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Thirty-seventh session  
Agenda item 37

### QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 27 April 1983 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to  
the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 27 April 1983 addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, representative of the Turkish Federated State of Kibris.

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.

(Signed) Onur GÖKÇE  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 27 April 1983 from Mr. Nail Atalay to  
the President of the General Assembly

At its forthcoming meeting, the General Assembly will decide the procedure to be followed regarding the question of Cyprus at its resumed thirty-seventh session.

This important decision will have vital consequences on the usefulness of the debate. We request, therefore, revision of the past procedure followed by the General Assembly in connection with the question of Cyprus. The appropriate change in procedure would be the allocation of this item not to the plenary as in the past, but to a Main Committee. The adoption of this new procedure would, undoubtedly, be in compliance with those United Nations resolutions that recognize the equality between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities and stress the fact that the dispute can best be solved through negotiations on an equal footing between them. This principle of equality, furthermore, has also been endorsed by the Denktas-Makarios framework agreement of 12 February 1977, later confirmed by the two leaders of the two national communities, Mr. Denktas and Mr. Kyprianou, at the summit meeting 19 May 1979.

Our request is fully consonant with decision 34/401 of the General Assembly to the effect that "substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there are compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meeting".

During the past sessions, the procedure followed by the General Assembly has been contrary to the principle of intercommunal equality. This has prevented the General Assembly from becoming properly informed of the views of the Turkish Cypriot side, one of the two principal parties to the dispute, a fact that has, so far, made it impossible to hold a meaningful and constructive debate on the item.

To avoid another inadequate debate this year, and to make possible an informative and constructive debate, the question of Cyprus should be allocated, not to the plenary, but to an appropriate Committee, where the two national communities may fully participate in the debate throughout its entire course on the basis of equality.

I should once more like to renew to Your Excellency our assurance that my community adheres unwaveringly to the principle of reaching an early solution for the Cyprus problem through intercommunal negotiations, a solution based on a sovereign, independent, bi-communal, bi-zonal and non-aligned Federal Republic.

In view of the above, I should be most grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY  
Representative of the  
Turkish Federated State of Kibris

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