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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

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Thirty-third year

Letter dated 18 July 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention new evidence, from inside information, of the methods used by the Ankara régime to import into Cyprus settlers from Turkey, including the falsification of identity papers showing the settlers as though they had been born in Cyprus, on a pre-planned design to change the demographic structure of Cyprus.

These methods are revealed by the first-hand account of a written statement by Yusuf Veli Akyuz, who fled to the free part of the island, in consequence of the ill-treatment and oppressiveness he had experienced from the armed forces in the occupied area.

His statement was voluntarily given, in his mother tongue, to the Cyprus authorities on 22 June 1978. Excerpts of it appear in the attached annex in English translation.

The criminality involved in the effort to change the demography of Cyprus and the whole unacceptable situation in the occupied north, still under the aggressive occupation of Turkey, are but the outcome of the lack of enforcement measures to give effect to the resolutions of the Security Council, as duly provided in the Charter of the United Nations.

Such enforcement measures daily become a more compelling need in the interest of solving international problems like that of Cyprus through establishing the conditions for international legal order and security.

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

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I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

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ANNEX

"I was born on 8 August 1957 in Turkey in the village of Kalyan Cayrle in the district of Macka in the province of Trebizond. At the age of six, I went to the village school, where I studied for five years.

"After the invasion of Cyprus, Ecevit sent a notice to the Muktar of our village, Mahmoud Yiadirin, inviting those who wished to go to Cyprus as immigrants to make the necessary application. Seventy families applied, including mine.

"Among the 70 families who came to Cyprus from my village were the following: Ali Dek, Mehmet Dek, Hassan Dek, Yusuf Dek, Dursu Ali Yeslilyuz (and others).

"Subsequently another notice arrived, referring to what was to be given to the immigrants in Cyprus, and those wishing to go were told to sign the appropriate forms. They were to be given television, refrigerators, furniture, a house and at least 50 donums of land. The State would pay for transportation from the village to Cyprus.

"There were 150 families in my village, of whom 70 applied to come to Cyprus. We went from the village to Mersin by bus. We left the village on 6 January 1975. We stopped at Trebizond, where our passports were arranged so as to show that we were going to Cyprus as tourists, although we were really going to Cyprus as settlers.

"We reached Mersin on 18 January ... We boarded the ship on 21 January 1975 -- 200 families altogether, that is, 70 from my village and the rest from other parts of Turkey, but I don't know which parts. On 22 January 1975, we reached Famagusta, where we were met by the Turkish Cypriot Director of the housing department, who welcomed us.

...

"We were transferred to Vassilia, where they settled us. My family was given a lemon grove of five donums, a house, three donums of irrigable land and five donums for growing grain.

"The division of land was proportionate to the size of the family. They did not give us a television, refrigerator or household equipment, because we did not arrive in time for the looting. We came a little late. They only gave us beds, a table and a few chairs ...

...

"There are also about 80 Turkish Cypriots in Vassilia. We had continual quarrels with them in the village, because each interfered with the other's

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property. There was a big gunfight between Turkish Cypriots and settlers. There were no victims. The army and the police had to intervene.

"I learned later that other families that came with us settled in Ayia Triada, Tricomo and Davlos.

"Six or seven months after our arrival in Cyprus we were given TFSC citizenship. They gave us identity cards. My identity card states that I was born in Nicosia.

"There are settlers all over Cyprus from Famagusta to Morphou. Settlers are still coming from Turkey, that is, they come as tourists and stay in Cyprus as immigrants. Most settlers came from the district of Adana. The settlers are poor men and they are nearly all illiterate. There are some skilled workers, but the vast majority are farmers and thieves. Their attitude is 'You have. I don't have. I come and take'. When an owner leaves his house, it will certainly be visited by thieves.

"Papers referring to our army duty came through the Turkish Embassy. The Embassy gave the fact to the appropriate Turkish Cypriot authorities, who summoned all those concerned to Kyrenia on 6 February 1978. That day 67 settlers from all over the district came to Kyrenia to enlist. The TFSC Minister of the Interior wanted to send us to Turkey for training. The Turkish Commanding Officer, Hassan Saglam, did not agree with the proposal of the Minister of the Interior and ordered that we should be trained at Gulseran camp in Famagusta ...

"On 1 January 1978, another 115 settlers were enlisted. There will be another enlistment of settlers on 22 June 1978. The 115 settlers who were enlisted on 2 January 1978 are also being trained at Gulseran.

"At about the beginning of March, the training of those enlisted on 1 January 1978 was completed ...

"Our training consisted in drill and the use of small arms. They divided us into two platoons. In the first platoon, in which I am, we were trained in the use of A-4 machine-guns. The second division was trained in 60,81-kilometre mortars, recoiller PAO guns and anti-aircraft guns. They also showed us the four-barrelled anti-aircraft gun, which they brought from the next camp. This camp contained an anti-aircraft unit - I think about a company ...

...

"On 6 March 1978, our training was completed and the 67 trainees were sent to units of the seventh regiment at Aheritou. The commander of the regiment is a Turkish Cypriot, Ozman Kemal.

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"Before I enlisted in the army, there was a fight at a wedding in which my name became entangled. I was kept under arrest for one month. While under arrest, I was beaten and violently mal-treated. I lost two teeth during the beating. This was one of the reasons why I decided to desert to the Greek side. Also because of the oppression and barbarism in the army, which was unbearable ..."
