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SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 23 May 1978 from the Permanent Representative  
of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-  
General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the statement by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktas, President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, which was disclosed to the press following the meeting with Your Excellency on Monday, 22 May 1978.

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

(Signed) Ilter TURKMEN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

\* A/33/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement by Mr. Rauf R. Denktas issued on 22 May 1978

I had a discussion on the question of Cyprus with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim.

This meeting gave me the opportunity to reconfirm in detail the position of the Turkish Cypriot community regarding the intercommunal talks.

This position can be summarized as follows:

The Turkish Cypriot community believes that sustained intensive good faith negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities with a view to reaching a just, lasting and mutually satisfactory settlement on Cyprus should not be delayed any longer. With this goal in mind, the Turkish Cypriot representatives presented to the Secretary-General, on 13 April 1978, a description of the proposals that the Turkish side is prepared to put on the table once the intercommunal talks are reconvened. These proposals, it has been stressed, represent a negotiating position that can provide a starting point for discussions. The Turkish side had made a commitment to the Secretary-General to engage in negotiations with an open mind and in a spirit of conciliation and flexibility.

The Turkish side is prepared, in short, for a genuine and productive dialogue. It is the belief of the Turkish Cypriot community that intercommunal negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations should be immediately resumed.

The Greek side will not contribute to a settlement of the Cyprus issue by refraining from negotiations when the Turkish Cypriot attitude is so conciliatory.

It is the Turkish Cypriot belief that the guidelines agreed upon by Archbishop Makarios and myself at our meeting in February 1977 constitute the essential framework for a Cyprus settlement, according to which Cyprus must be a sovereign, independent, non-aligned, bicomunal and bizonal federal State.

The federal structure should incorporate, as indicated in the constitutional proposals of the Turkish side, joint constitutional legislative and executive bodies as well as such functions as foreign affairs, external defence, banking, foreign exchange and monetary affairs, federal budget, customs duties and tariffs, external communications, federal health services, tourism and information.

In addition to such federal governmental structure and functions, the constitution must also provide satisfactory safeguards for the rights of individual Cypriots without infringing upon the bizonal and bicomunal character of the federal State envisaged.

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The Turkish side is prepared to consider significant geographical readjustments in the light of its economic viability and security requirements which would enable a considerable number of Greek Cypriots to resettle.

It has been the long-standing position of the Turkish Government that upon conclusion of the Cyprus settlement all Turkish military forces will be withdrawn from the island, except those whose continued presence will be authorized under the terms of the settlement. This position has been reaffirmed since 1975. The Turkish Government has already withdrawn some 16,000 troops from Cyprus and it is my understanding that it is prepared to make further such reductions as the intercommunal negotiations progress.

As further demonstration of the forthcoming approach of the Turkish side, I announce that it is the Turkish Cypriot position that as negotiations progress Greek Cypriot inhabitants of the city of Varosha may commence returning to their homes and businesses. We believe that approximately 30,000 to 35,000 Greek Cypriots can eventually be accommodated in Varosha under arrangements that would meet the legitimate security concerns of the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities. As far as the long-term status of Varosha is concerned the Turkish Cypriot side is fully prepared to discuss alternative formulae once the intercommunal talks are resumed. It has already been stressed that the future political framework of Varosha is open to negotiations. All these are envisaged in the Turkish Cypriot proposals and were explained to the Secretary-General on 13 April 1978.

These proposals also indicate that the freedom of movement shall be fully implemented through progressive stages to be agreed upon by both sides in a way that will ensure security and the freedom of settlement will be enlarged in time in a way that would increase co-operation between the two national communities while at the same time preserve the basic bizonal and bicomunal character of the federal State.

The Turkish Cypriot side is also eager to discuss with the Greek Cypriot side other practical steps to heal the wounds of the past. Discussions could be initiated under the auspices of the United Nations on reopening Nicosia Airport for civilian traffic, providing also for initial United Nations use.

It would also be productive to discuss immediate co-operative efforts in the economic areas such as the construction of a pipeline to bring water from Turkey to Cyprus for use by both communities.

It is the Turkish Cypriot view that the resumption of negotiations on a Cyprus settlement and on related issues should not be dependent on extraneous factors, but should commence immediately. The Turkish Cypriot community stands ready to meet at any time with the Greek Cypriot community to work in good faith to reach a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

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I understand that both Mr. Kyprianou and myself will be in the United States of America for some time. It will be much better if, instead of working with cross purposes, we would come together in a search of a solution to the benefit of both communities.

I want to reiterate what I said to the press on Friday, 19 May 1978: I am ready to meet Mr. Kyprianou, anywhere, any time and to discuss the problem with him even without any agenda.

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