

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECURITY COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/679
S/13623
13 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fourth session
Agenda item 21
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 13 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 13 November 1979 addressed to Your Excellency 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 21, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 13 November 1979 from Mr. Nail Atalay
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to a letter dated 18 October 1979 by the representative of the Greek Cypriot Administration (A/34/594-S/13572), in which various unjust and biased allegations have been made regarding certain lands belonging to the Maronite community in Kormakiti village situated within the boundaries of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, and to draw Your Excellency's attention to the gravity of the false allegations made in that document and to state the truth of the matter.

The fact of the matter is that as a result of the peace operation of 1974 Turkish Cypriots opted to move to the north, culminating in the total exodus of the Turkish Cypriots as a result of the agreement made at the third round of talks on Cyprus which Your Excellency chaired at Vienna in 1975. a/ As a result of this transfer, some 65,000 homeless Turkish Cypriots were rehabilitated in houses and properties abandoned by Greeks in the north.

Similarly almost an equal number of Greeks and others have simultaneously resettled and were rehabilitated in houses vacated by the Turkish Cypriots in the south. This in fact is what had happened concerning the Maronite village of Kormakiti. The abandoned lands in Kormakiti have been leased by the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus to other Maronite or Turkish Cypriot villagers instead of being left uninhabited and the money thus collected is being kept in a special fund pending a final solution to the Cyprus question. But the Mukhtar (Headman) of the village, the brother of the subscriber to the unfortunate "annex" submitted by the Greek Cypriot representative, who wished to use the lands himself took a different line on the issue, being naturally prejudiced, and allowed himself to be used for anti-Turkish propaganda by the Greek Cypriots. Therefore, the alleged Kormakiti village land problem is nothing but the refusal of the Mukhtar of Kormakiti to hand the land registrations to the appropriate authorities for the verification of land ownership in the villages. However, I am in a position to inform Your Excellency that the matter has been resolved and that the Mukhtar has agreed to hand over the land registration papers to the authorities.

I wish to stress most strongly that the Maronites and other minority communities in the Federated State are treated as equal citizens of our State and live in safety, as is guaranteed under the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus Constitution, article 9 of which stipulates:

a/ Official Records of the Security Council, Thirtieth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1975 document S/11789, annex.

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"Every ... citizen shall have the right to live, to develop his material and moral existence and shall have the right to personal liberty ..."

The culprit in this bizarre set up is the Greek Cypriot leadership, who, endeavouring to influence the outcome of the forthcoming United Nations debate on Cyprus, have deliberately timed and provoked this matter contrary to the letter and the spirit of the 19 May 1979 agreement reached between His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktas, President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, and Mr. Kyprianou in Your Excellency's presence.

The outcry which has been raised, we believe, has been deliberately created on the eve of the United Nations debate on Cyprus and is no more than a Greek Cypriot propaganda campaign in order to embarrass the Turkish Cypriot community. But we have been astonished by the action of Mr. Mavrides, who, purporting to speak for the Maronite community, has allowed himself to be used by the Greek Cypriots for their ugly intrigues.

Last but not least, my Government wish it to be known that the relations between the Maronite and the Turkish Cypriot community are excellent, as has always been so. They and other minority communities do hold an honourable position in our State and are treated equally. They not only enjoy the friendship and neighbourliness of their Turkish Cypriot compatriots, but do often, whenever they wish, cross to the south to see their relatives. In other words they have the best of the two worlds.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

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