

CYPRUS PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Ref. E.T. 6/97
Fax: 00357-22427559
H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York NY. 10017

Lefkosia 11 December, 2002

Excellency,

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names, which is the only competent Authority in the Republic of Cyprus, and which represented the Republic of Cyprus to all the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names since 1967, has to bring you in mind the following:

In your Plan "*Basis of Agreement on a comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem*" are referred geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus in the Greek and Turkish form, as in pages 45, 46, 91 etc.:

Amadhies/Gunebakan, Limnitis/Yeşilyirmak, Selemeni/Suleymaniye, Xerovou- nos/Kurutepe, Agios Georgios/Madenlikoy, Agia Marina/ Gurpinar, Asoma- tos/Ozhan, Kormakiti/Korugan, Rizokarpaso/Dipkarpaz, Aigialousa/Yeni Erenkoy, Agia Trias/Sipahi, Melanarga/Adacay etc.

The Greek form to the most above geographical names is the form, standardized by the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names and presented to the United Nations.

The status for the Turkish names form is the following:

There is the traditional Turkish endonym form. With great care of the Turkish Cypriots this Turkish form has been used on the official Turkish map of Cyprus, which was published by the Republic of Cyprus at the beginning of its independence. This map was presented to the United Nations Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names at Montreal in 1987.

Since 1974, however, and specially after 1983 the Turkish invading forces began systematically to change the traditional place names to new ones. These new names have not been accepted by the Republic of Cyprus and the United Nations, because such arbitrary actions constitute flagrant violation of international law, the United Nations resolutions on the question of Cyprus and the resolution No 16 of the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1977, which states:

"It is recommended that any changes made by other authorities in the names standardized by the competent national geographical names authority, should not be recognized by the United Nations".

From this resolution, arise the following:

The new names have been given by non recognized and unauthorised bodies, and contrary as well, to the "*Recommendation A of Resolution 4*" of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, therefore, these are not accepted by the United Nations.

I quote from your Excellency's answer letter referenced 96-DM-289 dated 8 July 1996, to a note verbale Ref 202/9 of 9 May 1996 of H.E. the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cyprus at the United Nations.

"...You may recall in its resolution 541 (1983) of 18 November 1983, the Security Council considered the declaration by the Turkish Cypriot authorities which purports to create an independent State in Northern Cyprus to be legally invalid. Accordingly, the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" has no status whatsoever at the United Nations. As such, any "decisions" of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" also have no status at the United Nations.

In addition to the foregoing, please be advised that we maintain full respect for the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Your above said Plan uses names in the text and on the attached to it maps, which according to the resolutions adopted, are not accepted by the United Nations. The present is herewith submitted for the necessary actions.

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

(Prodromos Vasileiou)
President