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Letter dated 11 March 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 11 March 1986 addressed to you by Mr. Özer Koray, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

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

(Signed) İlder TÜRKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 11 March 1986 from Mr. Özer Koray to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the two consecutive letters addressed to Your Excellency by Mr. Constantine Moushoutas, the Representative of the Greek Cypriot administration to the United Nations, dated 17 January 1986 and 23 January 1986, which were circulated as documents A/40/1076-S/17743 and A/40/1081-S/17759 respectively, which letters deal with alleged attempts by Turkey to affect changes in the demographic structure of Northern Cyprus - a recent pet project of the Greek Cypriot propaganda machine - and to bring to your kind attention the following facts and considerations.

As Your Excellency is well aware, the Greek Cypriot administration, particularly since 1974, has considered it its duty, as a deliberate act of policy, to do everything it can in order to internationalize the Cyprus problem by using various tactics, the most notorious one being an intensive campaign of baseless propaganda, in order to discredit Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot people in the eyes of the world public opinion. Mr. Moushoutas' latest allegations on the so-called "Turkish settlers" is but one element of this wider scheme of baseless slander, which has been deliberately picked out at this particular time because of the fact that other favourite topics of exploitation are no longer paying dividends, as the world community, with an increasing awareness of the true facts about the Cyprus question, is more and more viewing this incessant campaign with disinterest and, indeed, distaste.

Having made these general observations about the intentions behind Mr. Moushoutas' letters, I would now like to dwell upon some of the most glaring examples of misrepresentation and distortion of facts contained in the said letters. In this connection I wish to stress that Mr. Moushoutas' references to "Ankara's systematic colonization", "occupied" territories and to "settlers from mainland Turkey" are of a totally unfounded and malicious nature, which do not in the least correspond to the true facts of the situation in Cyprus. Recent history clearly shows who has attempted to occupy Cyprus, to alter completely the demographic structure of the island and to have it colonized under Greece, not only by infiltrating as many as 20,000 mainland Greek troops and officers into Cyprus between 1963 and 1974, but also by means of armed violence aimed at suppressing or completely eliminating the Turkish Cypriot element in Cyprus.

A few examples from the then Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council will suffice to illustrate the point: for example, the Secretary-General's report S/5950 of September 1964 states, in paragraph 41, that "... an estimated 5,000 personnel entered the island ... from Greece" during the month of July of that year alone, while another report, S/8286 of December 1967, indicates, in paragraph 24, that the Greek Cypriot "House of Representatives passed a bill designed to give legal status to the Greek army officers and men serving, hitherto covertly, with the National Guard in Cyprus".

While we have no precise information as to how many of the 20,000 Greek mainland troops and officers had actually left the island following the 1967 crisis, it is clear that thousands of them either continued to stay (including those who were illegally resettled in Cyprus after being discharged from the Greek contingent stationed in the island under the 1960 Treaty of Alliance) or were brought back to Cyprus, as these were the officers and men, together with local armed elements, who staged the coup d'état against the régime of Archbishop Makarios on 15 July 1974, in order to expedite the materialization of Enosis - the annexation of Cyprus to Greece. It was Archbishop Makarios himself who had called this coup "an invasion of the island by Greece" in his address to the Security Council on 19 July 1974 (S/PV.1780).

It is significant to note, in connection with Greek Cypriot attempts to alter the demographic structure of Cyprus, that the number of the Greek Cypriot electorate has shown a dramatic increase, by about 40,000, since the previous Greek Cypriot elections about five years ago - an increase that cannot be explained by the low growth of the Greek Cypriot population.

It should be noted that the long-standing policy and efforts of the Greek Cypriots to hellenize Cyprus (the ultimate change in the demographic as well as the political structure of the island), in addition to causing much bloodshed and suffering to both peoples of the island up to 1974 have, since then, continued to be a source of political and social instability within the Greek Cypriot community in Southern Cyprus. These efforts, culminating in the above-mentioned coup d'état of 15 July 1974, have left a legacy of conflict, tensions and deep divisions within the Greek Cypriot community, aggravated by the laxity shown by the Greek Cypriot administration towards terrorism in general. Indeed, the violent incidents and acts of terrorism ranging from political murders, kidnappings, going as far as the kidnapping of Mr. Kyprianou's own son in 1977, to bombings and smuggling of all kinds of explosives, turning Southern Cyprus into a virtual supply centre for international terrorism, show the extent which such developments have reached in Southern Cyprus. Meanwhile assaults on tourists, incidents of rape and drug smuggling have become a familiar feature of everyday life in the Greek Cypriot zone, and are reported daily by the Greek Cypriot press.

In the face of this utter political and social chaos that has been afflicting the Greek Cypriot community in recent years, it is ironic that the Greek Cypriot administration should turn to blaming Turkey and the Turkish Government for allegedly causing social instability and unrest in Northern Cyprus by the introduction of "settlers" from mainland Turkey.

I need hardly stress that movement of workers is an international phenomenon affecting all developed and developing countries. As a democratic country respecting human rights, Northern Cyprus could not have stayed outside this phenomenon by sealing off its borders, especially at a time when, after 1974, there existed an acute shortage of skilled labour in Northern Cyprus arising out of the needs of the Turkish Cypriots who had been strangled economically by the Greek Cypriots for 11 years and had, for the first time, been provided with the opportunity for development in the conditions of security and stability created by the Turkish Peace Operation of that year. Within this context, skilled and unskilled workers have been admitted, mainly from Turkey but also from the Asian

subcontinent, the Far East, the Middle East and even from some European countries, on a transitional and seasonal basis in order to help the Turkish Cypriot economy in its development efforts.

I am sure Your Excellency would appreciate that this is completely within the competence and jurisdiction of our governmental authorities, and the Greek Cypriot administration does not have any right or authority over this matter. It should be noted that the Greek Cypriot administration, whose competence and jurisdiction extends only over Southern Cyprus, has allowed resettlement and employment, in Southern Cyprus, of thousands of non-Greek immigrants, in addition to the settlers from mainland Greece, but the Turkish Cypriot side has not made any propaganda on this subject.

Notwithstanding the above, I wish to reiterate that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has not in any way attempted to change the demographic structure of Cyprus by bringing in "settlers" from Turkey or anywhere else, and by giving them citizenship, as there is clearly no need for the Turkish Cypriot side to do so. Had it been our intention to build up population by artificial means, we could easily have brought over a great number of the hundreds of thousands of Turkish Cypriots who are currently living abroad, in such countries as Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, Canada and others. It will be recalled that most of these people had been forced to leave the island against their will, because of long years of persecution, oppression and discrimination meted out to them in order to eliminate the Turkish Cypriot population. It should be stressed, however, that our economy could not possibly have stood a sudden or artificial increase in population of 60,000, as the Greek Cypriot side claims, and accusations of this nature are, therefore, devoid of any substance or logic.

The fact that some of the people of Turkish Cypriot origin have, indeed, opted to return to Northern Cyprus in exercise of their most natural right of citizenship, after conditions of peace, security and stability have returned to the island since 1974, cannot be interpreted as an attempt to change the demographic structure of Cyprus. It should be pointed out that legislation regarding citizenship is the same on both the Turkish and the Greek Cypriot sides, and the Greek Cypriot accusations on this matter are, therefore, of a totally artificial and malicious nature, as they are trying to present the Cyprus question to the world as a case of abstract numbers and statistics and of majorities and minorities, as opposed to one of political equality between the two ethnic peoples of Cyprus who were co-founder partners under the Republic of Cyprus. It will be recalled that under the 1960 Constitution of that Republic, which the Greek Cypriots falsely claim to uphold, minorities are clearly defined as "Maronites, Armenians and Latins".

As regards the mainland Turkish citizens who visit Northern Cyprus as tourists, I wish to point out the obvious fact that we welcome tourists not only from Turkey, but also from all parts of the world. We shall always do our best to be good hosts to our visitors from other countries. Greek Cypriot propaganda on this matter is aimed at curtailing tourism to the North by fabricating false alarms and is part of the inhuman Greek Cypriot economic embargo against the Turkish Cypriots.

While viewing this new upsurge in Greek Cypriot propaganda against Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side with serious concern, I would also like to draw Your Excellency's attention to the negative implications of this political offensive for your current efforts for resuming the negotiations between the two sides. I sincerely hope that Your Excellency will do everything you can in order to put an end to this baseless propaganda in the interest of your initiative and that of a peaceful solution in Cyprus.

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

(Signed) Özer KORAY
Representative