


**General Assembly    Security Council**

 Distr.  
GENERAL

 A/40/1081  
S/17759  

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23 January 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Fortieth session  
Agenda item 44  
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

 SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-first year

Letter dated 23 January 1986 from the Permanent Representative of  
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 17 January 1986 (A/40/1076-S/17743) and to provide you with additional information from Turkish press reports concerning the illegal influx of Turkish mainland settlers in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus and the adverse effect that this has had on the Turkish Cypriot community.

In an article in Yeniduzen (17 January 1986), Mr. Ergun Vehbi says that although it cannot be said that no crimes were committed in the past by Turkish Cypriots, crimes, nevertheless, remained at an extremely low level.

"But now," Mr. Vehbi points out, "the country has been turned into an inn where anyone can enter without control. Heroin and hashish smugglers are here. Thieves and down-and-outs are here. People who have fled their own country because of murder are here. Persons without any qualities who have been unsuccessful in finding themselves a job, even in the enormous country of Turkey, ... are here. The consequence of this is the multiplication of all sorts of crimes to such an extent that they cannot be checked with the possibilities of existing institutions. These crimes include the increase of indecent assaults on tourists and children, the increase of theft and smuggling cases and the increase of unemployment and the emigration of native educated youths." Mr. Vehbi further adds that "At this moment there are in this country 5,000 persons staying here without permit, selling cheap labour, hungry, who dwell in corner boarding houses or in holes and camps, people who commit or who are ready to commit crimes at every moment ... This is a reality that has been accepted and cannot be denied."

On 20 January 1986, Yeniduzen reported in an editorial that educated Turkish Cypriot youths, being unable to find themselves a job, were forced to emigrate and that in place of these people great numbers of uneducated people came from Turkey and did not return.

According to the same paper, in addition to this mass of Turks who come as "tourists" but never return, there are also those who come to Cyprus as soldiers and settle there after their demobilization. "The fact that the said soldiers are demobilized in Cyprus and not in Turkey encourages them to stay and settle in Cyprus" adds the paper. The same article in Yeniduzen further remarks that the "Government" admits these "tourist workers" and demobilized soldiers to "citizenship", and it says that it has been made known that during the past few months about 3,000 illegal workers have been granted "citizenship". Yeniduzen warns in this respect that if this is not stopped the occupied area "will lose its Turkish Cypriot character" in a few years and adds that it will not be difficult for the Turkish population, settling in the occupied area in numbers much greater than those of the educated Turkish Cypriots forced to leave the area, to constitute the majority there.

Furthermore, in an article published in Gunaydin's Cyprus supplement (21-28 January 1986), Mr. Resat Akar severely criticizes the Denktash régime for the uncontrolled current of Turkish "worker" settlers to Cyprus, which, as he ascertains, is "both unnecessary and unsuitable to the social structure" of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Mr. Akar adds that as a result of these "tourists" settling in the occupied area, the cases of theft, pickpocketing, rape and assault are increasing to such an extent that "if we look at incidents which took place here during the last year in relation to the population, we will find out that we are the only 'country' that has won the world championship in this respect."

The above Turkish press reports provide additional striking evidence concerning the anachronistic and abhorrent Turkish policy of colonization of the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus. As to the remarks by a "high ranking Turkish diplomat" made public through a United Nations Associated Press dispatch on 20 January 1986, by which the spokesman of the Turkish aggressor once again tried to refute the Turkish policy of colonization and present the settlers as "agricultural workers", let me quote what Mr. Ozker Ozgur, leader of the Republican Turkish party, had to say in November 1979 to a member of the Denktash régime when the latter tried to hide the fact that settlers had been brought to Cyprus. "Do you think we come from the moon? Do you try to deceive us too by saying things you say to foreigners? Be a little serious when you are talking. ..."

As to the contribution of these "seasonal workers" to the economic and social welfare of Cyprus, the statement of the late Dr. F. Küçük, former Vice-President of the Republic and Turkish Cypriot leader, on 24 May 1978, is right on point. The settlers, he said, "turned this paradise island into hell".

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the fortieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Constantine MOUSHOUTAS  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
Cyprus to the United Nations