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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 19 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 19 November 1979 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Kenan Atakol, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Tourism 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 19 November 1979 from Mr. Kenan Atakol to
the President of the General Assembly

On 15 November 1979 (see A/34/PV.68) the Greek Cypriot administration's Foreign Minister Mr. Rolandis made a dramatic statement to the United Nations General Assembly, full of polemics and malicious lies against Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot community.

First of all, I would like to point out that Mr. Rolandis cannot and does not have the right to speak on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot community. He can only speak on behalf of the Greek Cypriot administration. Neither can he speak on behalf of the so-called "Government of Cyprus", since the Republic of Cyprus and, hence, the Government of Cyprus ceased to exist in December 1963 with the onslaught of Greeks on the Turkish Cypriots. The 1960 Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus envisages a bi-communal Republic made up of Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. According to the 1960 Constitution, the vice-president of the Republic will be Turkish Cypriot, 30 per cent of the members of the House of Representatives, 30 per cent of the Cabinet members, 30 per cent of the civil servants and 40 per cent of the police force will be made of Turkish Cypriots. Since all the Turkish Cypriots, including Cabinet members and members of the House of Representatives, were evicted from the services of the Republic in December 1963, not a single Turk has been serving in the so-called "Government of Cyprus".

Mr. Rolandis, in his statement to the General Assembly, starts by saying:

"The orange and lemon trees in north Cyprus blossom and bear fruit for the benefit of people other than their rightful owners."

Mr. Rolandis fails to mention the vineyards, the lemon and orange trees belonging to the Turkish Cypriots which blossom and bear fruit in the south of Cyprus.

Mr. Rolandis fails to talk about 11 years (1963 to 1974) of aggression against the Turkish Cypriots who were forced out of their homes, land and business places, deprived of basic human rights, enslaved and forced to live in open prisons.

Mr. Rolandis fails to talk about 30,000 Turkish Cypriots (one fourth of all the Turks living in Cyprus) who were forced to live as refugees for 11 years.

Mr. Rolandis fails to talk about 103 Turkish villages which were destroyed by Greeks in 1964 and the lands confiscated.

Mr. Rolandis fails to talk about the massacre of Turkish villages by Greek Cypriots, in which 16 day-old babies and 90 year-old men and women were murdered and buried in mass graves.

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Mr. George Ioannides also made a statement about Cyprus to the Special Political Committee on 15 November 1979 (see A/SPC/34/PV.33).

Mr. Ioannides' statement is full of lies from the beginning to the end. He begins his statement by saying that:

"Forty per cent of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, representing 70 per cent of its economic wealth, is still under the occupation of the Turkish forces, while 200,000 Greek Cypriots ... are refugees".

When one talks about percentages and figures that can be checked and verified, one should be very careful, especially when talking to the members representing all the countries of the world.

(a) The Turkish Federated State of Cyprus does not control 40 per cent of the land, but only 35.8 per cent.

(b) The land that the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is controlling does not represent 70 per cent of the economic wealth of Cyprus. On the contrary, 80 per cent of the economic resources of Cyprus are controlled by the Greek Cypriots.

The following table, which gives the natural and economic resources controlled by the two communities, speaks for itself.

| RESOURCES | CONTROLLED BY | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| | Turks | Greeks |
| 1. Water resources | 20% | 80% |
| 2. Forest resources <u>a/</u> | 22% | 78% |
| 3. Mining resources | 10% | 90% |
| 4. Refinery | - | ✓ |
| 5. Telecommunication system | - | ✓ |
| 6. Radio and television | - | ✓ |
| 7. Power plants | - | ✓ |

a/ Ninety per cent of the economically viable forest resources are controlled by the Greek Cypriot administration.

The only refinery producing petrol for the whole of Cyprus is controlled by the Greek Cypriot administration; the Turkish Cypriots have not been allowed to benefit from it at all since July 1974.

The whole telecommunication system, the radio and television stations are all controlled by the Greek Cypriots; the Turkish Cypriots have not been allowed to make any use of them since December 1963.

The two power plants generating electricity for the whole of Cyprus are controlled by the Greek Cypriots; they can cut the electricity to the Turkish Cypriots and have done so on many occasions. In July 1974, just after the peace operation, there were about 90 villages without any electricity. All of these villages were Turkish villages. From 1963 to 1974, all the Greek villages were electrified, whereas the Turkish villages were purposely left without electricity.

In addition to the above facts, the Greek Cypriot administration is the beneficiary of all the foreign aid. The Greek Cypriots are in a position to give foreign aid to other countries. With the foreign aid they are receiving they have become one of the countries receiving the highest foreign aid per capita.

According to reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Greek Cypriot refugees number only 165,000, not 200,000 as Mr. Ioannides is claiming in his statement, and without mentioning the 90,000 Turkish Cypriot refugees.

There is no use in dwelling any more on Messrs. Rolandis and Ioannides' statements, since they even distort the basic facts and realities of Cyprus. As the ones who violated the basic human rights of Turkish Cypriots for 11 years, they now come and try to deceive the international community to go along with their unending ambition of uniting Cyprus with Greece and annihilating the Turkish Cypriot community from Cyprus.

The draft resolution on Cyprus, presented to the United Nations General Assembly by Algeria, Cuba, Guyana, India, Mali, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia on 19 November 1979, is not acceptable to the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus. The adoption of this resolution by the United Nations General Assembly will destroy the platform of negotiations reached at the summit meeting, and the possibility of swift reconvening by the Secretary-General of intercommunal talks will be seriously curtailed.

The Turkish Cypriot community has done everything within its power for the past 16 years for the attainment of peace in the island. The Turkish Cypriot community, however, has never accepted the allegation that the Greek Cypriots are "the Government of Cyprus" and that the Turkish Cypriot community is "the minority" in Cyprus.

Such a situation does not exist. The sustained aggression of the Greek Cypriot side in this respect shows that they are devoid of goodwill, refuse to see the realities of Cyprus and are after destroying the basis of an agreement.

This draft resolution should be rejected, as in our view it destroys the basis for negotiations. If this draft resolution is adopted as submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, it will not be binding on the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus; it will have adverse effects and we may be faced with a serious situation.

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

(Signed) Kenan ATAKOL
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Tourism of the
Turkish Federated State of Cyprus
