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Letter dated 1 June 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the intervention made by my delegation at the debate in the Second (Social) Committee of the Economic and Social Council, on 17 May 1990, in connection with agenda item 3 (Human rights questions). In that intervention, my delegation alluded to the statement made by the representative of the Greek Cypriots and declared that the representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus might wish to reply to that statement.

I am now in receipt of such a reply from His Excellency Mr. Özer Koray, the representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex), and I shall be grateful if you would kindly have it circulated as a document of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 47, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 1 June 1990 from Mr. Özer Koray to the
Secretary-General

I am under instructions from my government to reply to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the Second (Social) Committee of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 3, in order to set the record straight.

During the deliberations of the Committee, as in all the other international forums where the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is not represented, the Greek Cypriot side, under the usurped title of a long-defunct "Government of Cyprus", has repeated its baseless allegations and distortions in relation to the human rights situation in Cyprus. The misrepresentation on the part of the Greek Cypriot representative and his unfounded accusations against the Turkish Cypriot side cannot conceal the criminal record of the Greek Cypriot administration between 1963-1974. No pious statements can exonerate the Greek Cypriot leadership from the grave responsibility for the murder of hundreds of defenseless Turkish Cypriots, the uprooting of thousands from their homes, and for the destruction of the bi-communal partnership state by force of arms in the name of Enosis (union of Cyprus with Greece).

In December of 1963, the Greek Cypriots mobilized their forces to implement an insidious plan, known as the Akritas plan, for the total extermination of the Turkish Cypriot population in the island. Turkish Cypriots were hunted down in their own land, abducted from roads and even from hospital beds, never to be seen again. Turkish Cypriot villages were raided and burnt down; in some villages, whole populations were massacred and bulldozed into mass graves. As a result, the Turkish Cypriot people were pushed into enclaves where they had to live under a "veritable siege", as described by the then United Nations Secretary-General in his report of 10 September 1964 (S/5950) submitted to the Security Council. Between 1963 and 1974, the Greek Cypriot side, in its ruthless attempt to unite Cyprus with Greece, violated every human right of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The historical record in Cyprus is replete with examples of crimes and atrocities committed by the Greek Cypriot administration during 1963-1974. The grievous suffering inflicted upon the Turkish Cypriot people is well-documented in the reports of the Secretaries-General of that period and needs no further elaboration.

Oppression and discrimination against the Turkish Cypriots continued until July 1974 when the Greek Cypriots, in collaboration with the Greek Government, staged a coup d'état in Cyprus in order to formalize the annexation of the island to Greece. Thousands of Cypriots, both Greek and Turkish, died during the turbulence that followed the coup. The imminent danger posed against the Turkish Cypriot people became intolerable and the Turkish Government was compelled to intervene in Cyprus to protect the lives of the Turkish Cypriots. This military intervention was carried out in accordance with article 4 of the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960. The Greek Cypriot representative's attempts to describe this justified intervention as an "invasion" or "occupation" has no bearing with reality.

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Turkey's intervention in Cyprus saved the Turkish Cypriots from annihilation; brought to an end a decade of systematic human rights violations by the Greek Cypriots; and eliminated a most serious source of tension and instability in the Eastern Mediterranean. It also preserved the independence of Cyprus by preventing the annexation of the island by Greece. It was not an "invasion", but a peace operation which provided the Turkish Cypriots with security of life and brought peace and tranquillity to the island. One further by-product of this intervention was the restoration of democracy in Greece.

After an agreement for the voluntary exchange of populations was concluded between the two sides at Vienna, on 2 August 1975, the Turkish Cypriot people moved to the north of the island for security reasons and the Greek Cypriots moved to the south. This agreement was implemented under the auspices and supervision of the United Nations. The transfer of populations was carried out on a voluntary basis. There was no forcible displacement of populations as alleged by the Greek Cypriot side. Consequently, the question of "refugees", as referred to by the Greek Cypriot representative, is a non-issue being exploited by the Greek Cypriots to deceive those who are not familiar with the recent history of Cyprus.

In this connection, I should also like to make it clear that the Greek Cypriots who have chosen to stay in the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus after 1974 enjoy every freedom and human right, and can move freely to the south or any other place of their choice. Contrary to the allegations of the Greek Cypriot representative we have no "enclaved persons" in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The periodic reports of the Secretary-General reveal that any movement of Greek Cypriots to the south is according to the free-will of the individual. United Nations reports, as well as other sources, prove that the Greek Cypriots living in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus enjoy every basic human right.

The Greek Cypriot representative has also raised the phony issue of "settlers from Turkey". I will briefly restate the facts in this regard. To begin with, the allegation that the "influx of settlers" is a move taken to alter the demographic structure of the island is groundless.

Time and again we have stated that our immigration policies, as well as the entry and exit procedures of tourists, are questions within the exclusive competence and jurisdiction of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It is natural that, like other countries, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus should regulate labour entry and exit in accordance with its economic requirements.

The Greek Cypriots are the last people to complain about "changing the demographic structure of the island", since they have been the initiators of such policies for the purpose of "Hellenizing" the island. We have not forgotten how, when the Turkish Cypriots were forced to live in enclaves before 1974, with severe restrictions on their freedom of movement, every encouragement was given by the Greek Cypriot administration for Turkish Cypriots to leave the island. Once they had left, these Turkish Cypriots were prevented from returning to their native land. Paragraph 108 of the Secretary-General's report of 13 June 1967 (S/7969)

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states as follows: "No obstacles are placed by the Government in the way of Turkish Cypriots wishing to leave the island, but there is a standing ban on the return of Turkish Cypriot students from Turkey ..." In the same paragraph, it is stated that: "Any young Turkish Cypriots who go to Turkey must therefore resign themselves to an indefinite period of separation from their homeland". By these cruel methods, the Greek Cypriots carried out their plans to change the demographic structure of the island under the smoke screen of "security considerations".

The Greek Cypriot representative also raised the issue of missing persons. This particular issue, which is exclusively of a humanitarian nature, is being cynically kept alive by the Greek Cypriot side for political propaganda purposes. Rather than allowing the Missing Persons Committee to pursue its designated humanitarian functions in conformity with the agreed terms of reference, the Greek Cypriot side prefers, even at the cost of causing anguish to its own people, the callous exploitation of the issue. It also tries to present it to the world community as an entirely Greek Cypriot problem, whereas the problem of missing persons has been tormenting the Turkish Cypriot people ever since the island-wide carnage by Greek Cypriot armed elements began in December 1963.

In view of the foregoing, it is clear that the Greek Cypriot side is in no position to lecture anybody on human rights issues. It is hypocritical for the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration, while trying to pass his illegal administration off as the only legitimate entity capable of representing the island as a whole, to spare no effort to undermine the legitimate rights and freedoms of the Turkish Cypriot people, in gross distortion of the historical and current realities in Cyprus. There is, of course, no mention of the fact that it was his administration that trampled upon the most basic human rights of the Turkish Cypriots. It was the Greek Cypriots who violated the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the rule of international law, by waging a ruthless war of attrition and terrorism against the Turkish Cypriot people.

Since 1974, the Turkish Cypriot people have been enjoying human rights free from Greek Cypriot domination. They have established their own state under a democratically elected government. All sovereignty and authority rests with the Parliament of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, representing the free-will of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The recent elections in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have confirmed the determination and will of the Turkish Cypriot people to stay free, to uphold the principles of democracy, to preserve their national identity and to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their homeland, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot side must come to terms with this reality and learn to respect the legitimate rights of the Turkish Cypriots, in compliance with Security Council resolution 649 (1990).
