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Thirty-third year

Letter dated 25 May 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 25 May 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) Iltar TURKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 25 May 1978 from Mr. Nail Atalay to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 10 May 1978 addressed to Your Excellency by His Excellency Mr. Osman Örek, the Prime Minister 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 10 May 1978 from Mr. Osman Örek to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to a letter dated 7 April 1978 addressed to Your Excellency by Mr. Joseph J. Stephanides, the so-called Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Greek Cypriot delegation to the United Nations, and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/33/77-S/12635).

I do not feel that the letter in question, which abounds with preposterous and totally unfounded allegations in customary Greek Cypriot fashion, merits a comprehensive reply or even serious consideration. Nevertheless I would like to set the record straight with regard to certain gross misrepresentations, without, however, reciprocating in the same aggressive tenor of the representative of the Greek Cypriot Administration. Needless to say, the offensive and purely negative approach of the Greek Cypriot representatives cannot possibly contribute in the slightest degree to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the intercommunal talks, let alone accord with the alleged will of the Greek Cypriot side to achieve a peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem. Such futile rhetoric merely repeating ad nauseam the same illusionary allegations cannot possibly constitute a serious and sincere effort to facilitate the solution of the Cyprus problem, but on the contrary serves to escalate tension and foster division.

As regards the allegations relating to the conditions of the Greek Cypriot inhabitants of northern Cyprus, it is indeed ironic that such falsities should have been uttered and recorded as an official document of the United Nations on the very same day when two representatives of the International Red Cross, Miss Simonious and Mr. Grindling, were visiting the exact areas referred to, freely and unaccompanied in the usual manner. The representatives of the International Red Cross had free access to each and every area where Greek Cypriots reside in northern Cyprus, including areas where the alleged "medieval" conditions are said to prevail, and were free to contact every Greek Cypriot they wished to speak to - a fact that can no doubt be verified by the Red Cross, if called upon to do so. Indeed, such visits are made to the area by the International Red Cross on a routine basis.

Contrary to Greek Cypriot allegations, the fact is that Greek Cypriots living in northern Cyprus enjoy the same rights and freedoms as Turkish Cypriots, including the freedom of movement, subject only to minimum security precautions in accordance with the situation prevailing on the island. Greek Cypriots frequently travel from village to village within the Karpass area and have free access to their fields. Needless to say all security measures have been gradually relaxed parallel to normalization in the situation on the island and this process will continue with further improvement in the situation.

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Greek Cypriots have access to excellent health services and well equipped schools are available for primary education in Greek. Any impartial observer visiting the areas where the Greek Cypriots are living can vouch for the existence of such facilities. Indeed the availability of impressive health services to Greek Cypriots without discrimination has been recently confirmed by the representatives of the International Red Cross who visited the area.

Moreover, the Greek Cypriot inhabitants of northern Cyprus themselves are fully satisfied with the treatment they receive from the authorities of the Turkish Federated State. In the field of agriculture, which constitutes the main occupation of Greek Cypriots living in the Karpass area, for example, they are paid good prices for their produce, equal to that paid to Turkish Cypriots, and all necessary incentives, such as advance payment for the tobacco crop, are provided to all inhabitants of the region without discrimination.

The fact that conditions for Greek Cypriots living in northern Cyprus are perfectly satisfactory is evident from the number of Greek Cypriot students who apply to visit their families in the north during their holidays. Only recently 149 students crossed to the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus to spend their Easter holidays with their families. Surely if the living conditions of Greek Cypriots in northern Cyprus were as described by Mr. Stephanides, these students would not wish to spend their holidays in the Turkish Federated State.

As to the repeated Greek Cypriot allegations regarding expulsions from the north, one need only look at the most recent report of the Secretary-General which categorically states that a machinery exists under United Nations supervision to verify that all Greek Cypriots going south do so voluntarily.

As to the allegations of the Greek Cypriot representative regarding so-called "colonization by Turkey", it is pertinent to point out that these allegations have been refuted time and again by the Turkish Cypriot side and duly recorded in documents of the United Nations. Surely the settlement of Turkish Cypriot displaced persons and the return of Turkish Cypriots, previously forced to leave the island by the oppressive policies of the Greek Cypriot Administration, cannot be described as "colonization". In any case the Turkish Cypriot case is not based on the numerical strength of the two communities; had it been so, there would be no need to import "alien" population, for there are no less than 300,000 Turkish Cypriots or their immediate descendants living in Turkey, over 40,000 in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and many thousands more in Australia, Canada and elsewhere who are always willing to return to their homeland if and when the opportunity arises.

It is unfortunate that the Greek Cypriot side attributes more importance to the prolongation of the Cyprus issue and the continuation of external pressures on the Turkish side than it does to the early solution of the Cyprus problem. Surely the Greek Cypriot side must realize that it serves no useful purpose, let alone contribute to the solution of the Cyprus problem, to come up with a series of fictitious allegations merely because they desire the prolongation of the Cyprus

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problem for ulterior political motives, especially at a time when genuine peace initiatives have been made by the Turkish Cypriot side to bring about a settlement. Moreover, the approach of the Greek Cypriot side is incompatible with the need to engage in meaningful negotiations in good faith with a view to reaching a just and permanent solution of the Cyprus problem.

It is most discouraging that despite the sincere efforts of the Turkish Cypriot side to achieve a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem and to reconcile the differences between the two communities through intercommunal negotiations conducted in good faith, the Greek Cypriot side has chosen to intensify its malicious propaganda warfare against the Turkish side and is doing its best to prevent the resumption of the talks. Such irresponsible actions against the Turkish side are clearly inconsistent with the professed desire of the Greek Cypriot side to settle the Cyprus problem through the process of intercommunal talks.

If the Greek Cypriot leaders genuinely desire the early solution of the Cyprus problem and sincerely wish to contribute to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the intercommunal talks, which are acknowledged by all circles, including the United Nations, to be the only means of achieving a solution, they should refrain from futile, senseless and destructive propaganda. They would do better to use their energy for constructive efforts aimed at creating understanding between the two communities, instead of wasting it on the fabrication of irresponsible anti-Turkish literature.

I should be grateful if this letter were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ÖREK
Prime Minister
