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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 6 May 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to a letter dated 29 April 1983 (A/37/804), addressed to Your Excellency by the Chargé d'affaires, a. i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations, forwarding, in violation of established diplomatic practice, a letter purportedly emanating from the "representative" of a non-existent entity in that part of Cyprus which is occupied by Turkey.

By this letter, it is suggested that the well-established procedure for the consideration of the Cyprus problem by the United Nations should be revised. The procedure followed so far involves a delicate balance struck in 1974 after arduous efforts and negotiations and was complied with by Turkey in the past. The Secretary-General's memorandum on the organization of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly (A/BUR/37/1, para. 31) states the following in relation to the question of Cyprus "... the General Committee will recall that at its thirty-fourth session the General Assembly decided to consider this item directly in plenary meeting on the understanding that it would, when considering the item, invite the Special Political Committee to meet for the purpose of affording representatives of the Cypriot communities an opportunity to take the floor in the Committee in order to express their views, and that it would then resume its consideration of the item, taking into account the report of the Special Political Committee".

To disturb this delicate balance will not only create a dangerous precedent scrupulously followed on the question of Cyprus at the thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly, but would also result in lending support to the Turkish effort to undermine the sovereignty of all States Members of the United Nations.

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In support of arguments made, as repeatedly as they were rejected by the General Assembly in the past, for revision of the existing procedure, reference is made to decision 34/401 which was adopted by the Assembly in 1979. Since then, however, all major international problems, including the question of Cyprus, which was described by the Secretary-General as one of the three major international problems confronting the world community to-day, as well as those of Palestine, the Middle East, and Namibia, were quite rightly considered in plenary following a decision of the General Assembly to that effect upon the recommendation of the General Committee.

The fact that the problem of Cyprus involves an act of aggression and continuing occupation, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, constitute additional compelling reasons under the aforementioned decision 34/401 for consideration directly in plenary of this major international problem, involving grave threat to international peace and security.

The "negotiations taking place on an equal footing, with the good offices of the Secretary-General, between the representatives of the two communities" referred to in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX) in no way grants the right to either the Greek or Turkish Cypriot community to usurp the functions of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus or appear before such international forums or organs as are reserved exclusively for representatives of Government of sovereign Member States.

For the aforesaid reasons, we are confident that the General Committee and the General Assembly will adhere to established practice, rejecting, as in the past, the unwarranted and dangerous proposal sponsored by Turkey.

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

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

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