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Letter dated 13 December 1978 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 December 1978 addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, the representative of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I would be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 13 December 1978 from Mr. Nail Atalay
to the Secretary-General

As Your Excellency will recall, the General Assembly, with a view to resolving the question of missing persons in Cyprus, adopted the resolution 32/128 on 14 December 1977 envisaging the establishment of an investigatory body, the participation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which would be in a position to function impartially, effectively and speedily. At the time of its adoption and on several occasions thereafter, the Turkish Cypriot side who has been suffering the agony of missing persons since 1963 has announced that it supported the provisions of the resolution and was ready and willing to set up immediately the investigatory body, with the participation of the International Committee of the Red Cross which is the only competent organ having the expertise and the experience in the field of missing persons.

While the framework provided by resolution 32/128, adopted with the consent of the parties directly concerned, remains still intact, a new recourse by the Greek Cypriot Administration to the United Nations General Assembly, seeking a new resolution on the subject, in complete disregard for agreements previously reached and the exclusion of the International Committee of the Red Cross from the investigatory body is a clear demonstration of the lack of goodwill and a betrayal of the real motives in bringing "the question" before the United Nations in the first instance. This is an attitude hardly compatible with the current efforts to bring about intercommunal reconciliation and serves no other purpose than anti-Turkish propaganda.

For this reason and upon the instructions from my President, His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktas, I regret to inform Your Excellency that the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee on 12 December 1978, will in no way be acceptable to us and the Turkish Cypriot side will not consider itself bound by its provisions.

Nevertheless, the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, motivated by humanitarian concerns, continues to be ready to co-operate in the establishment of the investigatory body as provided by the General Assembly resolution 32/128.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY
Representative
