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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CYPRUS

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to
decision 1985/108 of the Commission on Human Rights

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of decision 1985/108, which was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-first session, on 13 March 1985. By that decision the Commission postponed to its forty-second session the debate under the agenda item entitled "Question of Human Rights in Cyprus", it being understood that "action required by previous resolutions of the Commission on this subject should continue to remain operative, including the request to the Secretary-General to provide a report to the Commission regarding their implementation."

2. Since the circulation of my last report on this question on 19 December 1984 (E/CN.4/1985/22), I have appointed, effective 28 April 1985, Mr. Paul Wurth of Switzerland to succeed the late Claude Pilloud as the third member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee, Mr. Wurth was selected by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the agreement of the two sides. Following the appointment of its new third member the Committee resumed its substantive work in June 1985, and between June and December held two working sessions of four and five meetings respectively. The Committee's work has reached an advanced stage in nearly one quarter of the cases before it and initial work has been completed in nearly half of the cases.

3. The situation regarding the implementation of those provisions of previous resolutions of the Commission which deal with refugees and displaced persons and with changes in the demographic structure of Cyprus remains essentially as previously reported. The number of Greek Cypriots living in

the north of the island has further diminished since my last report and stood at 727 at the end of November 1985. The majority of Greek Cypriots who moved to the southern part of the island were elderly people who went to live with relatives. Since April 1979 children attending school in the south have not been permitted to visit their parents or grandparents living in the north, except in a few cases in which visits are arranged for compassionate reasons.

4. The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has continued its efforts under its mandate (see Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent relevant resolutions, most recently resolution 578 (1985) of 12 December 1985) to contribute as necessary to a return to normal conditions. UNFICYP has also continued to discharge humanitarian functions on behalf of Greek Cypriots in the north, as well as to make periodic visits to Turkish Cypriots in the south. UNFICYP has continued to verify that transfers or persons from one part of the island to the other take place voluntarily. It has also continued to provide its good offices on matters concerning the freedom of movement of Greek Cypriots in the north. In this connection, temporary visits to the south for family and other reasons were again arranged with the assistance of UNFICYP. Contacts between members of the Maronite community residing on both sides of the cease-fire lines remained frequent. In the north, Maronites continued to enjoy considerable freedom of movement, and visits from north to south and vice versa were frequent and were arranged on an ad hoc basis.

5. The activities of UNFICYP are described in greater detail in the Secretary-General's most recent reports to the Security Council on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/17227 and Add.1 and S/17657 and Add.1).