

File

089

21 March 1983

The Prime Minister has received the attached letter from Mr. Denktas which you will wish to retain for your records. Unless I hear to the contrary, I assume that no reply will need to be sent.

Timothy Flesher

R. B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

JR





TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF KIBRIS  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

*P. ...  
could you handle it?  
there are people ...*

*AG 15-  
3*

Lefkoşa, via Mersin 10 - Turkey

Lefkoşa,

28 February, 1983

Your Excellency,

In view of the recently increased efforts by the Greek side, assisted by some misinformed philhellenes, to exploit the issue of missing persons in Cyprus against the Turkish side at international fora I feel obliged to provide you with further information on the matter.

Basic information concerning the issue of missing persons in Cyprus is presented in Appendix I which also refers to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (the CMP) which was established as a result of the agreement reached between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides on 22 April 1981 and charged with the specific task of investigating the missing persons of both communities.

Following its first meeting on 14 July 1981 the CMP held regular meetings until 1 September 1981. Since then the Greek side has repeatedly boycotted the CMP and having deliberately created a situation of pseudo stalemate used this as a pretext to internationalize the issue for political propaganda against the Turkish side.

As an unacceptable part of the Greek Cypriot propaganda efforts the missing persons' issue in Cyprus was lately taken to the European Parliament. In the report drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and based solely on the information received from the Greek side it is argued that no problem of missing exists for 300 of the missing Turkish Cypriots since those 300 missing persons are deemed dead by the Turkish Cypriot side. In fact this is a deliberate misinformation, because the number of missing Turkish Cypriots was around 800 but about 300 of these were found in common graves. The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to a legislation by the Greek Cypriot administration in the South on the missing Greek Cypriots (Appendix 2). By similar argument one must conclude that, as in the case of 300 Turkish Cypriots considered dead, in the case of Greek Cypriot missing persons as well the issue of "missing" has been disposed of as a result of the aforementioned legislation which has treated them all as dead. But this legislation was not placed before the European Parliament!

H.E. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland,  
London.



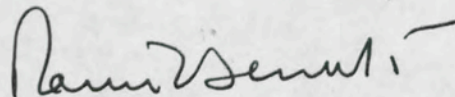
Obviously the Greek side deliberately did not inform the rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee about the law 69/1978 but claims that the "missing" Greek Cypriots are being detained by the Turkish side. This Greek Cypriot claim is completely untrue.

The ICRC reported as early as on 11 March 1976 that all prisoners of war taken to Turkey were listed and returned to the Greek Cypriot side. It is our view that had the Political Affairs Committee been informed about the fact that the Greek Cypriot side had been treating all the missing Greek Cypriots who were not recovered within 6 months of their disappearance as dead, there would not have been lamentations about the uncertainty of the fate of missing Greek Cypriots and the problem would have been treated as closed similarly to the problem of 300 Turkish Cypriots referred to above.

As I have already stated the purpose of this letter is merely to bring to your notice the legislation 69/1978 by the Greek Cypriot administration in support of our argument that the search for the missing is for the Greek Cypriots a mere propaganda stunt.

This indicates once again that the Greek side is not genuinely interested in solving the humanitarian issue of missing persons in Cyprus once and for all within the agreed framework of the CMP but is intent on continuing to keep the issue alive and exploit it for political propaganda against the Turkish side.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



(Rauf R. DENKTAŞ)  
President of the  
Turkish Federated State of  
Kibris



APPENDIX I

TALKING POINTS ON  
THE QUESTION OF MISSING PERSONS IN CYPRUS

1. The Turkish Cypriot community was the first to experience the agony of missing persons in Cyprus. During the Greek Cypriot onslaught of December 1963 and the years of oppression that followed it, many Turkish Cypriots were abducted from the roads, from their places of work and even from hospitals where they were receiving medical treatment.

2. Various reports of the U.N. Secretary General to the Security Council give authentic information regarding Turkish Cypriot missing persons prior to 1974.

3. The Greek Cypriot authorities have persistently declined to account for the fate of missing persons since the Greek Cypriot attacks of December 1963, as well as those missing since 15 July 1974.

4. On 15 July 1974, the Greek Cypriots, in collaboration with the junta of Greece, staged a coup in Cyprus. During the coup there was heavy loss of life. This fact was acknowledged by Archbishop Makarios in the statement he made before the UN Security Council on 19 July 1974. He stated the following:

“The coup caused much bloodshed and took a great toll of human lives. I am afraid that the number of casualties is large and that the material destruction is heavy.”

5. Following the coup of 15 July 1974, many Greek Cypriots disappeared and the number of the missing Turkish Cypriots increased considerably.

6. The Greek majority of the missing Turkish Cypriots were civilians, including children and elderly people.

7. As a result of the attack of the combined Greek and Greek Cypriot armed forces on the Turkish Peace Force during the Turkish intervention in Cyprus, many people on both sides lost their lives. In addition to those killed in action, thousands of Greek Cypriots were killed during the internecine fighting among the opposing Greek Cypriot factions during the coup of 15 July 1974, before the Turkish intervention.



8. Greek Cypriot casualties during the coup were rated to be as high as three to four thousand by the Greek Cypriot press. Revealing disclosures were made by a Greek Cypriot cemetery priest named Papatsestos about the burial of truck-loads of dead Greek Cypriots in massgraves without any record and without any attempt to identify the bodies. The disclosures of Papatsestos were published by the Greek newspaper Ta Nea of Athens and reproduced in all Greek Cypriot newspapers on 28 February 1976.

9. Therefore, the question of missing persons in Cyprus is not an issue which arose as a result of the Turkish intervention. It became a common problem to both communities after the coup of 15 July 1974. Until then, it existed as a problem affecting the Turkish Cypriot community only.

10. Despite the fact that the missing persons issue concerns both communities in Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot side has been presenting it as an exclusive Greek Cypriot problem and blaming the Turkish Cypriot side for it.

11. This humanitarian question would have been settled long ago had the Greek Cypriot side been sincere about resolving it, instead of exploiting the issue for political propaganda purposes.

12. The Greek Cypriot side who claimed there were 2,500 missing persons from the Greek Cypriot community, has recently lowered this figure to 1,619. Between December 1963 and 15 July 1974, 203 Turkish Cypriots disappeared in the hands of the Greek Cypriot administration. Following the coup, the number of the missing Turkish Cypriots rose to 803.



13. The question of missing persons was discussed in detail during the summit meetings held between President Denktas and Archbishop Makarios on 27 January and 12 February 1977. During these meetings, Makarios admitted that the Greek Cypriot side was exploiting the issue for propaganda purposes.

14. An agreement was reached during these summit meetings to establish a mechanism covering the missing persons of both communities. This agreement could not be implemented since the Greek Cypriot side later refused to follow such a course.

15. In 1977 the matter was raised by the Greek Cypriot side at the Third Committee of the UN and a unanimous resolution was adopted to the effect that the ICRC should participate in an Intercommunal Committee. The Turkish Cypriot side accepted the establishment of a Missing Persons Committee envisaged by this resolution even though it was not represented or heard at the U.N.

16. The Greek Cypriot side, after wasting 12 months, referred the issue back to the Third Committee in 1978 in order to keep it alive at the international level as an instrument of its political propaganda, despite the repeated calls by the Turkish Cypriot side for a bilateral meeting to resolve the outstanding differences with regard to the establishment of a Missing Persons Committee. This Greek Cypriot attitude blocked the way to any positive development until 1981.

17. With the help of the UN Secretary General and his Special Representative in Cyprus, an agreement was reached on 22 April 1981 by the two communities on the terms of reference for the establishment of a Committee on Missing Persons (CMP).

18. The CMP consists of three members: one member from each of the two communities and a third member, being an ICRC official and appointed by the UN Secretary General with the approval of the two sides.

19. The CMP is an autonomous body and functions independently according to its terms of reference which is confidential.

20. The CMP held its first meeting on 14 July 1981 and took up procedural questions. However, in September 1981, the Greek Cypriot side boycotted the CMP meetings for more than two months. Having thus created a situation of pseudo-stalemate, the Greek Cypriot side used it as a pretext to take the issue once again to the UN Third Committee. Meanwhile, the CMP's confidential documents, including its terms of reference were disclosed on the Greek Cypriot side. Extensive propaganda activities were carried out in various international fora and the third member of the CMP, as well as the Turkish Cypriot member were faced with accusations and insulting charges of the Greek Cypriots.



21. The last meeting of the CMP was held on 25 February 1982. By then, the Turkish Cypriot side having accepted in full the compromise proposals put forward by the third member, there were no outstanding procedural questions that prevented the CMP to embark upon its humanitarian task of dealing with the cases of missing persons from both communities in accordance with its terms of reference. However, the Greek Cypriot member intentionally blocked the way to further meetings and rejected the compromise proposals of the ICRC Representative which would have enabled the CMP to fulfill its humanitarian mission. The Greek Cypriot side, by choosing once again to exploit the issue of missing persons in international fora, dealt a severe blow to the CMP which has been inoperative due to the Greek Cypriot refusal to participate in its work.

22. The Turkish side has displayed its will to resolve the question of missing persons within a humanitarian context. For the Turkish Cypriot side, the CMP continues to be the proper venue where the two sides can discuss and resolve this issue which is of concern to both communities.

23. The Turkish Cypriot side has stated its readiness to resume the work of the CMP whenever the other side is willing to participate in the CMP meetings.

24. The question of missing persons is solely a humanitarian issue and all efforts aimed at politicizing this problem should be resisted. No political considerations can therefore be allowed to be brought into this issue.



The law issued by Greek Cypriot  
Administration concerning the definition of Greek Cypriot  
"missing persons"

"Law No 69/1978"

In this law, unless the context otherwise provides :

"missing" means every Greek Cypriot who disappeared on or after 21st December 1963 for a continuous period of at least six months due to the conditions created as from 21st December 1963, and every Greek Cypriot who disappeared on or after the coup d'état of the 15th July 1974 for a continuous period of at least six months due to the conditions created by the coup d'état of the 15th July 1974 or due to the Turkish invasion as from 20th July 1974 and for whom, in any of the cases, the government of the republic does not have any definite information that he is found in life and the word "you disappear" shall be interpreted accordingly.

"fallen" means every Greek Cypriot who :

1) was killed during active service on the Turkish air attacks against Cyprus which took place before 15th December 1966 or as a direct result of any other circumstances which might be considered as arising from the conditions created after 21st December 1963 or by the illegal conditions of EOKA or, before or after the coup d'état of 15th July 1974 or at the Turkish invasion as from 20th July 1974.

2) died as a result of wounds or illness directly due to services given and includes :

a) every missing, and

(b) every disabled having a degree of incapacity exceeding forty nine per cent who died because of any reason, and every other disabled who according to the report of the medical board, dies from the relapse due to the disability suffered, if in either case, the disabled had acquired the right of allowance and did not lose it before his death.

Committee of Allowances :

There shall be established a Committee of Allowances composed of a chairman and four members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers for such period of service and under such conditions as it shall prescribe.

Allowance :

The dependants of the fallen, or missing and the disabled are entitled to allowance under the provisions of this law.

The dependants of the fallen or missing and the disabled must submit an application for allowance to the Committee of Allowances, within three months from the date on which the death took place or is considered to have taken place or on which the applicant became disabled."