

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECURITY COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/119
S/13163
13 March 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fourth session
Item 21 of the preliminary list*
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 13 March 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to a truly alarming statement by Mr. Raif Denktash during a joint meeting of "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus Parliamentarians" and Turkish Assembly Parliamentarians on July 1977.

This statement was quoted verbatim from the minutes of the "Assembly" in the Turkish Cypriot newspaper Yeniz Duzen of 8 March 1979 and, translated into English, it reads as follows:

"The Varosha region has remained as a military region since the peace operation. If today there is a Greek imprint in Varosha, it is not our Government's fault. The task to open the Varosha region and the erasure of the Greek imprint falls on the Turkish Government. All along we wanted the opening up of this place and its resettlement.

"The national victory is the property of no party. This victory belongs to our compatriots - who even sacrificed their daily food - to Mehmetciks, fighters and to our nation as a whole.

"We consider a war necessary in Cyprus from the viewpoint of possessing the whole of the island. Many nations want to extend domination over Cyprus, whereas we only want the Turkish domination. The Cyprus question is the question of the whole Turkish nation. At any moment we should be ready for war on civilian and military levels ...".

Mr. Raif Denktash is not just the son of the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Rauf Denktash and a member of the "Assembly", but he is also the publisher of

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the ruling party's newspaper Zaman and is well-known for his close relations with the Turkish "Nationalist Action Party" of Mr. Turkesh.

In strongly protesting the aforesaid menacing statement which clearly reveals Turkey's expansionist and annexationist policy and exposes its true intentions, I wish to draw attention to the fact that it brings to the surface not only the reasons why difficulties are constantly encountered on the Famagusta issue but also why Turkey is not willing to settle the Cyprus question peacefully by sustained and meaningful dialogue.

The statement of Mr. Raif Denktash is crystal clear and no litigious sophism can redeem it.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 21 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations
