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Letter dated 22 September 1983 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 22 September 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 General Assembly, under item 41 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Coşkun KIRCA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 22 September 1983 from Mr. Nail Atalay to the  
Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter (A/38/315-S/15888 of 27 July 1983) of Mr. Phedon Phedonos-Vadet, the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Greek Cypriot administration, on the subject of the 20th July celebrations in the Turkish Federated State of Kibris.

At the outset I wish to stress that neither Mr. Phedonos-Vadet, nor any other official of the Greek Cypriot administration, has the legal, constitutional or the moral right to represent or act on behalf of the bi-national Republic of Cyprus as a whole, of which the Turkish Cypriot people is a co-founder partner.

Notwithstanding Mr. Phedonos-Vadet's illegitimate and pretentious status, I would now like to respond to the allegations he has made in his letter under reference. The Greek Cypriot Chargé d'Affaires' reaction to the abovementioned occasion in North Cyprus, upon instructions from his so-called "Government", is a further attempt to misrepresent the facts in Cyprus and is a new display of political immaturity, as well as the Greek Cypriot administration's lack of respect for the Turkish Cypriots and the Turkish nation in general.

"The thousands of murdered victims" and "the material destruction" to which Mr. Phedonos-Vadet refers in his said letter, are nothing but the casualties of the junta-inspired coup d'etat of 15 July 1974, in which Greek Cypriots mercilessly murdered other Greek Cypriots without sparing, on the way, Turkish Cypriots. This massacre would have continued unabated had Turkey not acted in time in accordance with her Treaty rights and obligations to put an end to the 11 year-old brutal attempt for destroying the bi-communality of the state and with it the ultimate destruction of the co-founder partner of the Republic, the Turkish Cypriot people.

In this connection, I cannot do better than quote the late Archbishop Makarios himself, who bears the historical blame for trying to destroy the bi-communal Republic of Cyprus on the altar of Enosis, who had stated before the Security Council on 19 July 1974, in the wake of the coup, that "The coup caused much bloodshed and took a great toll of human lives." (S/PV.1780). The late Archbishop had also indicated the following, in connection with the casualties inflicted by the coup: "I am afraid that the number of casualties is large and that the material destruction is heavy." (ibid). And, in the course of the same speech, Archbishop Makarios had made the following revealing remark on the true nature of the coup and the imminent threat that it posed to the Turkish people of Cyprus:

"As I have already stated, the events in Cyprus do not constitute an internal matter of the Greeks of Cyprus. The Turks of Cyprus are also affected. The coup of the Greek junta is an invasion, and from its consequences the whole people of Cyprus suffers, both Greeks and Turks" (ibid).

Indeed, the local Greek press had given the number of the casualties of the coup as between 3-4 thousand while the international press also carried reports on the magnitude of the losses suffered as a result. "Ta Nea" newspaper of Athens carried the shocking and revealing disclosures of the the Greek Cypriot cemetery priest, Father Papatsestos, which were reproduced in all Greek Cypriot dailies on 28 February, 1976. In his interview with "Ta Nea", Father Papatsestos talks of "truckloads of dead Greek Cypriots being buried in mass graves without any record and without any attempt to identify the bodies." He further testifies to having "witnessed something which has perhaps never been witnessed by any mortal before," and states: "I saw a young Greek Cypriot buried alive... I swear to God that they buried this youth while he was still alive". Papatsestos also admits, in the course of the same interview, to having buried dead Turks in the cemetery together with the dead Greek Cypriots.

In an article in the Financial Times of 19 July 1974, Dominick J. Doyle reported in relation to the coup that "casualties had been high" and that "damage in a number of ... centres, notably Limassol and Paphos, is said to be particularly bad".

The "Washington Star-News" of 22 July 1974 published a horrifying account of the atrocities of the coup, as given by a 21 year-old Greek Cypriot university student, A. Kyriakides, who stated that he "saw bodies of Makarios supporters thrown into a mass grave four at a time near Limassol. 'There were Turkish Cypriots ... who had surrendered; they were all killed'," he added.

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By attempting to blame the destruction to life and property inflicted by the coup on the Turkish Peace Operation, in spite of the irrefutable evidence presented above, Mr. Phedonos-Vadet gives a characteristic example of an art in which his administration seems to excel - that of finding a scapegoat for their own crimes.

The Turkish Nation does not need to glory in the misfortunes of others; it is, on the contrary, the Pan-Hellenists of Athens and South Cyprus who refuse to wake up from their dreams of glory, in spite of the bloodshed and suffering they have brought to Cyprus in recent history, and recognize the equal rights of the Turkish Cypriot people. It was not too long ago that Mr. Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister of Greece, stated on 28 October 1981, soon after his assumption of office as the Premier of Greece, that Cyprus is "part of the national territory" of Greece. It was even much more recently, i.e. on 15 August 1983, that Mr. Papandreou has again repeated this assertion, by stating, in a message he sent to Mr. Kyprianou on the occasion of the Greek Orthodox religious holiday, that "a part of Greece is under the occupation of foreign troops," meaning, of course, Cyprus. With their "free territory of the Republic of Cyprus" and "the occupied areas" or "invasion" rhetoric, which abounds in Mr. Phedonos-Vadet's letter under reference, the Greek Cypriot leaders also make no secret of the fact that they also regard this bi-national state of Cyprus as a purely Greek land, and themselves as "the people" and masters of this land in complete disregard of the Turkish Cypriot people's status and rights as co-founder of the State. Thus, while unjustifiably attacking Mr. Batu's statement on the status of the Güzelyurt (Morphou) and Lefka areas, we believe that Mr. Phedonos-Vadet should bear the above in mind.

The Turkish Cypriot people will not be uprooted from their homes for a second, third or a fourth time and that their hard-won security of life and property will not, once again, be put in jeopardy on whatever pretext. The Voluntary Population Exchange Agreement of 2nd August 1974 implemented under U.N. supervision and guidance, was not made in order to uproot or displace people once again, but to create a sound, long-term basis for a just and durable solution of the Cyprus problem within a bi-zonal federal framework, in which people will not live in constant fear, insecurity and uncertainty of their future. The Turkish Cypriot people, in their quest for security of life, have left movable and immovable property in the South, which is comparable in value to those left by the Greek Cypriots in the North and the question of a parallel exchange of properties and/or compensation, will obviously be taken up within the context of a final solution.

The intercommunal talks have never taken, and will never take place on the status of any particular piece of territory within North Cyprus, but on the fundamental question of the bi-zonality of the federal Republic to be formed and the security of the Turkish Cypriot people, together with the economic viability and security of the Turkish Cypriot zone, as agreed at the summit meeting between President Denktaş and the late Archbishop Makarios held on 12 February 1977. To attempt to reduce these questions to the mere discussion of the status of two towns, one of which, in any case, has always been a purely Turkish Cypriot town, is aimed at misleading world opinion and diverting attention from the real question of whether Cyprus should, in its future status, be a Greek colony in the Eastern Mediterranean, as the Greek side demands, or an independent, bi-national, bi-zonal federal Republic, as the Turkish Cypriot side firmly maintains in line with the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979.

Similarly, Mr. Phedonos-Vadet's unfounded claims of Turkey dictating terms to the Turkish Cypriots at the intercommunal talks and in general decision-making, are designed to serve as a smoke-screen for the close collaboration and indeed joint action between Athens and the Greek Cypriot side, no doubt on the strict instructions of the former, of which the Greek Cypriot leaders make no secret. This common strategy, which was expressed in a joint communiqué between Athens and Nicosia as far back as 2 February 1966, declaring that "the two governments object to any solution ruling out the island's union with Greece..." remains a valid one today. In the eulogy he delivered at the tomb of the late Archbishop Makarios on 3 August 1983, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou has once again reiterated that he would "follow the footsteps of the unforgettable leader", while both Mr. Papandreou, the Prime Minister of Greece, and Mr. Kyprianou, have declared on 5 August 1983, during the latter's visit to Athens, their full agreements on the common strategy to be followed on the Cyprus issue (c.f. Greek Cypriot dailies "Alithia" and "Simerini" of 6 August 1983). The absolute psychological and actual dependence of the Greek Cypriot leaders on the Athens Government is evident from these visits of Mr. Spyros Kyprianou to the Greek capital, the most recent of which took place on 5-10 August 1983 with a new meeting for the end of September publicly put on the agenda.

In conclusion, I wish to point out that the 20th of July celebrations which take place every year in North Cyprus, represent, for the Turkish Cypriot people, the beginning of their freedom, security and peace, for which they had struggled for eleven years since 1963, and to which they are fully entitled as any other self-respecting people. We do not expect the Greek Cypriot leadership, which is blinded by anti-Turkish fanaticism, to appreciate or applaud the significance of this occasion, which has ultimately brought peace

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to the whole of Cyprus, but at least they should have the political maturity not to raise protestations about it in international fora. If this is the degree of respect that the Greek Cypriot leadership harbours towards the Turkish Cypriot people, as demonstrated by the aforementioned letter of Mr. Phedonos-Vadet, then the prospects of initiating any understanding, let alone mutual trust and confidence, between the two peoples of Cyprus are grim indeed.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 41 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



(Signed)

Nail Atalay  
Representative of the  
Turkish Federated State  
of Kibris

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