

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/64
S/13040
18 January 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fourth session
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 17 January 1979 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 17 January 1979 addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, the representative of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Cyprus", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 17 January 1979 from Mr. Nail Atalay to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 2 January 1979 addressed to Your Excellency by His Excellency Mr. Kenan Atakol, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Tourism of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Cyprus", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY
Representative

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APPENDIX

Letter dated 2 January 1979 from Mr. Kenan Atakol to
the Secretary-General

It has come to our knowledge that two experts from UNESCO have arrived in Cyprus to advise the so-called Government of Cyprus, about the setting up of a "Cyprus University".

At the outset I would like to bring to your kind attention that, under the conditions prevailing in Cyprus at present, the Turkish Cypriot community - the co-founder partner of the Republic of Cyprus - will not be able to derive any benefits from such university. Furthermore, setting up of a university in the Greek Cypriot zone of Cyprus at this stage would without doubt encourage the Greek Cypriot side to continue its present political, social and economic discrimination against the Turkish Cypriot community.

As it is known, the Republic of Cyprus is a bi-national State based on the existence of two communities which share in the independence and sovereignty of Cyprus on an equal basis. This equality is entrenched in the 1960 Constitution of the Republic and is based on international agreements.

Under the 1960 Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus education is strictly a communal matter, which should be run by the Turkish and Greek Communal Chambers respectively with statutory grants from the budget of the Republic.

Article 87 of the Constitution stipulates that,

"The Communal Chambers shall, in relation to their respective Community, have competence to exercise within the limits of this Constitution legislative power solely with regard to the following matters:

...

(b) All educational, cultural and teaching matters,

...

(f) To impose personal taxes and fees on members of their respective Community."

Furthermore, Article 88 of the Constitution states that each financial year the budget should make available for payment:

"(b) to the Turkish Communal Chamber an amount not less than the sum of four hundred thousand pounds."

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The payment of this amount, however, which covered only two thirds of the expenses of Turkish education was arbitrarily stopped by the Greek Cypriot Administration simultaneously with the Greek Cypriot onslaught of December 1963. The total of these unpaid allocations to the Turkish Communal Chamber since 1963 amounts to nearly 15 million Cyprus pounds. Apart from this, damage done to school buildings, teachers' lodgings and other school establishments in the Turkish villages during the Greek Cypriot attacks is estimated over 3 million Cyprus pounds.

In 1965, the Greek side, in flagrant violation of the Constitution of the Republic, dissolved the Greek Cypriot Communal Chamber and unilaterally formed a so-called "Ministry of Education" which in fact took over the administration and financial responsibility of Greek Cypriot education. The object in doing this was to create the false impression that there was a single authority responsible for educational and cultural matters in Cyprus and thus claimed the right to present Cyprus as a whole in the General Assemblies of UNESCO and other educational and cultural organizations.

The continuous violation of the Constitution of the Republic by the Greek side since 1963 and the ejection of the Turkish element from the Government in that year rendered this Government illegal and unconstitutional. However, owing to its de facto superiority over the Turkish community, which was achieved by force of arms, the Greek Cypriot Administration managed to pose to the world as "the Government of Cyprus" until 1974. It was the timely intervention of Turkey which followed the coup d'état of July 1974 that put an end to the tyranny of the Greek Cypriot Administration, saved the independence of Cyprus and elimination of the Turkish Cypriot community.

As a result of the events of July 1974 two autonomous administrations, each exercising control over its respective zone in the island, were established. The existence of these administrations was recognized by the three guarantor States - Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland - and by the resolutions adopted subsequently by the General Assembly of the United Nations organizations.

Furthermore, at the summit meeting of 12 February 1977, held in Nicosia in the presence of Your Excellency between His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktas, President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, and the late Archbishop Makarios, the establishment in Cyprus of an independent, bi-communal, bi-zonal republic was agreed upon. In this regard the Turkish Cypriot side, with a view to resuming the intercommunal talks, submitted its proposals in April 1978 which were described by Your Excellency as "concrete and substantial". Upon the rejection of these proposals by the Greek Cypriot side the Turkish side also made it known that it was prepared to start the talks on an open agenda.

In view of the above and the recognition of the bi-communality of Cyprus both at the intercommunal as well as at the international level, and at a time when intensive efforts are being made for the resumption of the intercommunal talks with a view to finding a peaceful and just solution to the Cyprus problem the attitude

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of UNESCO to send two of its eminent personalities to Cyprus with the purpose of advising the so-called Government of Cyprus on the setting up of a "Cyprus University" before a political settlement is reached will, beyond any doubt, encourage the Greek Cypriot side to continue its anti-Turkish campaign, and to escalate its economic, political and social warfare against the Turkish Cypriot community.

I am confident that the views and reservations expressed in this communication as regards the setting up of a university in the Greek Cypriot zone with the help of UNESCO will be taken into serious consideration so as to avoid grave injustice and discrimination against the Turkish Cypriot community.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Cyprus", and of the Security Council.

Kenan ATAKOL
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Tourism
