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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens, Greece

17 August - 7 September 1977

QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 22 August 1977 from the Head of the Turkish Delegation
addressed to the President of the Third United Nations Conference
on the Standardization of Geographical Names

I have the honour to submit enclosed herewith the cable-transcript text of a letter dated 16 August 1977 addressed to Your Excellency, by His Excellency Rauf Denktas, President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, in connexion with the representation of Cyprus in the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, being held in Athens.

I should be grateful if this letter, together with its enclosure, were circulated as a document of the Conference.

(Signed) Prof. Dr. Talip Yügel

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AppendixLetter dated 16 August 1977 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktas, to the
President of the Third United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names

It has come to my knowledge that the Greek Cypriot Administration has detailed a Greek Cypriot Delegation to represent Cyprus at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names which is scheduled to be held in Athens between 17 August - 7 September 1977.

In this connexion I would like to bring to Your Excellency's knowledge the following facts concerning the representation of Cyprus at international forums and conferences:

1. The Republic of Cyprus is a bi-national State, based on the existence of two ethnic communities in the island and the 1960 Constitution of the Republic envisages the participation of these two communities in the administration of the State and in all its organs. Lawful authority in Cyprus, therefore, has to be based on the will of both the Turkish and Greek communities, and this authority can neither be assumed nor exercised by either one community without the consent of the other.
2. In December 1963, when the first onslaught was launched against the Turkish Cypriot community by the Greek side, for the purpose of uniting the island with Greece, hundreds of defenceless Turkish Cypriots were murdered and over 25,000 were forced to evacuate 103 villages and take refuge in comparatively safer areas. These areas were placed under siege and a severe economic blockade was imposed on the Turkish community. The Government machinery was unilaterally usurped and the Turkish Cypriot element was ousted from the legislative, executive and judicial organs of the State. Since then, there has not been a central Government having jurisdiction all over Cyprus and representing both communities.
3. On 15 July 1974, the Greek Cypriots in collaboration with the Junta in Greece staged a coup d'état which was to deal the final blow to the independence of Cyprus after exterminating the Turkish Cypriot community. Following the peace operation which was launched by Turkey, in exercise of her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, in order to save the bi-national State of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot community from total destruction in the hands of the coupist forces, the de facto superiority of the Greek Cypriot administration ceased to exist and two autonomous administrations, Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot, each exercising control and authority over its respective geographical region, were established.
4. The existence of two communal administrations in Cyprus was recognized by the three guarantor States - Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom - by their declaration in Geneva on 30 July 1974. The resolution 3212 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 1 November 1974, recognized the existence of two communities in Cyprus and stressed, inter alia, that the constitutional system of the Republic of Cyprus was the concern of both the Turkish and Greek communities, which should be decided through negotiations, held on equal footing.

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In view of the foregoing and the fact that there is not, as yet, a central Government in Cyprus representative of both communities, the Greek Cypriot Delegation cannot under any circumstances represent Cyprus as a whole, and in particular the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus in North Cyprus, at the above Conference. The most they can do is to represent their own community and administration in South Cyprus.

I shall be grateful if this communication is brought to the knowledge of all the Honourable Delegates attending the Conference.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAS
President
Turkish Federated State of Cyprus