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ASSEMBLY

INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 1 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 1 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 84.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 1 November 1979 from Mr. Nail Atalay addressed to the Secretary-General

It is regrettable to see that the Greek Cypriot propaganda machine is still continuing to exploit the issue of human rights for political purposes with a view to misleading world opinion and obtaining support for the Greek Cypriot position, which is aimed at depriving the Turkish Cypriot community of its constitutional and legitimate partnership rights in the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus.

It is significant that this kind of false propaganda is always intensified on the eve of, and during, the annual United Nations General Assembly debate on Cyprus. Most recent and blatant examples of the exploitation and abuse by Greek Cypriots of humanitarian issues are contained in the report of the so-called "Government of Cyprus" on civil and political rights (document CCPR, C, 1/Add.28 of 26 June 1978) submitted to the fourth session of the United Nations Human Rights Committee in respect of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the message which the so-called "Pancyprian /meaning Pan-Greek Cypriot/ Association for the Protection of Human Bights" is said to have sent to the President of the General Assembly. Where was this, the so-called "Government of Cyprus" and the "Pancyprian", "humanitarian" association when the Greek Cypriot leaders continually violated every conceivable human right of the Turkish Cypriots for 11 years as an instrument of deliberate policy and in cold blood. A former British Prime Minister, Lord Home, had observed at that time that Makarios was not treating the Turkish community "as human beings!"

In the aforesaid report to the Human Rights Committee and the message to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the so-called "Government" and the so-called "Pancyprian" association, instead of concentrating their efforts on a peaceful and lasting settlement through intercommunal talks, deal with such political matters as the withdrawal of the Turkish troops, the "invasion", etc. The Greek Cypriot leadership and other Greek "humanitarian" associations are so blinded by the zeal for false propaganda that they even criticize the positive assurance given recently by the Foreign Minister of Turkey that Turkish troops in the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus will be withdrawn as soon as there is a settlement safeguarding the security of the Turkish Cypriot community. Most people of goodwill who genuinely desire a just settlement would welcome such an assurance, but not the so-called "Government of Cyprus" and the "Pancyprian Association for the Protection of Human Rights"! They would like the Turkish troops to withdraw immediately so as to leave the Turkish Cypriots unguarded and unprotected; open to their new onslaughts. If these institutions are only interested in the protection of Greek Cypriot rights to the detriment of the human rights of the Turkish Cypriots, then it would be more honest to call themselves the "Greek Cypriot Administration" and the "Greek Cypriot Association for the Protection of Greek Cypriot Human Rights" respectively.

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It is ironical that the Greek Cypriots, who have for over 11 years so cynically and openly trampled upon the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Turkish Cypriots, now have the audacity to turn around and try to deceive the world by putting up a smoke screen over their past misdeeds and disreputable record in the field of human rights. The Greeks hope that by falsely accusing Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots of violations of human rights following the intervention of Turkey they will make the world forget their disreputable record in the field of human rights. In fact, the Turkish intervention was a genuine "peace operation" which not only put an end to intercommunal strife and freed the Turkish community from further violations of their human rights by the Greeks, but also saved the independence and integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by preventing an imminent annexation by Greece.

Surely, even the Greek Cypriot propaganda machine must have realized by now that the world can no longer be deceived by this type of "big lie" propaganda. It must be obvious to all concerned and to the whole world by now that humanitarian issues in Cyprus can only be settled with the finding of a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem. This has been made abundantly clear, time and time again by:

- 1. The European Commission of Human Rights in 1959 (Greece v. United Kingdom, Nos. 176/56 and 299/57);
- 2. The President of the United States of America, Mr. Carter in his annual report to Congress on human rights in Cyprus in 1978 and 1979, where he said "Perhaps more so than elsewhere, human rights question in Cyprus cannot be treated in isolation from political considerations. As a consequence of past intercommunal troubles and the events of 1974, they constitute an integral element of the Cyprus problem and will no doubt figure largely in any settlement reached between the two communities;"
- 3. The former British Minister of State, Mr. Frank Judd, stated in the British Parliament in February 1979 that the human rights problems in Cyprus make an inseparable part of an over-all settlement of the Cyprus problem;
- 4. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe by its decision of 20 January 1979, in the two Greek Cypriot applications against Turkey (Nos. 6780/74 and 6950/75) is reported to have reiterated that the enduring protection of human rights in Cyprus can only be brought about through the re-establishment of peace and confidence between the two communities and that the intercommunal talks constitute the appropriate framework for reaching a solution to the dispute.

One would have thought that in the face of this overwhelming and authoritative advice, anybody genuinely desiring a settlement of humanitarian issues in Cyprus would strive for a peaceful and agreed solution through the intercommunal talks and not waste time by resorting to false propaganda in international fora. But

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obviously the Greek Cypriot leaders and the so-called "Pancyprian Association for the Protection of Human Rights" have to continue on the course of the infamous Nazi-style "big lie" propaganda machinations.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 84.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY
Representative of the
Turkish Federated State of Cyprus