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Letter dated 9 June 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention certain very disturbing developments with regard to the Cyprus question. At a time when your initiative is at a crucial and delicate phase, Turkish provocations, in the form of threatening statements or new illegalities committed, reach their climax.

In a recent interview in the American newspaper International Herald Tribune, the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Ozal, in a vain attempt to distort and falsify history to meet the malicious intentions of the aggressor, contended that the Greek Cypriots immigrated to Cyprus during the Ottoman period and later during the British administration! This outrageous allegation was made in order for the Turkish Prime Minister to reach his conclusion that Cyprus is more Turkish than Greek!

It is not my intention to elaborate on the Turkish Prime Minister's outrageous statement, which is wrong in its entirety and can be proven so by a simple glance at any independent historical textbook. What I wish to stress once again is the sinister intentions of the Ankara régime with regard to Cyprus. It is now abundantly clear that Turkey's ultimate aim is the total turkification of the island. The systematic destruction of the cultural character of the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus and the attempt to change the centuries-old demographic structure of Cyprus is an indisputable fact and an abhorrent action pursued by the aggressor in an effort to wipe out every sign of Greek Cypriot presence in the occupied areas. Having "succeeded" so far in remaining unpunished for the numerous crimes it committed against the people of Cyprus, Turkey is now even attempting to adulterate history in order to suit its expansionist interests against the island. The same Turkish Prime Minister revealed this Turkish position very clearly when on 3 December 1983 he stated that "Cyprus is an island which pierces the middle of Turkey like a dagger. It is extremely vital from the viewpoint of our security.

This island should not be in enemy hands. The existence of the Turks in North Cyprus is a guarantee in this direction."

At the same time, in the part of Cyprus that is under Turkish military occupation and continuing aggression, the commander of the Turkish occupation forces, Mr. Sabahattin Acinci, speaking at a medal awarding ceremony, is reported in the Turkish Cypriot daily Halkin Sesi of 31 May 1986 to have said that, "if an aggression took place against the Cyprus Turkish peace forces command, the aggressor should pay dearly for this, its life veins should be cut off and all its possibilities and lands should be taken". The Turkish commander, after raising the spirits of those listening to his barbaric language, went on to preach about peace and maintain that the purpose of their presence in Cyprus was to protect peace and freedom!

We never underestimated the ability of Turkey to usurp lands. History is replete with such achievements. What, however, leaves us aghast is the epitome of audacity of an aggressor and occupier, as defined by a host of United Nations resolutions, to speak of "aggression" against the Turkish occupation forces. The bellicose general apparently never considered a Chapter VII action on the part of the United Nations Security Council.

The above threats, coming from the mouth of the aggressor, who remains illegally on our soil for almost 12 years now, contrary to every norm and principle of international law and a host of United Nations resolutions, confirm once again Turkish provocativeness and the ultimate Turkish designs against Cyprus. It is not at all unlikely that Turkey may be paving the way for carrying out its threats at a subsequent stage, using as a pretext some incident to be caused by itself.

While these new Turkish threats and provocations are taking place, the bogus entity in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus carried out "municipal elections" on 1 June 1986 based on the illegal "constitution", and in accordance with an illegal "elections law". Furthermore, these elections were held with the participation of the "New Birth Party" (Yeni Dogus Partisi), which was formed by the Turkish settlers in Cyprus under the leadership of a retired officer of the Turkish Army, Mr. Aytac Besesler. A candidate of the "New Birth Party" was "elected" "Mayor" of Rizokarpaso, an area of the Republic of Cyprus where the few remaining enclaved Greek Cypriots reside under inhuman conditions of deprivation, oppression and continued violation of their most basic human rights.

It is self-evident that no lawful or adequate expression of political will can take place in the occupied areas, because of the Turkish invasion, Turkey's continuing massive military presence, the illegal expulsion of the majority of the lawful inhabitants of the occupied areas, and the implantation there by Turkey of numerous settlers from Anatolia. Furthermore, such actions aimed at further consolidating the purported independent state and the division of Cyprus are contrary to a host of United Nations resolutions and, more specifically, mandatory Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984).

On behalf of my Government I wish to protest strongly the above provocative and threatening statements as well as the new illegalities taking place in the occupied areas and point out that they are occurring at a time when efforts are exerted by some quarters to persuade and pressure the Greek Cypriot side to back down from its positions of principle, based on the Charter and the United Nations resolutions regarding the question of withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops, Turkish settlers and international guarantees.

The new Turkish provocations are indicative of the real intentions of the aggressor. Furthermore, they indicate more than ever before the urgent need to discuss the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops as a matter of priority. They also undoubtedly reveal the real dangers emanating from the continued presence of the Turkish forces of occupation on the Cyprus territory and the imperative need for their total withdrawal prior to the establishment of a transitional Government.

The expansionist designs of Turkey continue unabated in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and its numerous resolutions on the question of Cyprus. This is why the Government of Cyprus finds it necessary to draw the attention of Your Excellency and the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council to these new Turkish provocations, which, taking place at a most delicate phase of the Cyprus problem, reveal once again the methods and tactics of a country that has never respected international norms and principles and has always based its policies on violence and genocide.

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) Constantine MOUSHOUTAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

