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Letter dated 6 November 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 6 November 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 6 November 1979 from Mr. Nail Atalay
to the Secretary-General

At the outset of my letter I would like to put on record that we are not at all happy with this endless exchange of letters and counter letters between the Turkish and Greek sides. We are of the opinion that it is all a waste of time and materials especially of the Organization. Not much will be achieved by the litany of accusations and counter accusations. These only poison the atmosphere and hinder the process of negotiations which you are doing everything possible to encourage between the representatives of the two communities.

In this spirit and upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter circulated as a document of the United Nations (A/34/647-S/13605) on 2 November 1979 and signed by Mr. Andreas Mavrommatis as the so-called "Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations" and answer his baseless allegations:

1. As Your Excellency is well aware, in May 1975 the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who had been sitting with the sub-committee on humanitarian matters, informed the sub-committee that ICRC's help on humanitarian matters "since the beginning of its action in Cyprus was intended to be a temporary one which would come to an end once the phase of emergency was over". This phase is now over. In spite of this, the practice of exchanging Red Cross messages - without stamps - was allowed to continue while a great number of Greek Cypriots living in the north used the normal postal services of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus (TFSC) to send and receive letters and parcels from abroad. The message-stationary used by the Greek-Cypriot side is the property of the Tracing Agency of ICRC which terminated its activities in Cyprus more than four years ago. Furthermore, the communication activities within TFSC came up for examination when the Greek-Cypriot side tried to cut off all the Turkish Cypriots from all postal communication by its unconstitutional, untimely and discriminating move at the Universal Postal Union. It was then decided that the exchange of messages was not warranted and should have been discontinued long ago. No country in the world allows ICRC procedures and stationary to be used - free of charge - in circumstances of normality which prevails in Cyprus four years after the ending of the activity of ICRC.

2. As regards the so-called "enclaved Greek Cypriots" one only has to look at the relevant parts of Your Excellency's last three reports to the Security Council, including the most recent one, to discover the falsehood of the Greek-Cypriot accusations regarding the living conditions of these people. The extracts below, taken from Your Excellency's report to the Security Council (S/12946, paras. 35-37) are further confirmation of this fact:

/...

"35. Medical care available to Greek Cypriots in the north is as good as that provided to Turkish Cypriots in the same area ..."

"36. In regard to agricultural activities, there are no major complaints about freedom of movement, Greek Cypriots continue to have access also to fields at some distances from their villages."

"37. As indicated in my last report, there appears to be no restriction on freedom of worship in the north whenever the services of a priest are available."

Similar remarks with regard to the living conditions of the Greek Cypriots in the north are also made in Your Excellency's most recent report to the Security Council (S/13369, paras. 28, 29 and 34):

"28. UNFICYP continues to discharge humanitarian functions and to promote normalization of the living conditions of the Greek Cypriots remaining in the north. Temporary visits to the south for family reasons have continued to be made possible on an ad hoc basis, both directly and through the good offices of UNFICYP ..."

"29. All transfers (from north to south) continue to be monitored by UNFICYP to ensure that they have been undertaken voluntarily."

"34. No restrictions of freedom of worship in the north have been reported for the period under review."

It is obvious, therefore, that the Greek-Cypriot Administration cannot create a case out of living conditions of the Greek Cypriots residing in the north. It is also evident from the same statements of the Greek-Cypriot residents themselves that their living conditions in the north are perfectly satisfactory, and could even be better if the subject were not exploited by the Greek-Cypriot leadership for propaganda purposes, causing apprehension and psychological stress amongst these people.

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
