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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION
AND OF APARTHEID IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 11 February 1976 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to
the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to submit to you the following information received from the Turkish Cypriot Community, in reply to allegations by the Greek Cypriot Administration contained in document E/CN.4/1202 of 29 January 1976:

"It will be recalled that during the third round of the intercommunal talks held in Vienna from 31 July to 2 August 1975, the representatives of the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities reached agreement, inter alia, on a voluntary population exchange between the two sides.

"Following, the Turkish side indeed witnessed numerous violations of this agreement by the Greek Cypriot side. As an example of these violations mention may be made of the fact that Turks stranded in the Greek-controlled south were not allowed to take with them their tractors and their vehicles, during their transfer to the Turkish region. The same has been true for the Turkish-owned buses, automobiles and other property which remained in the British sovereign base areas, where the Turks had sought refuge on account of Greek and Greek Cypriot armed attacks during 1974. The Greek side has so far refused to allow the transportation of these to the north.

"Not only was the Greek side unfaithful to the third Vienna agreement, but it also attempted to exploit certain provisions of it as a means of smuggling ex-EOKA-b members into the Turkish region under the guise of 'doctors' and 'teachers'. When the Turkish side carried out investigations regarding the backgrounds of these people and rejected their entry into the Turkish region by virtue of the provisions of the third Vienna agreement, the Greek side embarked upon a false propaganda campaign to present the Turkish side to the world as the violator of the Vienna agreement.

"The note verbale, under reference, circulated by the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration to the United Nations Office in Geneva is yet another attempt to level false charges and allegations against the Turkish community, concerning the implementation of the third Vienna agreement.

"The following deals with the specifics of these charges and constitutes an answer to the baseless and unfounded Greek allegations contained in the said note:

"1. Facilities for medical care to Greek Cypriots in the north

"The Greek Cypriot side is insinuating that proper medical care is not being extended to the Greek Cypriots residing in the Turkish region. All Greek allegations regarding this matter are baseless, since Turkish Cypriot doctors are taking care of their Greek Cypriot patients in the best way possible, and every medical facility is being extended to Greek Cypriots by the Turkish side.

"It is worth noting that out of the 1,698 patients treated in Yaloussa medical centre during the last month, 1,606 were Greek Cypriots. All these people are receiving medical care free of any charge. Famagusta general hospital is also catering for the needs of all people in the north, without any discrimination. It should further be noted that although clearance had been granted to a Greek medical team of three persons to come to the north with their families, on 5 September 1975, they have not yet arrived. It is a known fact, that Greek Cypriot doctors are reluctant to come to the north for financial reasons, because they cannot make much money in the north, due to the limited number of Greek patients.

"A new list submitted later on 23 October 1975, included the names of Ioannis Takistas, and Nicos Krutides, EOKA-b members, who were naturally denied access to the north for security reasons.

"The third Vienna agreement does give the right to the Turkish Cypriot authorities to refuse entry into the north of Greek Cypriots who constitute a 'security risk'.

"2. Educational facilities for Greek Cypriots in the north

"Regarding this subject, we would like to state that adequate educational facilities are made available to the Greek Cypriots by the appropriate authorities in northern Cyprus. Seven Greek Cypriot teachers, out of a list of ten submitted by the Greek Cypriot side, have been granted permission to cross over to northern Cyprus, bringing the number of Greek Cypriot teachers in the north to a total of 43. The remaining three have not been allowed to come north, because we have concrete information that these people are ex-EOKA-b members. The names of the three EOKA-b members who were refused entry into the North are: (1) Pantelis Panteli; (2) Andreas Palas; and (3) Ioannis Takis.

"It has been ascertained that lists of so-called 'teachers' submitted by the Greek side contain wrong information, and as such, are undependable and cannot therefore be accepted without prior investigation.

"To cite only two examples:

(a) Syneria Michael Syneris, presented as a teacher of mathematics, is not a teacher but an agriculturalist; and

(b) Evanthia A. Christodonlon, who has also been presented as a 'teacher' in actual fact is not a teacher but the wife of a Greek Police Officer.

"It has also been ascertained that some of the names appearing on the list of so-called teachers given by the Greek side, are not even Greek Cypriots but Greek nationals from the mainland. Kyriacos Antonion Kaluttas, his brother Hoizos Antonion Kaluttas and Panoyiotis Tabakcioglu are only three examples of clandestine attempts to smuggle into the north military personnel under the guise of teachers. On the other hand, books sent from the Greek Cypriot side have been distributed to Greek Cypriot schools in the north, by the United Nations peace-keeping force.

"Other school supplies, such as stationery, are being obtained from the shops and book-stores in the north.

"The Greek Cypriot complaints about the alleged inadequacy of the teachers and educational facilities for Greek Cypriots in northern Cyprus, at a time when, according to Greek press, there is actually a teacher shortage in the south as well, is baseless and can serve no purpose other than instigating false propaganda against the Turkish Cypriot authorities. It is worth noting that four teachers who have been granted clearance to come to the north, a long while ago, have not yet arrived.

"3. Greek Cypriots' voluntary transfer to the south

"Contrary to the Greek Cypriot claim that such transfers require 'United Nations verification as to the genuine wishes of the transferees', no mention of United Nations verification is made in the relevant Vienna agreement.

"Greek Cypriots wishing to move south are allowed by the appropriate authorities in northern Cyprus to do so upon their own written request. The reason for their complaining to the Greek Cypriot authorities that they have been forcefully expelled, is due to their desire to benefit from the 'refugee fund' of the Greek Cypriot administration.

"It is a known fact that Greek Cypriot authorities, for political reasons, do not allow anyone who moved to the south of his own free will to benefit from this fund. It is again worth noting that three people who were allowed to move south in January 1976, and it was alleged by the Greek side that they had been forcefully expelled by the Turkish authorities, had in fact been allowed to go to the south, upon written application by UNFICYP on their behalf.

"4. Re-unification of Greek Cypriot families in the north

"We fail to understand why this subject is causing the Greek side a deep concern, since 414 Greek Cypriots have thus far been permitted by the Turkish side to join their families in the north.

"Two hundred and fifty-one of the Greek Cypriot applicants have been disqualified, simply because they do not come under the category of divided families, and only 73 have been refused permission because of reasons of security and their having taken part in the atrocities committed against the Turkish community during the events of 1974, when almost all Turkish Cypriot villages were overrun by the Greek and Greek Cypriot armed elements.

"While complaining about the alleged 'under consideration' policy of the Turkish Cypriot side, the Greeks seem to ignore the fact that it was they themselves who violated the third Vienna agreement.

"5. Stocks of grain kept at co-operative stores in the Karpass area

"Greek Cypriot allegations concerning this matter are totally unfounded. They reveal an attempt on the part of the Greek Cypriot leaders to assert their authority over the affairs of the Turkish Cypriot controlled northern Cyprus.

"It should be noted that all Greek Cypriot grain produced in north Cyprus has been bought and paid for by the Turkish Cypriot co-operative central bank under the legislation in force. On the other hand, agreement was reached between the Turkish Cypriot authorities and Carreras Ltd. in 1974 to enable the sale of Greek Cypriot produced tobacco in the Karpass region to this company in the south. The Greek Cypriot authorities, however, prevented the purchase of this tobacco by the latter.

"6. Alleged restrictions on the right of property of the Greek Cypriots

"The Turkish side would like to state categorically that there have been no restrictions on the right of property of the Greek Cypriots residing in northern Cyprus who are free to enjoy full ownership rights over their property as any other citizen.

"As regards the allegation that Turks are burning down Greek Cypriot owned olive trees, this is nothing but a product of Greek Cypriot twisted imagination.

"7. Correspondence of the Greek Cypriots in the Turkish region with the outside world

"Greek Cypriots living in Northern Cyprus are free to correspond and communicate with the outside world through Turkish Cypriot post offices, without any difficulty or discrimination.

"There have been instances of attempted smuggling of letters through improper channels, and naturally this has been prevented by the Turkish Cypriot authorities as any other act or deed which contravenes the laws in force in the north."

I would be grateful if this information is brought to the knowledge of the Commission on Human Rights.

Please accept, Mr. Chairman, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

A. Coskun KIRCA

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations Office at
Geneva

Head of the Turkish Delegation to
the Commission on Human Rights