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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session had before it my report on the question of Cyprus dated 25 November 1980 (A/35/659). On 10 December 1980, the Assembly, on a proposal of its President, adopted a decision (35/428) to defer consideration of this item; on 18 September 1981, the Assembly decided to include the question of Cyprus in the agenda of its thirty-sixth session. My report of 25 November 1980 remains before the General Assembly. The information in the following paragraphs is submitted for the purpose of bringing that report up to date.

II. GOOD OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2. The intercommunal talks have continued in accordance with the agreed procedure (see A/35/659, para. 4); the two interlocutors, Mr. George Ioannides for the Greek Cypriot side and Mr. Umit Suleyman Onan for the Turkish Cypriot side, have met almost weekly under the auspices of my Special Representative, Mr. Hugo Gobbi. By early December 1980, both sides had stated their initial positions on the four items on their agenda. The talks were in recess from 10 December 1980 to 7 January 1981.

3. Between December 1980 and May 1981, I had frequent occasion to maintain direct personal contact with the parties concerned at the appropriate levels. The purpose of those contacts was to facilitate the conduct of the negotiations and explore possible new approaches. Similarly, my Special Representative in Cyprus, Mr. Gobbi, continued intensive consultations with both sides. These talks enabled me and my representatives to explore the possible outlines of a partial interim agreement that might be negotiated by the interlocutors as a first step towards a comprehensive settlement. During April and May 1981, it appeared, however, that the parties concerned were focusing for the most part on the possibility of moving towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, involving the interconnected consideration of the constitutional and territorial aspects. That approach was the subject of further exploratory talks by my Special Representative, who then came to United Nations Headquarters for consultations in June and again at the end of July 1981.

4. Both sides agreed on another short recess of the intercommunal talks in late May and June 1981 in connexion with the holding of elections in the island. Shortly after the resumption of the talks, on 5 August 1981, the Turkish Cypriot interlocutor submitted the comprehensive proposals of his community for the solution of the Cyprus problem, including a map showing a suggested territorial arrangement. On 19 August, the interlocutors agreed to take up henceforth all four agenda items at each meeting in order to accelerate the pace of the talks and to facilitate the negotiating process. On 26 August, the Greek Cypriot interlocutor presented his side's views on the new Turkish Cypriot proposals, and on 9 September he submitted further proposals for a solution of the Cyprus problem. The Turkish Cypriot interlocutor commented on those proposals at the meeting of the intercommunal talks held on 16 September.

5. Following the submission of these new proposals by both communities and in the light of the gap that still prevailed between the two sides, I asked my Special Representative to come to New York in September for consultations on ways and means of overcoming the difficulties, including the possible submission of an evaluation of the present status of the negotiations, which might serve as a negotiating vehicle for the intercommunal talks. In late September I had an opportunity to exchange views, in New York, with the Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Greece, and with His Excellency Mr. Denktash and Dr. Atakol. On 12 and 13 October, also in New York, I had the opportunity to discuss the situation with President Kyprianou in the presence of Foreign Minister Rolandis.

6. Following Mr. Gobbi's return to Cyprus, the intercommunal talks were resumed on 16 October 1981. Intensive consultations continued with both sides and, on 22 October, Mr. Gobbi on my behalf handed to Mr. Kyprianou and to Mr. Denktash an advance unofficial informal text containing elements of an "evaluation" of the status of the negotiations with regard to some aspects of the Cyprus problem. The Greek Cypriot side informed my Special Representative on 10 November that, while reserving its position on the content of this informal text, it would explain fully its views at the intercommunal talks when the document was submitted officially. The Turkish Cypriot side indicated to Mr. Gobbi that it would be prepared to discuss the "evaluation" within the framework of the intercommunal talks. At the meeting of the intercommunal talks of 18 November, the "evaluation" was officially submitted by my Special Representative for the consideration of the parties. The two sides put forward their initial views and general comments, and agreed to hold the next meeting of the intercommunal talks on 2 December 1981.

III. OTHER PROVISIONS

7. As regards other provisions of the various resolutions of the General Assembly on this item, the situation remains essentially as described in my reports to the General Assembly dated 8 November 1979 (A/34/620) and 25 November 1980 (A/35/659). The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continues to supervise the cease-fire lines of the Cyprus National Guard and the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces and to provide security for civilians in the buffer zone between those lines. It also discharges certain humanitarian responsibilities (see A/34/620, paras. 22 and 24). In this connexion, UNFICYP assisted in the transfer from north to south at their request of 90 Greek Cypriots during the first 10 months of 1981. As of 31 October, 1,086 Greek Cypriots were residing in the north. Some 187 Turkish Cypriots remain in the south.

8. As regards the question of setting up an investigatory body concerning the tracing of and accounting for missing persons, agreement was reached in April 1981 on the establishment of a Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus. The Committee consists of three members, one "humanitarian person" from each community and one official - Mr. Pilloud - selected for this purpose by the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the agreement of both sides, and appointed by me. The Committee began its work in July 1981. I regret to say, however, that procedural difficulties have made it impossible so far for the Committee to embark upon its substantive work, despite intensive efforts by the members of the Committee and all

possible assistance provided by my representatives, including informal exchanges of views at United Nations Headquarters to facilitate the work of the Committee. A meeting of the Committee convened for 20 November 1981 had to be postponed because of the illness of Mr. Pilloud. Efforts are being made to convene another meeting at the earliest possible date, at which time proposals for the solution of the outstanding procedural difficulties will be discussed.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

9. The search for a just and lasting solution of the Cyprus problem underwent a rapid evolution during the period under review. Both interlocutors in the intercommunal talks submitted new or revised proposals. For the first time, both sides have now put forward concrete territorial arrangements, with maps, in addition to constitutional arrangements, as the proposed basis for a comprehensive settlement. There followed on 22 October the submission by my Special Representative, on my behalf, of the elements of an evaluation of the status of the negotiations with regard to some aspects of the Cyprus problem. That paper, which was drawn up in the exercise of the good offices mission entrusted to me by the Security Council, does not purport to introduce proposals as a basis for negotiations for the solution of the Cyprus problem. Rather, it analyses the positions of the parties and seeks to identify certain major points of coincidence and equidistance. In this context, the paper suggests certain ideas or working hypotheses, derived for the most part from a concurrent examination of the positions of the parties, and conceived as parameters for productive negotiations by the interlocutors on those points. Other points have been reserved for a more advanced stage of the negotiations.

10. It is my hope that the formal submission of the "evaluation" paper at the intercommunal talks will mark the beginning of a new and fruitful phase in the long search for a negotiated settlement. As I have pointed out in my previous reports to the General Assembly, there is no alternative to a concrete and effective negotiating process if a mutually acceptable, just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem is to be achieved. While the intercommunal talks represent, in my view, the best available method for pursuing this process, the evaluation paper constitutes a determined effort to lend structure and substance to it. It will be for the parties to avail themselves of the opportunities for fruitful negotiations that have now been offered to them.

11. With regard to the question of missing persons, I have followed with concern the difficulties, mostly of a procedural nature, that have prevented the Committee on Missing Persons from embarking on the concrete task for which it was established. The intensive consultations and informal exchanges of views undertaken by my representatives for the past weeks appear to have improved the prospects of having the Committee resolve the outstanding procedural issues that have blocked its progress. I hope that the Committee will now convene for this purpose, and devote itself to the solution of this painful humanitarian issue in a spirit of good faith and mutual confidence. For this purpose financial and budgetary arrangements will have to be made to ensure the continuing work of the Committee.
