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LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I should be grateful if you would circulate as an official document of the
Security Council the TASS statement of 16 February 1975 concerning Cyprus.

The text of the statement is enclosed.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

TASS statement of 16 February 1975

There has recently been a further complication of the situation in Cyprus. The leaders of the Turkish community have unilaterally taken steps to establish a separate State formation in the part of the territory of the island occupied by Turkish troops. These steps are in fact designed to consolidate the situation which resulted from the armed interference from outside in the affairs of the Republic of Cyprus.

This action was taken at a time when talks were being held in Nicosia between the communities, with the aim of achieving a mutually acceptable and just settlement of the questions concerning the internal structure of the Cypriot State. This is therefore another attempt by certain NATO circles to undermine the settlement process and to partition the island against the interests of the Cypriot people.

These actions are in clear contradiction to the decisions of the United Nations, which express support for the lawfully elected Government of Cyprus and seek to guarantee the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to ensure that foreign troops are withdrawn immediately and that the Cypriots are given an opportunity to decide themselves questions concerning the internal structure of Cyprus.

From the very beginning of the conflict in Cyprus, the Soviet Union has consistently championed the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Cypriot State and supported its lawful Government. The Soviet Government has repeatedly emphasized that attempts to solve the problem of Cyprus within the narrow circle of the member States of NATO, with the help of military force and political dictates, are fraught with serious complications.

Guided by the interests of peace and international security, the Soviet Union has, as will be recalled, put forward a proposal, which was supported by the Government of Cyprus and by the Governments of many other countries, that the problem of Cyprus should be considered in a broad international forum and that a representative conference should be convened for this purpose within the framework of the United Nations. The current development of the situation in Cyprus once again confirms the correctness and the necessity of precisely such an approach to the solution of the Cyprus problem.

It is considered in ruling circles in the Soviet Union that the situation which has arisen requires the immediate implementation of the United Nations decisions on Cyprus in their entirety. It is the duty of all States to promote this goal and to make energetic efforts for the preservation of Cyprus as an independent, sovereign and territorially integral State.
