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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 14 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 14 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 21.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 14 November 1979 from Mr. Nail Atalay
to the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the decision of the General Committee, which was subsequently approved by the General Assembly, to allocate the item entitled "Question of Cyprus" to the plenary with a short interruption of the proceedings to enable the representatives of the two communities to express their views in the Special Political Committee, and to inform Your Excellency that this procedure is totally unsatisfactory and hence unacceptable to the Turkish Cypriot side.

It will no doubt be recalled that the various resolutions of the General Assembly indisputably established the principle of equality between the two parties to the Cyprus dispute, namely, the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities, and also recognized that a solution to the Cyprus problem can only be achieved through negotiations carried out between the two national communities on an equal footing.

Furthermore, this principle of equality was endorsed by the Denktas-Makarios framework agreement of 12 February 1977, a/ which was confirmed by the two leaders of the two concerned national communities, Mr. Denktas and Mr. Kyprianou, at the recent summit meeting on 19 May 1979, in Cyprus under the auspices of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim.

The above-mentioned procedure is, therefore, not only contrary to the principle of intercommunal equality, but also prevents the General Assembly from becoming fully acquainted with the views of one of the two principal parties to the Cyprus dispute and hence makes a useful debate on the subject impossible.

The Turkish Cypriot side holds the view that a solution to the problem can only be achieved once the principle of intercommunal equality is recognized and fully implemented in practice as well as in principle. The inequitable treatment of the two communities when the Cyprus question is discussed by the General Assembly and the persistent failure to redress this anomaly is bound to be detrimental to a peacefully negotiated settlement of the problem.

In view of the above, we have no alternative but to dissociate ourselves from the proceedings of the General Assembly on the question of Cyprus, and I would like to inform Your Excellency that under these circumstances any resolution on Cyprus which may be adopted by the Assembly will not be binding on the Turkish Cypriot community.

a/ See Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-second Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1977, document S/12323.

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English

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

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