council of the question of Cyprus, and I have taken note of the results of the deliberations of each organ, especially in so far as they have had a bearing on the responsibilities which I assumed when you designated me as the Mediator.

While I have naturally been encouraged to observe the extent of the support expressed by Member States for the past efforts at mediation in the context of the Security Council resolution of 4 March 1964 and for the continuation of those efforts - which you yourself have always supported - I feel bound to continue to take account of the positions of those particular parties to the dispute to whom my terms of reference enjoin me to address my endeavours.

Among these parties, the Government of Turkey has, through a statement made by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations as recently as the meeting of the Security Council on 17 December 1965, described as irrevocable its position that the present arrangements for mediation are unacceptable to it. As you know, the Government concerned has made it clear that this position arises from its attitude towards the contents of the report which I submitted to you, in accordance with my terms of reference, on 26 March 1965.

I should like now to confirm to you the point of view which I have expressed to you on a number of occasions since the publication of my report. In brief, my primary and overriding concern has been and remains for the position of the United Nations mediation effort, and not for the status of the United Nations Mediator personally. I am confident that you have always understood my readiness to relinquish my responsibilities as Mediator at the very first moment when it might be concluded that my services could no longer contribute to the cause of mediation.

After considering the matter further in the light of the recent debates and resolutions to which I have referred and of the other circumstances mentioned above, I have concluded that in the interests of the continuation of efforts to find a solution to the Cyprus problem, I should now submit my resignation from the position of Mediator on Cyprus.

(Signed) Galo PLAZA

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2. Letter dated 30 December 1965 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the United Nations Mediator on Cyprus

New York, 30 December 1965

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22 December 1965 from Quito submitting your resignation from the position of United Nations Mediator on Cyprus.

It is with great regret that I learn of your final decision on this matter. I fully sympathize with you and, as I had occasion to tell you during our recent discussions here at Headquarters, I understand your views about the difficult and awkward situation in which you have been placed by the present impasse in the mediation activities, and also your desire not to stand in the way of a resumption of the mediation effort. I am very sorry about the circumstances that have, unnecessarily in my view, created this situation.

There can be little doubt, I fear, that it will be extremely difficult, in the light of what has happened, to reactivate the mediation procedure envisaged by the Security Council in its resolution of 4 March 1964. However, I will spare no effort to bring about a resumption of mediation, and hope that the parties directly concerned will display the utmost goodwill towards this end. It is my most sincere hope that, in view of your wide experience and outstanding service in the cause of the United Nations, you will agree to be available for further service in one capacity or another.

I take this opportunity to express to you once more my gratitude for your willingness to continue to be at the service of the parties during these past several months, and for having done so, on your own insistence, without accepting a salary except when actively engaged in your functions.

I have had occasion to express in the past what I should like to reaffirm now, namely, my deep appreciation of the work you have accomplished as United Nations Mediator on Cyprus and before that as my Special Representative there. In this respect, I refer particularly to your report, which I continue to regard as a most important contribution to the search for a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem.

It is my intention to have your letter and this reply circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) U THANT