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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions, I have the honour to express on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus its gratitude for the humanitarian assistance afforded by the international community to the people of Cyprus over the period of 1 September 1974 to 31 December 1974. In this connexion, the Government would like to emphasize its gratitude to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the excellent way he has handled this difficult humanitarian task.

In addition to the funds made available as a result of the international appeal, the Government inputs to the relief of displaced and needy persons amount to \$13M. Of this sum, part emanated from voluntary contributions made by Cypriots to the "Fund for the Relief of Displaced Persons", specially created by the Government for the relief of such persons.

Regrettably, the situation is still grave. It is estimated that there are now in the country some 210,000 needy or displaced persons requiring assistance over the next few months. Their living conditions are aggravated by the winter. In addition to contributions to the fund mentioned above, the Government has imposed a series of emergency taxation measures, the proceeds of which are to be exclusively used for the relief of displaced and needy persons. However, the economic life of the country as a whole has been so severely disrupted that the amounts that can be raised from internal sources are greatly restricted and cannot even cover the basic needs of the persons affected. As the World Food Programme has already been informed, stocks of food available to the Government are at an absolute minimum. Moreover, the number of persons in need of aid is expected to increase because social insurance funds and reserves will be exhausted and because the economic situation is likely to deteriorate. The Government, in order to arrest this trend, is preparing special projects for the promotion of temporary employment.

It is with deep satisfaction that the Government has been informed that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in his capacity as United Nations Co-ordinator of humanitarian assistance to Cyprus, and pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX), endorsed by Security Council resolution 364 (1974), has launched an appeal for humanitarian assistance to

Cyprus for the period of 1 January 1975 to 30 April 1975. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus expresses the hope that the international community will respond generously to the High Commissioner's appeal.

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

(Signed)

Zenon ROSSIDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations
