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COMMUNICATION OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1996 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CYPRUS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

On 5 September 1996, the Director General received a note verbale dated 3 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus. The text of the note verbale, which relates to the DG's report on "Composition of regional groups" (attached to document GC(40)/11), is herewith being issued pursuant to a request made by the Permanent Mission.

**TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1996
FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CYPRUS
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the International Atomic Energy Agency presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the IAEA and referring to the document No. GOV/2864 dated 10 May 1996, under the title "Article VI of the Statute, (b) Composition of Regional Groups, Report by the Director General on the implications of draft resolution GC(39)/COM.5/10 under the agenda item Amendment of Article VI of the Statute", and in particular to its annex C concerning the Note sent by the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the Agency, with regard to Turkey's views on the membership to the list of eight regional groups mentioned but not identified in Article VI of the IAEA Statute, has the honour to inform of the following:

The argumentation of the Permanent Mission of Turkey, in its Note dated 13 October 1995 (annex C of the above mentioned document), that Cyprus "neither geographically nor politically belongs to the Western European area. Therefore, in the drafting process of such a list as envisaged by the GC(39)/RES/22, this fact should be reflected accordingly ...", is at least superficial and misleading.

Each organization, whether it belongs to the UN system or not, maintains its autonomy, has its own particularities and is master of its own procedures, including the classification (grouping) of its members in various groups, regions or areas. Thus, the participation of Cyprus in the "Asian Group" at the United Nations, cannot be considered as a criterion or a rule for Cyprus' inclusion in the various groups or regions of international organizations.

Furthermore, the classification of the UN regional groups has evolved as an informal arrangement, basically for consultation and election purposes, and is based on the agreement of the Member States concerned. As it is known this arrangement emanates from the UNGA Resolution 1991 (XVIII) of 1963 and UNGA Resolution 33/138 of 1978. Thus, for practical purposes, different groupings are used for different purposes within the context of the United Nations. For example, as it is also pointed out in the Report of the Secretary-General (para. 16), Turkey belongs to the "Western European and other Group" for election purposes and to the "Asian Group" for other purposes.

In addition to the above, Cyprus, always within the context of the United Nations, is a member of the Economic Commission for Europe. Furthermore, as in the case of IAEA, in a big number of international organizations, whether they belong to the UN system (i.e. UNESCO, ITU, FAO, World Tourism Organization, etc.) or not (i.e. ICRC, IOM, IUCN, etc.), Cyprus belongs to the "European Group" or "European Region".

Cyprus' historical and cultural inheritance, its tradition and institutions, as they have evolved from Cyprus' participation among others, to the Council of Europe, the CSCE/OSCE, the Association Agreement with EEC (1972), the application for EU-membership (1990), render natural Cyprus' inclusion to the "Western Europe" region area.

Furthermore, the Commission of the European Union, an organ much more competent to judge the European character of a state, than Turkey is, included the following paragraph in its opinion on the Application by the Republic of Cyprus for membership (30.6.1993 - para. 44):

"VI. CONCLUSIONS

44. Cyprus' geographical position, the deep-lying bonds which, for two thousand years, have located the island at the very fount of the European culture and civilization, the intensity of the European influence apparent in the values shared by the people of Cyprus and in the conduct of the cultural, political, economic and social life of its citizens, the wealth of its contacts of every kind with the Community, all these confer on Cyprus, beyond all doubt, its European identity and character and confirm its vocation to belong to the Community".

In line with the above facts, as well as the other factors that the Secretariat of the IAEA took into consideration when it prepared the list of states by Region (according to Article VI of the IAEA Statute), GC(39)/COM.5/10, Cyprus should remain in the "Western Europe" region.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus requests that the above mentioned views be duly reflected in the report of the Director General, which the Board of Governors at its June 1996 meeting decided to submit to the 40th regular session of the General Conference.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the International Atomic Energy Agency avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

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