

**THE COUNCIL OF
TURKISH CYPRIOT ASSOCIATIONS (UK)**

121, WARHAM ROAD
HARINGEY LONDON N.4

TEL: 01-340 9586
01-693 4114

9th October, 1985

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
LONDON, SW1.

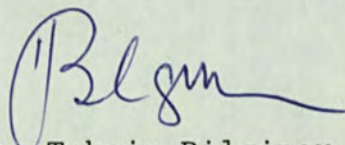
Dear Prime Minister,

We have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter we have recently addressed to Her Majesty the Queen, regarding the plight of the Turkish Cypriot people who have been effectively disenfranchised from the Commonwealth.

In view of the sensitivity felt amongst thousands of Turkish Cypriots who are proud of being both U.K. as well as Commonwealth citizens, we would be very grateful if you would kindly consent that a representative delegation of our Council were accorded the opportunity, if possible before the forthcoming Commonwealth Conference to be held at the Bahamas, to meet you in person and seek your valuable guidance on a matter of historic importance to the Turkish Cypriots. No doubt we are fully aware that any policy decision on this matter rests entirely with Her Majesty's Government.

Please accept Prime Minister, the assurances of our highest consideration and respect.

Yours Obediently,



Dr. Tahsin Bilginer
Chairman of the Council
Executive Committee.

ENCS.

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Your Majesty,

We have the honour to submit that the Council of the Turkish Cypriot Associations in the U.K. represents the Turkish Cypriot Community resident in the United Kingdom, and in this submission, also represented are our affiliated organisations in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The Council requests your gracious consideration and understanding of the case of almost three hundred thousand Turkish Cypriot Commonwealth citizens on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at the Bahamas. We address Your Majesty in your capacity as the Head of this august body. We respectfully submit that we have been denied either a hearing or participation at Commonwealth meetings although both the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference have enabled our voice to be heard at their meetings. We have also addressed the Commonwealth Secretariat in this regard several years and have argued that the Commonwealth should not be seen arguing on behalf of only one community of a Commonwealth country, particularly as the issue concerns the two Commonwealth communities of Cyprus, namely The Turkish and Greek Cypriots, whose respective equal political status is not only the basis of the recent U.N. initiatives on Cyprus but also guaranteed under the 1960 Agreements of which Your Majesty's Government is a guarantor power.

We would further submit that the Commonwealth Secretariat under the leadership of its Secretary General has recently published a pamphlet captioned "Vulnerability: Small States in the Global Society," the contents of which undoubtedly establish the partisan view of the Secretary General. We would therefore regretfully state and place on record that the Turkish Cypriot Community has no confidence in the person of the Secretary General who has systematically crusaded against the Turkish Cypriot Community despite the decades of oppression and suffering of our people in the island.

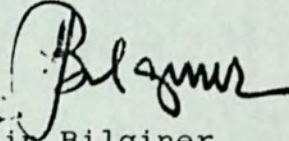
We have taken the liberty of addressing this appeal to Your Majesty as Commonwealth citizens who stand deprived of our rights in our parent organisation, the Commonwealth. We also take this opportunity of expressing your deepest gratitude to Your Majesty's Government for Britain's historic role during the dark days of ENOSIS, when thousands of Turkish Cypriot together with British families were massacred on the island. The Turkish Cypriot people have found a safe sanctuary - thanks to

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the legitimate intervention by Turkey in 1974 when the whole of the Turkish Cypriot people faced imminent danger of total extinction -for the first time in their long history, and we now sincerely seek to contribute towards peace and stability not only on our island but also in the region. We feel that it is our right to be heard at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and appeal to Your Majesty for your gracious intervention.

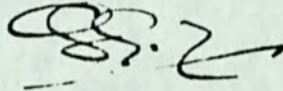
We remain,

Yours Obediently,



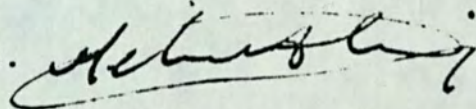
1. Dr. Tahsin Bilginer
Chairman of the Council Executive
Committee
The Council of Turkish Cypriot
Associations in U.K.

2.

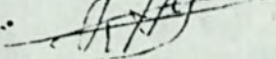


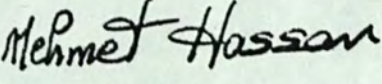
Mustafa Gençsoy
Chairman
Cyprus Turkish
Association.

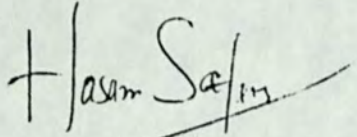
3.

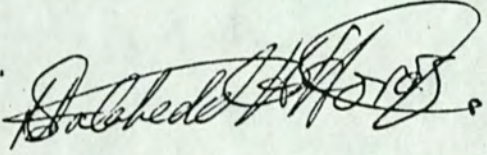


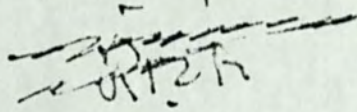
Metin Hüseyin
Anglo Turkish Cultural
Association.

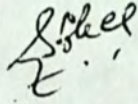
4. 
Ramadan H. Güney
Chairman
U.K. Turkish Islamic Trust.

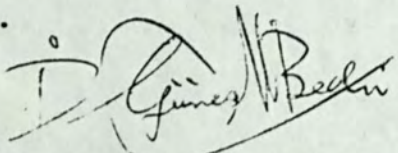
5. 
Mehmet Hasan
Chairman
Turkish Community
Football League.

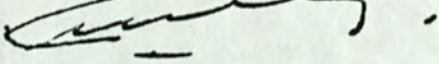
6. 
Hasan Safer
London Islamic Turkish
Association.

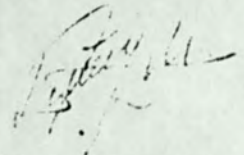
7. 
M.S.H. Horoz
Britain-Turkish Committee.

8. 
Fevzi Ali Riza
Turkish Cypriot Cultural
Association.

9. 
Şener Gökçe
Ergazililer Association.

10. 
İsmail Güneş Bedri
Chairman
U.K. Turkish Islamic Youth
Organisation.

11. 
Rasih Işıkman
Turkish Youth Education
Culture and Art Society.

12. 
Arif Tahir Erişen
General Secretary
Mehmetcik Turkish Association.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Adk | 9 October 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations asking her to receive a delegation from their Council before the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

You will not be surprised to know that it will not be possible for the Prime Minister to do this, but you may wish to consider offering them a hearing from a senior FCO official. May I leave it to you to reply direct please.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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