

NOVEMBER 18, 1983



STATEMENT DISCOURS

NOTES FOR A STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. GÉRARD PELLETIER,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 17, 1983

SITUATION IN CYPRUS

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am grateful to the Council for the opportunity to participate in this urgent debate on the situation in Cyprus. I regret that events on the island have made it necessary for the Council to return to this question only five months after it was last discussed here, when I had the privilege of addressing the Council.

My Government deeply regrets the unilateral declaration of independence by the self-styled "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" November 15. We have no plans to recognize this self-proclaimed state on the island. We continue to recognize a single Republic of Cyprus, whose sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected by all.

The unilateral declaration of independence has been disruptive of a very delicate and difficult negotiating process. It is the unfortunate result of what I observed to the Council last June, to the effect that the two communities of Cyprus and certain others involved in the dispute have not shown the will to make the necessary difficult compromises required to reach a successful political solution.

While we recognize the impatience and frustration of the parties evoked by the on-going lack of a settlement, we do not, however, condone such a disproportionate response to these feelings. By its action the Turkish-Cypriot community has endangered the

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prospects for the achievement of a just and lasting settlement within a united Cyprus and the attainment of well-deserved peace and prosperity on the island. Canada's regret at this unhappy situation is much the greater because of our long-standing involvement in the UN peacekeeping force designed precisely to facilitate a solution to the Cyprus problem, not imposed unilaterally but developed by, and having the agreement of, all parties.

We note Turkish-Cypriot leaders have expressed the view that the good offices of the UN Secretary General and negotiations must continue. A tangible and constructive manifestation of this intention would be the withdrawal of the unilateral declaration by the leaders and their agreement to resume active intercommunal negotiations at the highest level as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Canada joins the UN Secretary General and other states in calling on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to avoid any provocation that could result in a further deterioration of the situation. As an important troop contributor to UNFICYP, we call on all concerned to respect fully the mandate and the personnel of this UN peacekeeping force. This is the minimum requirement for the continued effectiveness of UNFICYP.

Mr. President, even in this current difficult situation, I believe there are constructive steps the Council could take now. It might wish to ask the Secretary General to carry out urgent soundings and report back to the Council within a short period. This report could serve as a basis for further consideration and action by the Council.

Canada continues to support most strongly the efforts of the Secretary General to promote a negotiated and lasting settlement. These efforts are all the more important in the new situation which now confronts us and we urge the Council to again endorse them. We call on other member states to offer their full support to enhance the authority of the Secretary General in overcoming the obstacles to a final settlement of a problem which has been with us all too long.

Thank you, Mr. President.