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Letter dated 19 March 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 19 March 1979 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 21 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 19 March 1979 from Mr. Nail Atalay to the
Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 13 March 1979 (A/34/119 and Corr.1-S/13163 and Corr.1) addressed to Your Excellency by Mr. Andreas V. Mavrommatis, the so-called "Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations", regarding a statement made by Mr. Raif Denktas during a joint meeting of Turkish Federated State of Cyprus Parliamentarians and Turkish Assembly Parliamentarians on 23 July 1977.

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Tourism of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus in connexion with the above-mentioned case:

"Mr. Rolandis' hasty and ridiculous contention stems from a speech by Mr. Raif Denktas, which has been flagrantly distorted and misinterpreted both by Yeni Düzen and Mr. Rolandis, and alleged to have been made during a debate at the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

"The statement by Mr. Raif Denktas, referred to above, was in fact made at a private meeting of Turkish deputies of the Legislative Assembly with their counterparts from Turkey and not during a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

"It appears that Mr. Rolandis was looking for a pretext to undermine the favourable climate which was brought about ever since the presentation of concrete and substantial Turkish proposals to the Greek Cypriot side and thus boost the dwindling morale of the Greek Cypriots. He now thinks he has seized this opportunity and hopes to reverse the tide against the Turkish side by indulging in unjustified propaganda warfare.

"Mr. Rolandis knows very well that, had Turkey wanted to occupy the whole of island, she could have done so on 20 July 1974, when the junta elements of General Gizikis and General Ioannides in Cyprus, in collusion with the illegally formed National Guard of the Greek Cypriots, had conspired to overthrow the Makarios Administration, unite the island with Greece and thus terminate the independence of territorially integral country. Turkey's foreign policy vis-à-vis the Cyprus question has always been consistent, the main tenets of which are based upon a federal solution, envisaging the participation of the two communities of the island in an independent, bi-zonal and bi-national republic. Mr. Rolandis' hasty statement that Turkey plans to total occupation of Cyprus in future, and his instructions to his representative in New York to protest over this imaginary occupation threat, does not therefore portray the truth and is a further proof of the ill-intentions of the Greek Cypriots.

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"The correct version of Mr. Raif Denktas' statement which was grossly distorted and reported out of context reads as follows:

'... It should be borne in mind that there are thousands of Turkish troops stationed along the frontier who face an imminent attack by the enemy. There is a point which has so far been neglected: We see a war in Cyprus as inevitable. We do not expect to derive a solution through political means. We believe that the present situation in Cyprus will eventually lead way to a war which will enable one of the warring parties to grasp the whole of the island ...'

"It seems that Mr. Rolandis would have done a better service to his community if he had concentrated on the cancellation of a standing enosis resolution, which was adopted in 1967 by the House of Representatives of the Greek Cypriot Administration and which was never annulled even after the coup d'état against the Makarios régime, instead of indulging in unjustified propaganda warfare against the Turkish side, in an attempt to mislead the world public opinion about a private speech of a Turkish deputy.

"We take this opportunity to declare once more that the Turkish Cypriots stand resolutely by the resolution of the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus of 5 November 1976, which had unanimously adopted that the Republic of Cyprus would be an independent sovereign, secular and bi-zonal Federal Republic within the framework of which the existing equal rights and authority of the two communities in all spheres of life shall be safeguarded and maintained."

May I take this opportunity to also point out that the Greek Cypriot leadership and its representatives recently have started to use the names of Famagusta and Varosha interchangeably, as if they are the names of the same area. As is well known, Varosha is the resort area of the district of Famagusta.

I would also like to add that, as anybody who is familiar with the political scene in the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus would confirm, Mr. Raif Denktas is a member of the Parliament who is known to act and speak out independently.

As I have stated on several occasions, repetitions and exploitations of statements often reported out of context would serve no purpose but to create a bad atmosphere not conducive to better relations. On our side we have tried to refrain from making use of warlike and explosive statements made by the Greek Cypriots. For instance, the Greek Cypriot Archbishop Hrisostomos, on 9 March 1979, described as "defeatists" those who had advised the Greek Cypriot leaders to be realistic and said:

"Voices are heard both from inside and outside which advise us to be realistic and accept the facts as they are, since we do not have the power to change them. We cannot listen to such voices of defeatism and forget what happened in this island. We have a duty to fulfil in this homeland. We have a duty to keep this land as a whole and liberate it.

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"So let us fight, my brothers. Let us fight in order to be able one day to sing the march of victory, not only in the churches of the South but also in the North."

The exhortation of Archbishop Hrisostomos is yet another proof of the aggressive aims of the Greek Cypriot side which has never stopped dreaming of the conquest and annexation of Cyprus to Greece. His call for "liberation" is an oblique call for "enosis". However, we did not bother Your Excellency by reporting this extremely provocative statement.

I would like to repeat once again that both sides should and must refrain from harmful propaganda exercises which are obviously not conducive to a peaceful solution of the problem of Cyprus.

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) Nail ATALAY
Representative