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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 22 September 1975 from the Permanent Representative  
of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the  
General Assembly

On behalf of a committee of Cypriot women refugee delegates representing the 200,000 refugees of Cyprus, consisting of Miss Katina Kassianou, Mrs. Alida Hadjiyiannis, Mrs. Dora Vassiliou and Miss Tassia Makrides, I have the honour to present to Your Excellency the Cyprus Scroll, a historic document, embodying a declaration, bearing the signatures of 150,000 Cypriot refugees.

As Your Excellency will see, the Scroll is modelled after an ancient document and the writing of the Declaration in four languages - Greek, Turkish, English and French - is the work of graphic artists.

The text of the declaration is annexed.

Your Excellency is kindly requested to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
Cyprus to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration

We, the men, women and children of Cyprus, who were displaced from our homes by force during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in July and August 1974 and whose signatures are inscribed below, do hereby declare:

In November 1974 the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously voted for resolution 3212 (XXIX), which, inter alia, demanded the return of all refugees to their homes in conditions of safety.

Now, in July 1975, one year after the unjustified Turkish invasion, the aim of which is to colonize the occupied areas of Cyprus with Turks from the mainland and to usurp our homes and properties, not a single refugee has been permitted to return home; many of us still live in tents and shacks under lamentable conditions not befitting human beings.

We are determined to continue to demand in the most emphatic manner our inalienable right to live in our homes in peace and security. This right not only do we ask for ourselves but also for all refugees throughout the world who are victims of aggression like us.

Our plight must not be allowed to continue as this would testify to the failure of the Governments and peoples of the civilized world to support actively the rights of the displaced persons of Cyprus to live in their homes in safety; and to the failure of the United Nations to take practical and effective measures to implement its own resolutions on Cyprus.

Now, therefore, we, the men, women and children of Cyprus who are undergoing indescribable anguish as a result of displacement from our homes and lands, do hereby entreat the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Security Council to take urgent and effective measures to implement resolution 3212 (XXIX), thus ending the human tragedy of the 200,000 Cypriot refugees:

By inscribing our signatures hereon we, the refugees of Cyprus, believe that this scroll will constitute a historic document for posterity, and a testimony to a human tragedy which has been brought about by flagrant aggression and which is permitted to continue under the eyes of a civilized world community in the second half of the twentieth century.

DRAWN UP IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS, this month of July, in the year 1975.

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