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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CYPRUS

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to
Commission on Human Rights decision 1989/110

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of Commission on Human Rights decision 1989/110, by which the Commission postponed to its forty-sixth session the debate under the sub-item of the agenda entitled "Question of human rights in Cyprus", it being understood that "action required by previous resolutions of the Commission on that subject would continue to remain operative, including the request to the Secretary-General to provide a report to the Commission regarding their implementation".
2. In its most recent resolution on this subject (1987/50), the Commission reiterated its previous calls for the full restoration of all human rights to the population of Cyprus, in particular to the refugees; considered attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as illegal and called for the immediate cessation of such activities; called for the tracing of and accounting for missing persons in Cyprus without any further delay; and called for the restoration and respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots, including the freedom of movement, the freedom of settlement and the right to property.

3. As reflected in the Secretary-General's most recent reports (S/20663 and S/21010), the leaders of the two sides in Cyprus have, since August 1988, met for some 100 hours at the residence of the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Nicosia and have met with the Secretary-General on a number of occasions, jointly and separately, at United Nations Headquarters.

4. When the Secretary-General met the two leaders on 28 and 29 June 1989 he summarized in some detail the ideas which his colleagues had discussed with them in May and June and stated that those ideas offered a real possibility for bridging the positions of the two sides. He said that he had asked his Special Representative to bring them together in direct talks to complete the preparation of the outline of an overall agreement. Both leaders pledged their co-operation in completing that task and accepted the Secretary-General's invitation to meet him again in September to consider the completed outline and to launch the negotiation of an overall agreement.

5. From the latter part of June 1989, H.E. Mr. Denktash publicly expressed reservations about the process that had been followed in May and June. He subsequently indicated that because of tensions resulting from a demonstration in Nicosia on 19 July and because he had to seek guidance from other Turkish Cypriot authorities on the ideas referred to in paragraph 4 above he could not participate in the talks as scheduled.

6. As explained in his most recent report, the Secretary-General has since concentrated his efforts on finding a way to resume the talks. He remains of the view that a basis for effective negotiations does exist provided both leaders manifest the necessary goodwill and recognize that a viable solution must satisfy the legitimate interests of both communities. The discussions since last year have clearly brought out all the issues that need to be covered in an agreement, and have produced ideas that should facilitate the negotiating process. He therefore believes that it should be possible for the two leaders to proceed expeditiously to complete their work on an outline as they had agreed to do on 29 June.

7. On the occasion of the Security Council's meeting on 14 December 1989 on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the President issued a statement (S/21026) in which, on behalf of the members, he urged both leaders to proceed in the manner suggested by the Secretary-General and, as agreed in June, to co-operate with him and his Special Representative in completing work on the outline. They also urged the two parties to make a further determined effort to promote reconciliation and shared the Secretary-General's view that the adoption of goodwill measures could prove helpful in this regard. The members of the Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council by 1 March 1990 on the progress made in resuming intensive talks and developing an agreed outline of an overall agreement.

8. Pending a settlement, the UNFICYP has continued, under its mandate, to discharge humanitarian functions on behalf of the Greek Cypriots, whose number stood at 611 at the beginning of December 1989, living in the northern part of the island. UNFICYP has also continued to make periodic visits to Turkish Cypriots living in the southern part and to help them maintain contact with their relatives in the northern part. UNFICYP officers have continued to interview, in private, Greek Cypriots who apply for permanent transfer to the southern part, in order to verify that all transfers take place voluntarily.