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Thirty-third year

Letter dated 24 July 1978 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to a letter dated 20 July 1978 (A/33/187-S/12782) from the Permanent Representative of Turkey attaching as appendix a document entitled an "open message" of Mr. Rauf Denktash, regarding the new town of Famagusta, Varosha.

The purported proposals of the Turkish Cypriot leader, having regard to their time of submission and their content, show that they are patently devoid of good faith and earnestness. More particularly, the proposal regarding the opening of Varosha, hitherto a sealed-off city, is made with the single objective in mind to deceive world opinion and in particular the United States Congress in light of the consideration by the United States Senate of the lifting of the arms embargo placed on Turkey in 1974.

Behind the shield of the so-called "security of the Turkish Cypriots", Mr. Denktash's proposal makes it abundantly clear that not all the rightful residents of Varosha will be allowed to return to their homes and properties, and that a substantial part of the city would be retained under the Turkish occupation. Security for all the people of Cyprus can only be secured if the proposal by President Spyros Kyprianou for complete demilitarization under the supervision of the United Nations is accepted.

Furthermore, the Turkish proposal makes it clear that any measures to be taken to set up an "interim administration" will not affect the present status of Varosha. In other words, the town will remain under Turkish control. If the Turkish proposal is accepted, it would mean that the Government of Cyprus accepts the occupation of Cyprus territory by Turkey. The Government of Cyprus is invited to participate in the "Turkish Administration" of this occupied territory, in a restricted way, since such an interim administration will only deal with municipalities and the police.

* A/33/150.

The whole Turkish exercise could only be akin to the proverbial mouse from the labour of a mountain, having regard to the well-staged public relations campaign during the last few months. The fraudulent character of the Turkish proposal on Famagusta is clearly shown in the relevant explanatory note attached hereto.

Not long ago, Mr. Denktash missed no opportunity to state that Varosha, or "Maras" as the town was unlawfully renamed, would remain for ever Turkish, and Mr. Ecevit himself ordered the colonization of the town during the short time he served as interim Prime Minister in June 1977.

It is, therefore, clear that this remains the intrinsic policy of the Turkish side, otherwise, how could one explain Turkey's unprecedented efforts towards the lifting of the embargo, ranging from blackmail, as Senator Charles Percy said in a speech in the United States Senate on the 21st instant, to pretence of flexibility, and its failure to come up with a convincing gesture, despite the counsel of the Carter Administration?

The continuing Turkish intransigence is so thinly veiled that The New York Times in a leader entitled "Cyprus and the Senate", in its issue of 22 July 1978, describes the offer as "vague" and "scarcely sufficient" and goes on to admonish that "because ending Turkey's occupation remains an essential first step toward creating an atmosphere of trust, Congress should not yet relax the restriction on arms sales".

The New York Times description of the Turkish offer on Varosha and the call on the Senate to uphold the embargo until Turkey terminates the occupation of 40 per cent of Cyprus expose the Turkish ploy on the eve of the debate in Congress of the embargo and reveal Turkey's policy of wanting to have its cake and eat it too.

It is encouraging that, besides the Cypriot people, a growing number among international public opinion understand the fine print in the offer.

As regards the commencement of intercommunal talks, the Cyprus Government's position is that, in order that a meaningful and productive dialogue should become possible, the Turkish side should:

(a) Abandon its partitionist policy and withdraw its proposals based on dividing the island territorially and politically;

(b) Show respect for internationally accepted democratic principles in the constitutional structure of the State;

(c) Conform with the principle of establishing a true federal republic within the strict legal meaning of the term and not talk about federation while proposing partition.

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If Denktash's proposal was not intended to mislead the members of the American Congress, in view of the discussion of the Turkish arms embargo this week, and the Turkish side sincerely wishes to find a just and viable solution to the problem of Cyprus, safeguarding the true interests of the people of Cyprus, Greeks and Turks alike, it should, as President Kyprianou said, submit a concrete proposal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the return of Famagusta to the Government, along with new proposals of genuine federation safeguarding the principles of free movement, freedom of settlement, right of property and the withdrawal of the foreign troops. The Secretary-General would then be able to call for the resumption of the intercommunal negotiations in keeping with the agreement reached with the Secretary-General during his last visit to Cyprus.

In concluding, I wish to reiterate once again that my Government remains firmly attached to the procedure of intercommunal talks provided that there are the necessary prerequisites that they would be fruitful. It is generally accepted that the Turkish proposals of 13 April 1978 did not offer the basis for the resumption of negotiations and, therefore, any new Turkish proposals should offer common ground for a meaningful and constructive dialogue.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Angelos M. ANGELIDES
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Explanatory note concerning the Turkish proposals
on Famagusta

The area of the city of Famagusta proposed to be under interim United Nations authority can house about 5,000 Greek Cypriots since it consists of 1/7 of the area previously under the authority of the Famagusta Municipality. This fraction would, itself, be an enclave entirely within the Turkish occupied zone.

When the Turks talk of the return of 30,000 to 35,000 Greek Cypriots, obviously they mean that the refugees will be returned to the hotels and high-rise apartment buildings, and not to their own homes and neighbourhood which would remain under Turkish occupation.

It should be emphasized, though, that even if all the hotels and apartment buildings for touristic purposes are used to house the returnees, in no way can they accommodate the 30,000 to 35,000 refugees.

In late April 1978, the Secretary of the Famagusta Municipal Authority, Mr. N. Nikiforos, and the Cyprus Tourist Organization analysed the proposals submitted by Turkey to United Nations Secretary-General Waldheim in Vienna earlier that month. Following is the summary of their analysis:

(a) What the Turks want to keep:

1. 16 hotels with a capacity of 2,505 beds
2. The only hospital
3. The police headquarters and only police station
4. The government offices
5. Telecommunications building
6. Electricity Authority building
7. Main banks
8. Commercial centre of the city
9. The municipal markets
10. The Court-house
11. Municipality building
12. The harbour of Famagusta
13. The marina
14. Both stadiums
15. Both municipal tennis courts
16. Seven churches
17. Seven public and private high schools (gymnasiums for classic and economic studies, lyceums for commercial studies and foreign languages, as well as for hotel business)
18. Eleven elementary schools.

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Over and above all this, the Turks want to keep thousands of houses, complexes and high-rise buildings.

(b) What do they "offer" to the Greeks in the new enclave they are planning to establish?

1. 30 hotels with a capacity of 4,699 beds
2. No hospital
3. No police station
4. No government offices
5. No Court-house
6. No municipality building
7. No harbour
8. No stadiums
9. Three churches
10. One high school (gymnasium)
11. Four elementary schools.

Houses for about 5,000 and, in addition, high-rise buildings designed for tourist use situated in the 1/7 section of the city.

In a recent statement, the Mayor of Famagusta, Mr. A. Pougouros, strongly protested against the Turkish proposals with the following statement:

"The Turkish proposals for Famagusta constitute an unprecedented fraud. The Turks say they are ready to allow for a number of persons - always at their discretion - to return to a small territory in order to reactivate the hotels and the other tourist enterprises of the area.

"Most of the hotels and the tourist enterprises are situated in this area and it is obvious that their target is first to let the Greeks reactivate the hotels to work and gain the tourists. Once this is done, the second step is to force the Greeks out, using the same methods and tactics they used in Karpasia in the north.

"If the Turks mean to allow the return of people related to the hotel industry, this affects some 200 to 300 people. If they mean to allow the return of Greek-Cypriots to the 1/7 of the city, then they really mean that up to 5,000 persons can return to their homes."
