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Letter dated 28 December 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my communication of 30 November 1979 (A/34/739-S/13661), I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to a statement made by the Foreign Minister of Turkey, Mr. H. Erkmen, published on 22 December 1979 in the Turkish daily Milliyet, which is indicative of Ankara's partitionist designs against the Republic of Cyprus and its people. According to the aforementioned daily, Mr. Erkmen was quoted as having stated, inter alia, the following: "... there is sound logic in Denktash's demand for independence" and that "Turkey has no reservations about such a solution".

Responding to the aforesaid provocative statement of the Turkish Foreign Minister, the Foreign Minister of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos A. Rolandis stated the following:

"When about 40 days ago I accused from the platform of the United Nations the Turkish side of promoting the idea of declaration of an independent Turkish-Cypriot State, the Turkish representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Eralp, in his reply said:

'False allegations have just been made as to the intention of the Turkish community to declare unilateral independence ... I should like to state firmly once again that Turkey does not have any expansionist aims nor does it pursue a partitionist policy with regard to Cyprus.' [A/34/PV.68, p. 22 and A/34/PV.72, pp. 29-30]

And Mr. Eralp went on to read whole pages from his text to tell all representatives at the United Nations that Turkey does not at all aim at partition or declaration of an independent State in Cyprus and that we are creating an artificial crisis in order to prolong the occupation ... which suits us!

"All these grotesque allegations were of course a well-put-on Turkish act which, however, did not convince the majority of delegates. But as soon as the curtain of the Cyprus problem at the world organization fell, so did the mask of the Turkish-Cypriot leadership. Since 20 November, Denktash has been doing nothing else but hurling threats about declaration of a separate Turkish-Cypriot State.

"On 22 December, the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr. Erkmen, told Milliyet that 'there is sound logic in Denktash's demand for independence' and that 'Turkey has no reservations about such a solution'. This statement, which proves beyond any doubt how unfounded and baseless were the allegations made by Mr. Eralp at the United Nations, cannot but cause us serious concern. For this is the first time a member of the Turkish Government openly supports the idea of an independent Turkish-Cypriot State.

"Mr. Erkmen says that Denktash is justified because we are following a 'tough' line which vindicates the latter's intentions. But what is this much talked of 'tough' line of ours?

"(a) We have been the victim of an invasion and lost 40 per cent of our territory and 70 per cent of our resources. Two hundred thousand Greek Cypriots have become refugees.

"(b) Nobody has been able for five and a half years now to promote implementation of international decisions supporting our just cause.

"(c) We have not remained stuck to the decisions because we are aware of the short-comings of the machinery of world organizations. We made it clear many times that we are ready to resume the talks without any delay on the agreed basis of 19 May 1979.

"(d) We have been continuously moving in all directions and we have been exerting efforts, known and unknown to the public, to get out of the morass.

"Well, we are the tough, those with the blackened and conquered land, the dead and the missing, who have been continuously seeking ways for talks and a reasonable settlement, despite the shadow of the foreign tanks on Cyprus territory.

"I hope Mr. Erkmen will think again about what he said and will reconsider his attitude. I would advise him at least to read the reply given by the Turkish-Cypriot newspaper Soz of 24 December to his statement. It said: 'You say you cannot leave Denktash alone. Yes, but the Turkish-Cypriot community is abandoning Denktash. Denktash will be eventually ruined by this support of yours.'

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"Concluding my reply I address to our Turkish-Cypriot compatriots a message of fraternity and co-operation as I did from the United Nations platform. We are ready to work with them for a solution based on logic and justice in the interest of all of us. And let them remember that the things that separate us are very insignificant compared with those that unite us."

I would be grateful if Your Excellency were to circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Cyprus", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations
