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**General Assembly  
Seventy-second session  
Agenda item 37  
The situation in the Middle East****Security Council  
Seventy-second year****Identical letters dated 6 December 2017 from the Chargé  
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the  
President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward to you the statement of the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in his capacity as the chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation summit (see annex I), and the press release of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, regarding the decision of the United States Administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move its embassy to Jerusalem (see annex II).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Güven **Begeç**  
Minister Counsellor  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex I to the identical letters dated 6 December 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

**The call of the Republic of Turkey, the summit Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to world public opinion**

6 December 2017, Wednesday

The defence of sanctity of Al Quds, the city of Prophets, where the sacred places of the three celestial religions coexist and where the Haram al-Sharif, our first kiblah, sheds heavenly light at its heart, and the preservation of its historic status are not just the duty of the Muslims but of all humanity.

The touchstone of the establishment and the maintenance of justice, tolerance and mutual respect in the whole world as well as in our region is to be able to protect Al Quds.

There are many examples of the sufferings experienced in the history when the special religious structure of Al Quds and its related intimacy were not respected.

Following the Second World War, a new and an everlasting tragedy began to occur in the region where Al Quds is at the centre.

Each step disregarding the rights of Palestine on Al Quds, recurrently confirmed by the UN resolutions, is a major blow struck on the dream of the coexistence of people that belong to different religions.

It is certainly not possible to waive from the requisition of a sovereign and independent State of Palestine on 1967 borders with Al Quds as its capital, that we regard as the condition for peace and security in the region.

The decision of the United States of America to recognize Al Quds as the capital of Israel is both contrary to the UN resolutions and to the ancient character of Al Quds extending to centuries.

Therefore, this step means disregarding the historical and social facts as well as the international law.

Just like the fact that Israel's decision to annex Al Quds and its acts and practices therewith are never accepted, this statement is identically invalid in the face of conscience, law and history.

Peace for everyone can only be achieved when the Israeli occupation of East Al Quds, West Bank and Gaza Strip ends and the Palestinians can be free in their own homeland.

As the summit chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, I hereby call the whole world to protect peace and security for the future generations by opposing these and similar unlawful actions.

As for the countries, which have not recognized the State of Palestine yet, we believe that it has now become necessary to take this important step to ensure a balance that keeps the common sense and justice alive.

Today, it is the common duty of all people with common sense and conscience, from all religions, all nationalities and all beliefs to stand by the people of Palestine and Al Quds in their rightful cause.

In the capacity of the summit chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the President of the Republic of Turkey, I call upon the United States of America to withdraw from this step that will trigger the chaos in the region, and I call upon Israel to pursue policies that will contribute to peace and tranquillity.

*(Signed)* Recep Tayyip **Erdoğan**  
President of the Republic of Turkey

**Annex II to the identical letters dated 6 December 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey  
6 December 2017**

**Press release regarding the statement of the US Administration declaring that it recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and it will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem**

We condemn the irresponsible statement of the US Administration that we learned with great concern, declaring that it recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and it will be moving the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

This decision is against international law and relevant UN resolutions, as the annexation of Jerusalem by Israel has been rejected by international community and the UN.

It has been recurrently emphasized by various UN resolutions that Palestinian question can only be settled through the existence of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. It is unacceptable that the US, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, ignores this fact. Attainment of independence by Palestine is a historical, conscientious and humanitarian obligation. Turkey will continue to advocate this.

The said decision, that will have negative reflections on the peace and stability in the region, also bears the risk of completely destroying the ground for peace.

We call upon the US Administration to reconsider this faulty decision which may result in highly negative outcomes and to avoid uncalculated steps that will harm the multicultural identity and historical status of Jerusalem.

These developments regarding Jerusalem will be taken up extensively at the OIC leaders summit and the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting that will be held on 13 December 2017 in İstanbul upon the call made by H.E. President Erdoğan as the summit chair of the OIC.

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