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LETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1976 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 21 September 1976,
addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Vedat Çelik, Deputy Prime Minister of the Turkish
Federated State of Cyprus.

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

(Signed) Iltar TÜRKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 21 September 1976 from Mr. Vedat Çelik
addressed to the Secretary-General

The various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council on Cyprus, adopted since 1974, have undisputedly established the principle of equality between the two parties to the Cyprus dispute, namely the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities.

The same resolutions have further recognized that a solution to the Cyprus problem can only be achieved through negotiations to be carried out on an equal footing, between the two sides.

The procedure, however, adopted by the General Assembly during the debate on Cyprus last year, far from being in conformity with the principle of equality of the parties thus established, has caused great injustice to the Turkish Cypriot side.

As is well known, during the debates on Cyprus last year, contrary to the letter and spirit of the United Nations resolutions, the Turkish Cypriot community has not been granted equal participation and equal say at all levels of the debate, thus making it impossible for it to express its views on the subject before the world body ruled on the matter.

The procedure which was followed last year, specifically the allocation of the agenda item to the Plenary, the suspension of the debate in the Plenary in order to enable the two communities to express their views in the Special Political Committee and then the resumption of the debate in the Plenary, fails to uphold the principle of intercommunal equality. For, while the Greek Cypriot side is enabled to participate in the debate on Cyprus throughout its course, the Turkish Cypriot side's participation is restricted to a short intervention in the Special Political Committee before the debate proper at the Plenary. The past procedure is thus not only contrary to the principle of intercommunal equality, but also prevents the General Assembly from getting fully acquainted with the views of the Turkish Cypriot side, the other principal party to the dispute.

This issue of the procedure on Cyprus to be followed during the thirty-first session will be decided upon by the General Committee in the next few days and the decision thus taken will be of paramount importance.

If we are to have a meaningful and constructive debate, if we are to enhance the prospects for an early resumption of the intercommunal talks and speed up an early political settlement, the Cyprus issue should be allocated to a forum where the two communities can and will fully participate on the basis of equality. Otherwise, the result will be a one-sided monologue as last year in which case the Turkish Cypriot side will have no other alternative but to dissociate itself from the proceedings of the General Assembly.

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Vedat ÇELİK
Deputy Prime Minister of the
Turkish Federated State of Cyprus
