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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 17 November 1975 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. G. Clerides, President of the House of Representatives and Greek-Cypriot negotiator in the intercommunal talks in Vienna and New York, in reply to a question asked by the Associated Press Correspondent in Cyprus as to whether Turkish allegations to the effect that an agreement in principle had been reached on a number of issues regarding the solution of the Cyprus problem were true and whether any progress had been made, stated as follows:

"This allegation is to bly unfounded. No agreement has been reached on any point or issue either in principle or otherwise, regarding the solution of the Cyprus problem.

"Proposals were exchanged on some issues of the Cyprus problem, but the Turkish side, despite solemn commitments undertaken in the presence of the Secretary-General, has failed to submit proposals covering all the aspects of the Cyprus problem and as a result the negotiations broke down.

"In view of the lack of proposals by the Turkish side on all aspects of the Cyprus problem, no discussion has taken place of the proposals so far submitted by either side and no agreement has been reached in principle or otherwise on any of them or on any issue of the Cyprus problem.

"It is a fact that, at the third Vienna conference, an agreement was reached regarding the enclaved Greek Cypriots living in the north and the Turkish Cypriots living in the south. This agreement was reached on pure humanitarian reasons and the considerations behind it were: reunification of families, education, medical services and freedom of movement of UNFICYP in the north and of the Greek Cypriots living in the areas under Turkish control.

"Although the Greek side has fully implemented its part of this agreement, the Turkish side has failed to do so and up to the present moment there are still Greek Cypriots who have not been allowed to join their families in the north. Further, no Greek schools are functioning in areas under Turkish military occupation and no Greek doctors have been allowed to go to the north. UNFICYP's freedom of movement, in areas under Turkish occupation, is so limited that in reality it is non-existent. The same applies to the freedom of movement of Greek Cypriots living in areas under Turkish military occupation.

"I can certainly say that no progress at all has been made after four rounds of talks. On contrary, a complete impasse has resulted."

I should be grateful if this letter would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

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