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**General Assembly
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Agenda item 44
Question of Cyprus****Security Council
Seventy-second year****Letter dated 1 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative
of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 November 2017, addressed to you by the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mehmet Dâna (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to respond to the baseless allegations contained in the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative, in his purported capacity as the representative of Cyprus, to the Third Committee under agenda item 72 (Promotion and protection of human rights) on 30 October 2017. In view of such a blatant distortion of legal and historical facts pertaining to the island, I deem it necessary to bring the following to your kind attention in order to set the record straight.

It is a well-known practice of the said administration to exploit international platforms to disseminate false information with a view to concealing its grave responsibility for the inception, as well as the continuation, of the Cyprus problem. Such futile attempts cannot change the realities regarding Cyprus, such as the fact that the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus collapsed in 1963, when the Greek Cypriot militia resorted to violence against the Turkish Cypriots, ousted their representatives from all State organs and turned the partnership into a purely Greek State. It also cannot divert attention from the fact that the Greek Cypriot side has blocked each and every attempt aimed at solving the Cyprus problem under the good offices mission of the United Nations Secretary-General for the past 50 years, including the Annan Plan of 2004 and the recent Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, in July 2017.

It should also be borne in mind that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refer to the legitimate intervention of Guarantor Turkey as an “invasion” and its subsequent presence on the island as “occupation”. The fact of the matter is that the intervention of Turkey in 1974, which was conducted in line with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, was inevitable in the wake of a coup d’état carried out by the junta regime in Greece with the help of Greek Cypriot collaborators in Cyprus, which sought to annex the island to Greece, i.e. enosis.

As far as the issue of human rights is concerned, the said administration does not have any credibility or moral authority whatsoever to claim to be the champion of such basic rights in Cyprus. In Southern Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots’ property rights are completely ignored, their right to education in their mother tongue is not respected and their religious freedoms are subject to all kinds of restrictions and violations. To the contrary, the Turkish Cypriot side provides a legal, effective and accessible remedy mechanism for those Greek Cypriots who had left their properties in Northern Cyprus, namely the Immovable Property Commission, which was also endorsed by the European Court of Human Rights. The Court also found the Turkish Cypriot laws, as well as their implementation, regarding religious freedoms enjoyed by Greek Cypriots in Northern Cyprus and their right to education to be in line with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The recent decision to introduce a customs duty on goods brought from Southern Cyprus to Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in Northern Cyprus is a case in point, where every issue is exploited by the Greek Cypriot administration for political propaganda purposes. In fact, the living conditions of the Greek Cypriots and Maronites residing in Northern Cyprus are on a par with those of the Turkish Cypriots. They can freely travel anywhere in Northern Cyprus and enjoy freedom of movement throughout the island. They also have access to all goods and services within the North and are, therefore, not deprived of any basic needs. However, the aid convoy sent by the Greek Cypriot authorities through the United Nations has long been exploited to portray these people living in the north as “enclaved”. Much

to the contrary, it is a widely known fact that the recipients of that aid have been selling those items to local residents rather than utilizing them themselves. It is also worth mentioning that medical aid is exempt from this implementation and not subject to any duties. Moreover, it has been made known through the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus that the relevant Turkish Cypriot authorities will address any other needs of residents that may arise.

At a time when the two sides in Cyprus are expected to reflect, in line with the call of the Secretary-General, on the reasons behind the failure of the Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, in particular, and 50 years of negotiations, in general, the repetition of such anachronistic rhetoric is clearly counterproductive. At the same time, it is an unfortunate indication that the period of reflection has yet to produce a sincere and realistic assessment on the part of the Greek Cypriot side.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus