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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CYPRUS

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to
Commission on Human Rights decision 1988/105

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of Commission on Human Rights decision 1988/105, by which the Commission postponed to its forty-fifth session the debate under the sub-item of the agenda entitled "Question of human rights in Cyprus", it being understood that "action required by previous resolutions of the Commission on this subject would continue to remain operative, including the request to the Secretary-General to provide a report to the Commission regarding their implementation".

2. In its most recent resolution on this subject (1987/50), the Commission reiterated its previous calls for the full restoration of all human rights to the population of Cyprus, in particular to the refugees, considered attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as illegal and called for the immediate cessation of such activities, called for the tracing of and accounting for missing persons in Cyprus without any further delay and for the restoration and respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots, including the freedom of movement, the freedom of settlement and the right to property.

3. As the Secretary-General stated in his latest report to the Security Council on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/20310), the leaders of the two sides in Cyprus met the Secretary-General on 24 August 1988 and agreed to work without any pre-conditions in an attempt to achieve a negotiated settlement of all aspects of the Cyprus problem by 1 June 1989. Between mid-September and mid-November 1988 the two leaders met for some 40 hours at the residence of the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Nicosia. On 22 and 23 November 1988 they met the Secretary-General in New York to review the outcome of the first round of talks and to decide how to proceed. The leaders agreed that the second round of talks would begin on 19 December 1988 and accepted the Secretary-General's invitation to meet him again in March 1989. The questions relating to matters affecting the human rights of the Cypriot population, including freedom of movement, freedom of settlement and the right to property for all Cypriots, are an integral part of the Secretary-General's mission of good offices and are among the issues being discussed by the two leaders during the current talks.

4. Pending a settlement, the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has continued, under its mandate, to discharge humanitarian functions on behalf of the Greek Cypriots living in the northern part of the island, whose number stood at 639 at the end of November 1988. UNFICYP has also continued to make periodic visits to Turkish Cypriots living in the southern part of the island and to help them maintain contact with their relatives in the northern part. UNFICYP officers have continued to interview, in private, Greek Cypriots who apply for permanent transfer to the southern part of the island, in order to verify that all transfers take place voluntarily. Thirty such transfers took place during the period from 1 December 1987 to 30 November 1988. UNFICYP has also continued to facilitate temporary visits by Greek Cypriots living in the northern part of the island to the southern part for family and other reasons. During the period mentioned above, there were 1,028 such visits. Contacts between members of the Maronite community living on opposite sides of the cease-fire lines continued to be frequent.

5. Since the Secretary-General's last report to the Commission (E/CN.4/1988/27), the situation in Varosha has remained unchanged. Students continue to be accommodated in two hotels inside the fenced area, and it has not yet been possible to obtain a date for their departure.

6. During 1988, the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP) held 7 sessions, including 32 meetings, of which 20 were attended by the 3 members and their assistants (formal meetings) and 12 were attended only by the 3 members (informal meetings).

7. The activities of UNFICYP, including those related to its humanitarian responsibilities, as well as matters pertaining to the Secretary-General's mission of good offices, are described in greater detail in the Secretary-General's most recent reports to the Security Council on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/19927 and S/20310 and Add.1).
