

agencies and related offices in Cyprus have been respected and the safety and security of staff ensured. However, incidents have been reported. One was the overnight detention and interrogation of two Greek Cypriot staff, returning after completing an authorized journey; they had been stopped at a checkpoint by Turkish Cypriot police.

Environment, Report of the S-G to the CHR:
(E/CN.4/1997/18, Section I. B, paras. 1-4)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to a statement by the Director of Environment Service at the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment in Cyprus, during the international seminar on the contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the security of smaller States (Nicosia, 15 and 16 January 1996). The points in the statement that are summarized are that: environment and fundamental human rights are indivisible; environmental damage and changes in the demographic structure and to the political, cultural, religious and other characteristics of the occupied part of the country, have had direct effects on the enjoyment of practically all human rights by the people evicted from their land and resources; and, all definitions of sustainable development encompass intergenerational responsibility which implies international responsibility and cooperation for the protection of the environment, to which all countries have already committed themselves.

Mass exoduses, Report of the HCHR to the CHR:
(E/CN.4/1997/42, Section I.A., Section II.A.)

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights summarizes information received from the government referring to the Turkish invasion in 1974 and the consequent occupation of 37 per cent of the territory of Cyprus; this resulted in about 200,000 Greek Cypriots being forced by the occupation forces to leave their homes and properties and becoming refugees in their own country. The government stated that these people continue to be prevented by the Turkish forces from returning to their homes in the northern part of Cyprus.

The government informed the High Commissioner for Human Rights that it had prepared a bill on granting asylum to refugees and that consideration of the bill by a special committee, consisting of representatives of appropriate ministries and the representative of UNHCR in Nicosia, was at an advanced stage. The government also highlighted the fact that Cyprus had adopted legislation providing for the granting of nationality to a person whose mother was a national of Cyprus and whose father was stateless.

Restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/29/Add.1, Cyprus, paras. 1-4)

The report of the Secretary-General contains comments submitted by the government, stating that: Cyprus does not face a problem of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms committed by its authorities or any state organs; there is no ad hoc legislation regarding restitution, compensation and rehabilitation of victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms; legal machinery exists for any isolated cases for restitution and compensation of the victims; Cyprus is a party to the

European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes and enactment of a law ratifying the Convention is being pursued; and, a bill entitled "Compensation to Victims of Violent Crimes" was to be presented to the House of Representatives which will pay compensation to victims of violent crimes who cannot obtain compensation from other sources or from the perpetrator.

SECURITY COUNCIL

The report of the Secretary-General on UN operations in Cyprus (S/1997/437) covers the period from 11 December 1996 to 5 June 1997 and updates information on UNFICYP. Activities included continuation of humanitarian tasks in respect of Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the northern part of the island and Turkish Cypriots in the southern part. It notes that UNFICYP continued to be impeded by the presence of police officials whenever its humanitarian officers were interviewing Greek Cypriots in the Karpas area. Further, the report notes that, in the aftermath of intercommunal violence, unemployment of Turkish Cypriots in the southern part of the island, or in the buffer zone in the mixed village of Pyla, remains high; the government is paying unemployment benefits, and measures have been taken to extend payments beyond the normal limit. In terms of economic and social activities, UNFICYP continues to act as the intermediary between the two communities. Efforts have been made to ensure the equitable distribution of water and electricity and to develop cooperation between the communities in areas such as sanitation, health, environment, agriculture, veterinary science and rehabilitation of culturally important sites.

On 27 June 1997 the Security Council adopted a resolution (S/RES/1117) in which it, *inter alia*: expressed concern that tensions along the ceasefire lines remained high and negotiations on a final political solution had been at an impasse for too long; called on the military authorities on both sides to refrain from any action, particularly in the vicinity of the buffer zone, which would exacerbate tensions; reiterated grave concern at the continuing excessive levels of military forces and armaments in Cyprus and the rate at which they are being expanded, upgraded and modernized; called upon the parties to create a climate for reconciliation and genuine mutual confidence on both sides, and to avoid any actions which might increase tension; and, welcomed the efforts of the UN and others to promote the holding of bi-communal events so as to build trust and mutual respect between the two communities.

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FIJI

Date of admission to UN: 13 October 1970.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Fiji has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.76) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data and information on the economic system. There is some commentary as well on the political system, noting that the 1990 Constitution emphasizes fundamental rights and freedoms. The report states that, while