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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 26 May 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my President, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, I have the honour to draw the attention of Your Excellency and that of the representatives of States Members of the United Nations to the situation in the occupied north regarding the plight of the Turkish Cypriots living under the rule of the Turkish army of occupation and at the mercy of the settlers massively transported from the mainland of Turkey after the invasion.

The Turkish Cypriot leader, Dr. Fazil Kutchuk, former Vice-President of the Republic, in a series of articles published in the Turkish newspaper Halkin Sesi, describing the situation, wrote: "This paradise island has been turned into real hell."

Dr. Kutchuk confirmed that the settlers had been given houses, land, food and even money. He charged that they "insulted the local Turkish Cypriots, spat at policemen, strangled and robbed the people, burglarized houses and raped local girls". The Turkish Cypriot population dare not go out into the streets and the situation remains, he said, the same today. Dr. Kutchuk declared that "the Turkish settlers gave the most unabashed example of savagery".

Describing the situation in the villages as really serious, Dr. Kutchuk asked the Turkish Premier Ecevit "to get them out of Cyprus". He emphasized that "the sooner the settlers are sent back, the sooner the Turkish Cypriots will find tranquillity".

According to reported estimates, over 40,000 mainland Turks are in the occupied part of Cyprus in an attempt to colonize the area and change the population structure of the island.

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Bearing in mind that the Government of Cyprus is de jure in control over the whole territory of the Republic and responsible for the lives and well-being of all its citizens, this letter is a strong protest in defence of the basic and elementary human rights of its citizens living in the aggressively occupied north.

I confidently trust that Your Excellency will take such steps in this matter as may be deemed appropriate.

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