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Letter dated 9 July 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter of the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration (A/40/1139-S/18201), I have the honour to inform you of the following.

In accordance with established international practice, the areas in the Turkish territorial waters as well as the international waters of the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea where the naval exercise "First Target-86" was to take place were duly made public, by notification to seamen No. 146, 15 days prior to the scheduled date of the exercise. This formal notification by the Turkish authorities, which was continuously broadcasted, should have been taken account of by all vessels navigating in the said area.

However, on 30 June 1986, a Greek Cypriot vessel by the name of City of Limassol entered naval exercise area No. 91 in the international waters of the south-western Mediterranean coast of Turkey, either by negligence or for other reasons. In full conformity with the relevant international rules, contact was immediately established with the said vessel, to remind it that in the duly notified area, firing exercises were being conducted and that it would therefore be hazardous to navigate therein. The vessel was advised, for its own security, to leave the area where the exercise was under way.

The Greek Cypriot vessel left the notified area thereafter. The vessel was at no time exposed to danger due to the ongoing exercise.

This is the account of the incident in question. Allegations and intimations to the effect that the vessel was harassed or fired on are totally baseless. Such

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allegations are perpetrated to cover up the negligence of the Greek-Cypriot administration and are designed to mislead public opinion. Turkey therefore rejects politically motivated accusations in connection with this incident.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as an official document of the fortieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Erkan GEZER
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

