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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 23 March 1978 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 23 March 1978, addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, the representative of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this letter were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ilder TURKMEN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 23 March 1978 from Mr. Nail Atalay  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 15 March 1978, addressed to Your Excellency by H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this letter were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY  
Representative

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APPENDIX

Letter dated 15 March 1978 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktas  
to the Secretary-General

It has come to my knowledge that the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations, Mr. Zenon Rossides, in a letter dated 7 March 1978 (A/33/62) addressed to Your Excellency referred to the Turkish names given to a number of villages in north Cyprus and put forward the ridiculous allegation that the aim underlying these changes was to partition the island.

This matter was raised by the Greek Cypriot Administration's representative at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in Athens between 17 August and 7 September 1977, and a reasoned reply was given thereat to similar false and misleading Greek Cypriot allegations. Your Excellency and the whole world are aware that our aim is to set up a bicomunal, biregional federal republic enabling the two communities on the island to live side by side in peace and security on the basis of the four principles agreed upon between myself and the late Archbishop Makarios at the summit meeting held on 12 February 1977. It is indeed regrettable that, at a time when everybody is anxiously awaiting the resumption of the intercommunal talks for finding a solution to the Cyprus problem on the above basis, Mr. Rossides should attempt to spoil the atmosphere by exploiting the arena of the international Organization to disseminate false, misleading and ill-conceived accusations against Turkey and the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

In Cyprus, a bicomunal and bilingual island since 1571, a great number of villages enjoyed either Greek or Turkish names according to the people who lived in them. Some villages enjoyed two names, one in Turkish and one in Greek. Some examples of dual names are:

<u>Greek</u>	<u>Turkish</u>
Akaki	Akaça
Alevga	Alevkaya
Amadhies	Amatyez
Angolemi	Angolem
Ayia	Ayabekir
Skyllouras	Sillura
Ay Dhometios	Incirli
Ayomoloyitadhes	Balcielmasi
Dhyo Potami	Ikidere
Eliophotes	Alifotez
Epikho	Abohor
Episkopi	Piskobu
Aglanja	Eylence
Omorphita	Küçük Kaymaklı
Kalokhorio	Çamlıköy

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Kalyvakia	Kalavaç
Karavostassi	Gemikonagi
Kochati	Koççat
Neokhorio	Minareliköy
Nisou	Dizdarköy
Ornithi	Ornuta
Minzelli	Ortaköy
Petra tou Dhiyeni	Yeniceköy
Trakhonas	Kizilbaş
Ayia Sarandes	Kirkklar Tekkesi
Dhromolaxia	Mormenekşe
Kalochorio	Vuda
Kellia	Celya
Sophtadhes	Softalar
Mari	Tatlisu

The wilful and unjustified change of names (of villages and streets) has been political pastime of the Greek Cypriot leaders for a long number of years. Protestations by the Turkish community were never heeded. Thus the historical Bairaktar Square was changed into Heroes Square, and so on. Historical Turkish monuments and martyrs' tombs were rudely bulldozed off in order not to leave any vestige of four centuries of Turkish heritage in the island.

The Turkish Cypriot community, soon after the signing of the Zurich and London Agreements in 1959, re-endorsed the Turkish names of the purely Turkish villages which had been given Greek names by the Greeks and circulated these names to the District Offices throughout the island. Since then the original Turkish names of these villages have been used and during the joint republican years, from 1960 to 1963, the post offices all over the island have delivered letters to these villages under these original Turkish names.

As Your Excellency is no doubt aware, until the Greek Cypriot onslaught on the Turkish community in December 1963 Turks lived in 127 purely Turkish and 103 mixed villages. As a result of the Greek Cypriot onslaught, we have to abandon 103 villages. Thus for 11 years, 30,000 inhabitants of these 103 villages had to squeeze themselves into the remaining 127 villages in search of security.

On 20 July 1974, when the Greek Cypriot forces were to deal the final blow on the bicomunal independence of Cyprus and on the Turkish Cypriot community, Turkey intervened and saved us from mass murder. In Aloa (Atlilar), Sandallari (Sandallar), Maratha (Murataç'a), Tokhni (Taşkent), Ktima (Baf), Maroni, Mari (Tatlisu) and other places, where the Turkish army could not reach, all the Turkish Cypriots were mowed down. Hundreds of them were later discovered in common graves by the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

At the third round of the Vienna talks, the movement of the Turkish Cypriots from the Greek areas to the north was agreed upon and UNFICYP helped the

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remaining Turks in Greek areas to move north in September 1975. All in all half of the Turkish population - 65,000 people - moved north and settled in Greek villages while the Greek Cypriots who moved south settled in the Turkish villages. It is, to say the least, unrealistic for Mr. Rossides to ignore all these developments and to accuse Turkey of forcibly expelling Greek Cypriots from their homes in north Cyprus.

This exchange of population, and the rehabilitation work it involved for both sides, necessitated a consideration of Turkish names for the new habitations. Where the village had enjoyed dual name there was no problem, the Turks continued to refer to the village with its historical original Turkish name; but where the village had purely a Greek name a new name in Turkish had to be coined. This matter was considered by the Council of Ministers of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus and at its ordinary meeting on 26 December 1975 the Constituent Assembly of the Federated State adopted a list of names for the newly populated area. Turkey had nothing to do with this communal decision which was taken and implemented by the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Federated State in accordance with its legal and legitimate rights. The question of changing traditional names does not arise. In a bilingual country one has to accept that certain places will have bilingual names.

I should be grateful if this communication could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ  
President  
Turkish Federated State of  
Cyprus

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