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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

Letter dated 22 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the
Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

1. I have the honour to enclose herewith a message addressed to you on behalf of one of the two main parties to the Cyprus dispute, i.e. the Turkish Cypriot Community, by H.E. Mr. Kenan Atakol, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence.
2. As will be recalled, a debate was initiated in the Commission on Human Rights, on the question of Cyprus, unfortunately in the absence of the Turkish Cypriot Community, one of the two main parties to the conflict. Under these circumstances, the Turkish Cypriot Community has been left with no alternative but to submit its views in writing, so that its views could at least appear on the records.
3. It will be appreciated if the present letter and the attachment thereto would be issued, in line with practice as before, as a document of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 12.

(Signed)

Cem Duna
Ambassador
Permanent representative

Annex

1. I would like to refer to the statement made by the representative of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus, under agenda item 13 A, during the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and to bring to your kind attention the following considerations.

2. I wish, at the outset, to express our surprise at the inclusion, in the agenda, of the "question of human rights in Cyprus", since, as we have always tried to impress upon the third parties, human rights violations in Cyprus took place between the years 1963 and 1974 and not after 1974. To the Greek Cypriot propagandists, international forums, especially those specializing on human rights, are venues where they, in the absence of any Turkish Cypriot representative, distort and exploit this issue for political purposes. Hence, the Greek Cypriot representative, in his endeavours to gloss over facts relating to Cyprus, deliberately omitted as usual, the pre-1974 period while grossly distorting the post-1974 period.

3. Human rights violations indeed constituted a most tragic aspect of the question of Cyprus between 1963 and 1974, when the Turkish Cypriot people were the victims of inhuman treatment and systematic oppression as well as repeated massacres. There are abundant documentation, testimonies and observations by impartial personalities and reports of the international press that expose the widespread and gross abuses to which the Turkish Cypriots were subjected through long years of Greek Cypriot tyranny and terror. I enclose in the appendix to the present letter clippings to help refresh unprejudiced memories. (See General Assembly document A/41/989.) Also, the annals of the United Nations, in particular the periodic reports presented by successive Secretaries-General to the Security Council on the situation in Cyprus, should prove to be highly edifying in this context.

4. The Greek Cypriot side, in its ruthless attempt to unite Cyprus with Greece, in accordance with the notorious Akritas Plan, had, in the period 1963-1974, violated practically every single human right of the Turkish Cypriot people. In pursuit of Enosis, they have brought terrorism to Cyprus as far back as the late 1950s and as of December 1963 launched an all-out armed onslaught against Turkish Cypriot people, killing, oppressing and persecuting defenceless people at will. During this period, Turkish Cypriots were hunted down in their own land, abducted from roads and even from hospital beds never to be seen again, children were slaughtered in bathtubs. Turkish Cypriot villages were raided and burnt down; in some villages whole populations were massacred and bulldozed into mass graves. Consequently, Turkish Cypriot people, in this period, were pushed into enclaves where they had to endure for 11 years, until the long-awaited Turkish intervention in 1974, a terrible ordeal under a "veritable siege", as the then United Nations Secretary-General had, in 1964, described the situation in one of his reports to the Security Council. This was then the plight of the Turkish people of Cyprus, which the Security Council tried to put an end to, when the United Nations Peace-keeping Force (UNFICYP) was established and sent to the island in 1964. The savage, premeditated Greek Cypriot assault on the Turkish Cypriots, which also resulted in the ejection of the Turkish Cypriot wing of the then bi-national Republic from all the organs of the State, and in the usurpation of the entire State machinery by an all-Greek Cypriot régime in Cyprus, continued, despite the existence of UNFICYP, until 1974 with varying degrees of severity.

5. It is ironic that the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus should, against this background, have the insolence to assert that freedom of movement and settlement, and the right to property have precedence over Turkish Cypriot lives. The long history of hostage-taking, abductions, tortures, inhuman and degrading treatment, looting and burning of houses and whole villages, the economic destruction and oppression which the Turkish Cypriots suffered until 1974, in addition to the armed attacks and massacres cannot be erased from the annals of history.

6. The Greek-sponsored coup d'etat of 15 July 1974 in Cyprus to force annexation by Greece was the last ring in the chain of plots and faits accomplis against the independence of Cyprus and against Turkish Cypriot human, political, economic, social and cultural rights as one of the two co-founders of the bi-national Republic. The intervention of Turkey on 20 July 1974, in accordance with the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, to protect the Turkish Cypriot people and prevent the imminent annexation of the island by Greece, brought to a definite end a decade of violence and bloodshed. The Greek Cypriot complaints, therefore, about the human rights situation in Cyprus can be nothing else than a hysterical expression of their racist longing for recreating the conditions of 1963-1974.

7. In view of their notorious record partly cited above, the Greek Cypriot side is hardly qualified to raise the question of "human rights in Cyprus".

8. Having thus set the record straight, I would now like to respond to a few specific, groundless accusations made by the Greek Cypriot representative.

9. The said representative's rhetoric about "invasion" by Turkey cannot be taken seriously.

10. Yes, there was an invasion of Cyprus in 1974. But the Security Council records clearly show that the culprit was Greece and not Turkey. The late Archbishop Makarios is on the records of the Security Council stating in an explicit and lucid manner that the invader was Greece. For the benefit of the Greek Cypriot representative, I will quote the Archbishop verbatim. This is what the Archbishop said in his address to the Security Council on 19 July 1974. (S/PV.1780, para. 32):

"The coup of the Greek junta is an invasion, and from its consequences the whole people of Cyprus suffers, both Greek and Turks ... The Security Council should call upon the military régime of Greece to withdraw from Cyprus the Greek officers serving in the National Guard, and to put an end to its invasion of Cyprus".

11. Turkish intervention was the only factor which could put an "end to (Greece's) invasion of Cyprus", and Turkey intervened and pushed back the invading Greek forces to the present lines and with it, put an end to the "suffering of the whole people of Cyprus, both Greeks and Turks".

12. As for the desperate and wretched reference to the "occupation", we can state, in no uncertain terms, that the Turkish Peace Forces, having secured the right to life and well-being of the Turkish Cypriots, are in Cyprus as the vanguard and guarantor of our right to life and security until a negotiated settlement is found in Cyprus.

13. The reference to the "forcible displacement" is totally a figment of imagination. Greek Cypriots had understandably followed the retreating invasion forces of Greece being pushed back by the Turkish Peace Forces, as the Turkish Cypriots understandably fled Southern Cyprus for the security of Northern Cyprus. This process was completed by the Voluntary Population Exchange Agreement signed by the leaders of the two communities at Vienna on 2 August 1975. This agreement was implemented with the help of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and in UNFICYP vehicles.

14. Exaggeration of the number of Greek Cypriot displaced persons and omission of the fact that the Turkish people of Cyprus, between the years 1963 and 1974, have suffered forceful displacement at the hands of the Greek Cypriot leadership, not once but several times, do not give credence to the claims of the Greek Cypriot representative.

15. Turkish people of Cyprus had experienced forced displacement long before the events of 1974. Twenty-five thousand of them had been displaced since the Greek Cypriot onslaught of December 1963 during which 103 Turkish villages were completely or partially destroyed. Sixty-five thousand left their homes after 1974 for the safe areas of the north. The real number of the Greek Cypriot displaced persons cannot be much more than this total number of the Turkish Cypriot displaced persons.

16. The Greek Cypriot clamour for the return of all the "refugees" to their homes conflict not only with the Voluntary Population Exchange Agreement of 2 August 1975 but also with the principles embodied in the Denktas-Makarios Agreement of 12 December 1977, especially those of bi-zonality and bi-communality.

17. This clamour goes a long way in showing how insincere the Greek Cypriot leadership are in the search for a negotiated solution in Cyprus on the basis of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal Republic.

(Signed) Kenan Atakol
