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Letter dated 4 December 1978 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the statement made on 28 November 1978 at a press conference by Mr. Denktash, who, in rejecting for the Turkish Cypriot community the recent resolution of the Security Council, declared as his belief that "the time has come for the establishment of a separate State".

Such manifestations by Mr. Denktash of his brazen contempt for the unanimous Security Council decisions, and particularly his eagerness for the partition of the island, are concrete facts of serious concern. They cannot be ignored in assessing the needed good faith in any intercommunal talks on the future constitutional arrangements for the Republic of Cyprus in terms of one undivided and independent State - when declarations by the prospective interlocutors from the other side are so revealing of their partitionist objective and lack of good faith as to run counter to the very purpose of the negotiations.

By way of confirmation of the absence of good faith comes the second part of Mr. Denktash's statement, in which he again tries to distort the proved agreement by which he undertook, in the presence of the Secretary-General, as appears in the official report, that the remaining 15,000 Greek Cypriots in the north would be "free to stay and that they will be given every help to lead a normal life, including facilities for education and for the practice of their religion, as well as medical care by their own doctors and freedom of movement in the north". 1/

This agreement was in its entirety reneged and violated by the Turkish occupation forces and their accessories, who proceeded through intensified harassment and threats to life to expel the remaining Greek Cypriots from the north, with the result that the 15,000 have been reduced to 1,700. This is what Mr. Denktash is daring enough to call "exchange of population".

1/ Official Records of the Security Council, Thirtieth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1975, document S/11789, annex, para. 2.

A/33/420
S/12954
English
Page 2

The fact that it was the Turkish army, and not the Turkish Cypriots, that actually violated by their force the agreement, could not provide a possible excuse. It simply proves that meaningful intercommunal negotiations are totally incompatible with the continued presence and activities of the Turkish forces of occupation. This was envisaged in the order of sequence of the United Nations resolutions in Cyprus.

I would be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council.

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