



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/37/791
S/15544
4 January 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-seventh session
Agenda item 37
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 December 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my previous communications on the subject of the unlawful expropriation and confiscation of the properties, homes and lands of the expelled Cypriots from the occupied parts of Cyprus by the Turkish occupation forces, I have the honour to draw once more Your Excellency's attention to Turkish Cypriot press reports of 21 December 1982 to the effect that the first "definitive possession certificates" have been issued by the Turkish occupation authorities to those "eligible".

As Your Excellency is aware, this illegal action follows the statement, on 1 November 1982, by the so-called Minister of the Interior of the Denktash régime, Mr. Esber Serakinci, to the effect that "definitive possession certificates" will be issued shortly. Mr. Serakinci went on to add that, with these certificates, the usurpers of the lands of the expelled Cypriots "will be able to rent, sell, mortgage and distribute them". What Your Excellency may find most revealing of the annexation designs of Turkey is the disturbing fact that, according to the same statement, the persons appearing in the "property distribution" list will include "Turkey's armed forces personnel" and others.

This action by Turkey is in clear violation of international law, the United Nations Charter, and of specific General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on Cyprus. It is accompanied by the massive implantation into the Republic of thousands of settlers from the mainland of Turkey and the decision to establish a central bank and to introduce the Turkish lira as a "legal tender" in the occupied areas. All these actions are a further affirmation, if such were needed, of the partitionist and annexationist policy of Ankara and of its ruthless determination not to allow the forcefully-expelled indigenous inhabitants to return to their ancestral homes and lands, as demanded by the relevant United Nations resolutions.

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The ominous implications of these illegal actions of Ankara in the occupied areas of Cyprus are in contemptuous disregard of the decisions of the Security Council. They accentuate the agonizing dilemma of Cyprus and pose a challenge to the United Nations to take prompt and effective action on this matter. If the United Nations remains a passive observer to this grave injustice, which is perpetuated against the people of a small, non-aligned State Member of the United Nations, the world Organization will suffer yet another serious setback, causing further erosion of its prestige and usefulness.

In protesting strongly, on behalf of my Government, against the above inhuman actions of Ankara, I express the hope that Your Excellency will take all possible steps to arrest and reverse these abhorrent illegalities, which strike at the very heart of your efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution of the problem of Cyprus, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. In so doing, Your Excellency's action will contribute to the cause of justice in Cyprus and will result in meaningful benefits for our battered Organization.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Constantine MOUSHOUTAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations
