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Letter dated 9 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Ozer Koray, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with an international seminar on human rights and the Cyprus question.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 8 November 1990 from Mr. Ozer Koray addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a press release issued at the end of the international seminar on human rights and the Cyprus question held at Lefkosa, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on 22 and 23 October 1990.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure were circulated as a document of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ozer KORAY
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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APPENDIX

THE TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE
ISSUED AT THE END OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
"HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CYPRUS QUESTION"
HELD IN LEFKOSA, TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS
ON 22-23 OCTOBER 1990

I. INTRODUCTION:

An international seminar on "Human Rights and the Cyprus Question" was organized by the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Committee (an affiliated body of the UN Association of Northern Cyprus) and held in Lefkosa, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on 22-23 October 1990.

The seminar in which eminent academicians and lawyers from various countries - the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus - took part, focused on current trends in the field of human rights, with particular emphasis on the Cyprus question.

II. OBSERVATIONS:

The seminar, comprising the presentations and a panel discussion, made the following observations:

- i) Human rights issues cannot be taken up in isolation from other aspects of the Cyprus question including the political aspect. In this context, it was stressed that the continuous violations of the human rights to life, corporal integrity, liberty, property and equal treatment of the Turkish Cypriots, particularly between 1963-1974, has been the main factor leading to the current situation in the island.
- ii) The persistence of the Greek Cypriot side in continuing to obstruct the exercise, by the Turkish Cypriots, of their rights of security and self-determination through an intensive campaign on a global scale, is aimed at isolating the Turkish Cypriots from the rest of the world. This attitude also constitutes a hindrance to the interests of third parties who may wish to have direct links and relations with the Turkish Cypriots.
- iii) The seminar stressed that the presence of Turkish troops on the island is necessary for safeguarding the security and human rights of the Turkish Cypriot people.

- iv) The universal implementation of human rights and the question of whether the Turkish Cypriots are, in fact, fully enjoying the benefits of the relevant conventions were considered. It was observed that conditions have been created by the Greek Cypriots whereby the full enjoyment by the Turkish Cypriots of their rights and interests outside Northern Cyprus was being made impossible. As a result of these adverse conditions, it was found that the Turkish Cypriot side was deprived of an appropriate representation in international fora where the Cyprus question is taken up.
- v) The Turkish Cypriot people, who have a distinct national, cultural and religious identity in the island with equal political and legal status to the Greek Cypriots, are entitled to their right to determine their own destiny and to have an equal say in determining the future of Cyprus. Therefore, the seminar observed that there is the need for the two peoples in the island to live mutual respect and to co-exist in peace and freedom. This is only possible by creating in the first instance a new relationship based on political equality, justice and security.
- vi) It was emphasized that the full enjoyment by the Turkish Cypriot people of their human rights, including their right to an international identity, will contribute to the efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution.
- vii) It was highlighted at the seminar that the Greek Cypriot usurpation of international representation of Cyprus as a whole, and especially so in the case of the unilateral Greek Cypriot application for membership of the EC, constitutes a violation of the individual and collective rights of the Turkish Cypriot people. Treating the Greek Cypriot leaders as the sole legitimate international representatives of Cyprus amounts not only to a denial of the rights of the Turkish Cypriots, but also constitutes a flagrant breach of the 1960 Treaties.
- viii) The seminar noted that the Turkish Cypriot people have given themselves a democratic constitutional structure which is based on the rule of law, guaranteeing the free expression of the popular will in every sphere of political life, including the election of their legislators.
- ix) The seminar referred to the efforts of the UN Secretary-General, through his mission of good offices, in the search for a bi-zonal and bi-communal solution to the Cyprus question through direct intercommunal talks.

III. CONCLUSIONS:

Inspired by the UN Charter as well as the Human Rights Conventions and the current developments towards the full enjoyment of collective rights, the seminar, noting the foregoing observations:

- 1) Invites third parties, including international bodies, to accord fair treatment to the Turkish Cypriot people and to observe the principles of international law and natural justice by giving the Turkish Cypriots an equal say in all fora where pertinent matters relating to the Cyprus question are taken up.
 - ii) Appeals to the family of nations and to all international organizations to put an end to the Turkish Cypriots' sufferings caused by the restrictions being imposed on them in violation of their rights and to desist from any action which may result in further isolation of the Turkish Cypriots from the international community. In this regard they should favourably consider the establishment or the strengthening of their socio-economic ties with the Turkish Cypriot people especially in the fields of transport, trade, communication, tourism as well as in cultural and sportive activities which the seminar believes will help towards the establishment of a healthy new relationship in Cyprus between the two parties.
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Prof. Dr. Turkkaya Ataov
University of Ankara, Faculty of Political Sciences
TURKEY

Prof. Dr. Dennis Driscoll
National University of Ireland (Galway)
IRELAND

Prof. Dr. Dogu Ergil
University of Ankara, Faculty of Political Sciences
TURKEY

Dr. Necati Munir Ertekun
Special Advisor on Political Affairs
to the President of the TRNC
Former President of the Supreme Court of the
Turkish Federated State of Cyprus
TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

Dr. Herbert Golsong
Legal Advisor in International Affairs
Former Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights and
Former Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Doc. Dr. Sukru Gurel
University of Ankara, Faculty of Political Sciences
TURKEY

Dr. Christian Heinze
Practising Lawyer
Former Assistant to the President of the Supreme Constitutional
Court of Cyprus
GERMANY

Sir Anthony Kershaw
Former M.P. and Former Chairman of the British House of
Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs
UNITED KINGDOM

Prof. Dr. Alan Milne
Durham University
UNITED KINGDOM

Prof. Dr. Howard Reed
University of Connecticut
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dr. Salahi Sonyel
Member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs
UNITED KINGDOM

Prof. Mumtaz Soysal
University of Ankara, Faculty of Political Sciences
TURKEY

Prof. Dr. Tyge Trier
University of Copenhagen
DENMARK

Prof. Dr. Claudio Zanghi
L'Ecole Nationale De L'Administration Publique
ITALY
