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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 15 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 15 June 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 circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Iltter TURKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 15 June 1978 from Mr. Nail Atalay to the Secretary-General

Mr. Rossides's letter of 13 June 1978 (A/33/137-S/12737) is yet another of his planned and timed outbursts against Turkey. This time he has found the opportunity in a fire which started in open fields and spread to certain orchards in no-man's land. Field fires are, unfortunately, a frequent occurrence in the dry season in Cyprus. Last year there were a great number of them deep in the territory of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus as well as in the depth of the Greek controlled south and in no-man's land. But to Mr. Rossides every fire, no matter its place and cause, is of Turkish origin.

The United Nations authorities in Cyprus do not share Mr. Rossides's view and that in itself is sufficient answer to him. It is significant, however, that the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) thanked the Turkish Forces stationed in the area for their devoted service for putting out the fire. This is the UNFICYP communiqué:

"10 June 1978

"UNFICYP
The Area Commander

"re: Fire fighting Kato Kopia, 9 June 1978.

"1. The United Nations wishes to thank all members of the Turkish Army who co-operated with the United Nations soldiers in extinguishing the fire near Kato Kopia on 9 June 1978. It would have been impossible to put out the fire without the help of the Turkish soldiers.

"2. The United Nations look forward to similar co-operation in the unfortunate event of further fires.

(Signed)
Colonel J. G. Aldous"

It is relevant to state that when the Greek press reported the fire - and as if in chorus accused the Turks for it - mention was never made of the efforts of the Turkish soldiers in putting out this fire.

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) Nail ATALAY
Representative
