

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.1/753
15 October 1954

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

~~Fifth~~ session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 62

APPLICATION, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES
IN THE CASE OF THE POPULATION OF THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 12 October 1954, from the Permanent
representative of Greece to the Secretary-General

Following my letter No. 3332 of 25 September 1954, I have the honour to request you to kindly arrange for the circulation, as a document of the General Assembly, of the letter addressed to Your Excellency and the British Prime Minister on 6 September 1954 by the Mayor of Nicosia on behalf of all the Mayors of Cyprus.

(Signed) Christian X. Palamas
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

Nicosia, 6th September, 1954

Honourable Sir,

On behalf of all Municipalities of Cyprus, the Councils of which are the only elected bodies in the island besides the Archbishop, the Bishops and the Church Committees, and by authority of the Greek Mayors, Deputy-Mayors and Municipal Councillors, who have assembled in a meeting in the Nicosia Town Hall on 11th August 1954, in order to confer on the island's situation as it presents itself following the announcement of His Excellency the Governor on the 28th July 1954 that a constitution will be introduced in the island, and the statement of the Attorney General which was subsequently

54-27886

made on the 2nd August 1954, regarding the revival of the anti-sedition laws, published in the Cyprus Gazette and distributed in thousands of copies in Greek, English and Turkish, have the honour to lay before Your honour the following conclusions which were reached by the aforementioned Municipal Authorities:

- (a) The recently announced intention of the British Government to introduce a constitution in the island, proves on the one hand that it underestimates the intelligence of the Cypriots and shows contempt for their repeatedly expressed views and attitude regarding the constitution, and on the other, it defames them as being immature for self-determination. The official admittance by the Government that the proposed constitution is less liberal to the one which was offered six years ago and was rejected by the people, is at the same time an official recognition of the fact that Colonial policies cannot be successfully applied to Cyprus and that they lower instead of promoting political standards in the island.
- (b) The statement according to which "the law relating to sedition will henceforth be strictly enforced" is entirely incompatible with the unquestionably peaceful character of the struggle of the Cypriots and betrays the bad motives by which the British Government is inspired.

In view of the above conclusions, the Municipal Authorities have unanimously reached the following resolutions:

1. They strongly protest against the declared one-sided decision of the British Government to condemn Cypriots to eternal slavery, without letting them, contrary to all divine and human law, to freely express their views, as they are entitled to, being the other party in the dispute. The British Government has thus disregarded the struggles which Cypriots have been fighting for three thousand years together with the rest of the Greeks, and recently on the side of Great Britain, for the preservation or regaining of their freedom and the freedom of other peoples; it has also disregarded the contribution of the Greek Cypriots to world civilization as well as, their standard of civilization.

2. They strongly protest against this conduct of the British Government, which is unbecoming of civilized peoples and which shows contempt for the moral claim of the people of Cyprus for Union with Greece, which they have been repeatedly declaring since the British occupation of the island, and which was laudably expressed recently by the Unimpeachable Plebiscite of 1950.
3. They condemn unreservedly the attempt of the British Government to dominate the will of the Cypriots, not by persuasion but by forcing them to silence and by essentially abolishing in this way freedom of conscience and freedom of written or oral expression of their views and attitude with regard to British policy and to their own political future, in the vain hope that it will thus alter their feelings and impede their peaceful struggle for regaining their freedom. This action of the British Government takes place at a time when Britain tries to appear in public declarations as the champion of the principles of self-determination which it has indeed applied in the case of other peoples, including coloured races, in comparison with whom the people of Cyprus are inferior only in material force.
4. They believe unshakeably and declare most emphatically, before God and Man, that no form of constitution whatsoever can satisfy the intellectual and material needs of the Greek people of the island, and, that their rights and wishes can only be satisfied by recognizing for the people of Cyprus of the right to self-determination and by the recognition of the result of the application of this principle, by the Ruling Power. They firmly insist on their repeatedly expressed aspirations and wishes the satisfaction of which they will seek by all lawful means offering their assistance to the Ethnarchic Church of the Island.
5. They appeal to all civilized peoples to help the small and weak people of Cyprus in their peaceful struggle for obtaining the right to self-determination.

I have the honour to be, etc.

By Authority of the Municipal Councils of Cyprus

(THEM. N. DERVIS)
Mayor of Nicosia