

# UNITED NATIONS



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 27 August 1980 from the Permanent Representative of  
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 27 August 1980 addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, the representative of the Turkish Federated State of Kibris.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 23 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Coskun KIRCA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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\* A/35/150.

ANNEX

Letter dated 27 August 1980 from Mr. Nail Atalay  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 26 August 1980 addressed to Your Excellency by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Federated State of Kibris.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 23 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY  
Representative of the  
Turkish Federated State  
of Kibris

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APPENDIX

Letter dated 26 August 1980 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktas  
to the Secretary-General

I regret to have to bring to Your Excellency's notice a matter which has caused me and our people considerable concern and disappointment. It has been reported in the local Greek Cypriot press that the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus (which unlawfully and falsely still uses the usurped title of "the Cyprus Government") has protested to the United Nations authorities about the use recently in the UNFICYP magazine "Blue Beret" of the Turkish names "Lefkoşa" (which is the Turkish for "Nicosia" since 1571) and "Kibris" (which is the Turkish for "Cyprus" from time immemorial). The Greek Cypriot press reports a Greek Cypriot administration statement as saying that "the United Nations Secretariat has expressed its regret and informed the ministry (i.e. the Greek Cypriot foreign ministry) that instructions have been given to avoid such discrepancies in the future".

If the Greek Cypriot press reports are correct, then I consider that it is most unfortunate that the United Nations Secretariat should have given in to Greek Cypriot pressure and expressed "regret" simply because an UNFICYP magazine in referring to names of towns and places in North Cyprus had quite properly used the Turkish names. After all, these are the names which are in actual use in North Cyprus and, as stated above, have been used for centuries. What could be more natural than this when a magazine is referring to place names.

It appears that the Greek Cypriot "protest" has alleged that "Turkish Cypriots have altered the official names of 'Nicosia' and 'Cyprus'". This allegation is factually and legally incorrect, malicious and false. Under paragraph 1 of article 3 of the 1960 Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus (to which the Greek Cypriots since 1974 find it politically convenient to pay so much lip-service when it suits them) "the official languages of the Republic are Greek and Turkish". English is not an official language under that Constitution and the English names of the island and its capital - "Cyprus" and "Nicosia" respectively - cannot, therefore, be the official names. The official names under article 3 of the 1960 Constitution are the Turkish and Greek names, viz. "Kibris" and "Kypros".

In any event, surely it cannot be an offense for a member of UNFICYP or for an UNFICYP magazine to use names which are currently in use by the Turkish inhabitants of North Cyprus.

The Turkish name of Cyprus "Kibris" and Turkish place names have been in use for over 400 years. It is perfectly natural for the Turkish inhabitants of North Cyprus to use Turkish place names and it is equally natural for anybody else who refers to such place names to use the names used by the local inhabitants of those places. This is an internationally accepted principle of geography.

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Apart from the above valid considerations, we had explained at the time why we had decided to use the Turkish name for Cyprus - namely "Kibris" - even in the English translation of the title of our Federated State. Briefly, this is because the English name "Cyprus", as the result of false Greek propaganda and improper usage, had come to be synonymous with "the Greek Cypriot controlled area of South Cyprus" and the expression "Cyprus Government" had come to be wrongly used as meaning the Greek Cypriot administration. The Turkish people of Cyprus, therefore, wished to disassociate itself from this improper and restricted meaning which the English word "Cyprus" has come to acquire through improper use. In order that the world may know and be reminded of the existence in the island of two separate autonomous administrations (as recorded at the Geneva conference on 30 July 1974) - the Turkish Cypriot administration in the North and the Greek Cypriot administration in the South - the Turkish people of Cyprus have decided to use the word "Kibris".

It does not fall under the jurisdiction or the mandate of UNFICYP to alter the existing indisputable realities of Cyprus. It would be very harmful to the United Nations Mission of "good offices" if the United Nations, at the whim of one of the parties to the dispute, should participate in efforts by that party to change the place names used by the other party to the dispute in the area exclusively under its control. In such an event, the United Nations would be in effect taking sides in favour of one party to the detriment of the other. When the reported United Nations "apology" to the Greek Cypriot administration regarding this matter is viewed in that light Your Excellency will appreciate the concern which we justly feel.

Your Excellency will, I am sure, concede that it is our right to use Turkish names in our own area - as we used for centuries - and this is the lawful and constitutional right of our Government also. After using the Turkish names of places in the Turkish Federated State of Kibris, anyone who wishes could also use the English version of the name in brackets after the Turkish name, e.g., "Lefkoşa (Nicosia)" or "Kibris (Cyprus)". After all, as pointed out above, even the 1960 Constitution accepts only Turkish and Greek as the official languages.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 23 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

Rauf R. DENKTAS  
President  
Turkish Federated State of Kibris

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