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Letter dated 19 October 1979 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 19 October 1979 addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, the representative of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 October 1979 from Mr. Nail Atalay to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 16 October 1979 (A/34/578-S/13574) from Mr. Stephanides to the United Nations, I have been instructed by my Government to state the following:

1. The elected legitimate authorities of the Turkist Federated State of Cyprus and its people who have been waiting for an indication of goodwill, realism and truthfulness from the Greek Cypriot side are daily disappointed by the pathos of wilful corruption and misrepresentation of facts by the Greek Cypriot leadership, who obviously prefer such Byzantine tactics to honest (albeit difficult) bi-communal negotiations in accordance with the principles set out in the summit agreements of 1977 and 1979.

2. It is utterly false that any decision of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is taken by the "decree" of Turkish mainland authorities, civil or military. It should be known, once and for all, that the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is ruled by its elected authorities in accordance with its constitution legally approved by an overwhelming majority at the 1975 referendum, and all its decisions are taken independently as befits a sovereign Power. In contrast, the Greek Cypriot leaders rule in the south on the basis of a constitution, every paragraph of which they have constantly violated. Their claim to represent Cyprus as a whole is devoid of truth and of any legal basis. They are not a legitimate administration.

3. The allegation of "occupation of Cyprus by Turkey" or the existence in Cyprus of "occupation authorities" is a devious way of attempting to conceal the fact that but for the Turkish Peace Force the independence of Cyprus together with the co-founder national Turkish Cypriot community would have been utterly destroyed. They cannot forgive Turkey for honouring international treaties and securing final peace in Cyprus where, for 11 years, from 1963 to 1974, Greek Cypriots had done their worst in order to destroy the Turkish Cypriot community in the name of enosis.

4. The complaints that the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is distributing the ownership of Greek property are not true. The Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is organizing, within its legal rights and by virtue of legislation passed in its House of Representatives, the use of property in the north by 65,000 Turkish Cypriots who had moved from the south to the north in order to escape 11 years of harassment, injustice and attacks by the Greek Cypriot authorities. These 65,000 Turkish Cypriots left their lands and properties in the south and all these are similiary used by the Greek Cypriots, whose movement to the south was finalized and legitimized by virtue of an exchange of population agreement which was made by the two sides at the third Vienna talks in 1975. As a result of

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this agreement, UNFICYP assisted the safe transportation of Turkish and Greek Cypriots from one zone to the other with the result that today there exist in the Greek Cypriot zone in the south only 150 Turkish Cypriots and in the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus in the north about 1,400 Greek Cypriots. The question of exchange of property and compensation should be discussed at the intercommunal talks on the basis of the summit agreements of 1977 and 1979.

5. On the question of passports, the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is quite clear. The fact that Greek Cypriot administration refused passports to the Turkish community as a whole and impeded its members' rights to travel abroad is clearly set out in the reports of the Secretary-General from 1964 to 1974. The grant of passports to a few individuals outside Cyprus has no significance and cannot change this stark reality. The President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, has repeatedly asked - in the presence of Your Excellency's representative - for an arrangement for the issue of passports in a normal way to the members of the Turkish Cypriot community; but, as you well know, this was turned down. The Greek Cypriot side, by denying such facilities to the bulk of the Turkish community, has been trying over the years to impose its illegal and unconstitutional will on the community. It, therefore, has become incumbent upon the Government of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus to take necessary measures in order to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights of the Turkish Cypriot community. Mr. Özgür's statement in this context represents his views and in the democratic régime of Cyprus those views carry the weight which they deserve but they cannot affect, until it becomes the majority's voice, the decision of the Government of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus one way or another.

6. The Turkish Federated State of Cyprus has not stopped distributing mail to the Greek Cypriots in the territory of the State. The number of these Greeks is about 1,400. Their right to correspond with the outside world has never been impeded. The authorities of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus have, however, suspended a privilege which was allowed to be enjoyed by these Greek Cypriots of receiving mail from the south without stamps. The Turkish Federated State of Cyprus has stated that all mail sent to the Greek Cypriots living in the north must be stamped. Their letters sent to Greek Cypriots in the south will also have to be stamped. There is nothing wrong in this rule, whereas Greek Cypriot authorities, which have denied the right of normal correspondence to the Turkish Cypriots from 1963 onwards, have deceived the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to resolve that one-fourth of the population of Cyprus should be denied this human right. Turkish Cypriot community is most grateful to all countries which have not voted in favour of this inhuman resolution and to all those countries which have - after learning the realities - declared that they would not be bound by this grotesque resolution.

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7. It is our duty to deny each and all other allegations made by Mr. Stephanides as part of his case to keep the Cyprus problem (which should be settled through the intercommunal talks in Cyprus) in the limelight of the United Nations. If true facts do not warrant such a projection the Greek Cypriot propaganda machine is fertile enough to produce "new facts" out of its Byzantine labyrinths.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

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