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Letter dated 25 July 1980 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention an inflammatory and, indeed, revealing account of the motives and intent which prompted Turkey to invade Cyprus in 1974, as given by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Mr. Gunes, and published in the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet on 20 July 1980. This account reads as follows:

"... Sadrasam Solkollu Mehmet Pasha said to the Venetian Ambassador following the defeat of the Turkish Navy at Lepanto: 'By destroying our Navy you cut our beard. We, by taking the island of Cyprus, cut your arm. A shaven beard grows stronger but a severed arm does not grow back.' With these words of Mehmet Pasha, uttered more than four hundred years ago, the importance of Cyprus was openly exposed. In fact, Cyprus is valuable, as a right arm, for a country interested in its defence or for its expansionist aims, if it harbours such aims. Or, to use modern terminology, Cyprus is a huge aircraft carrier that was anchored in the most strategic point of the East Mediterranean. It keeps the whole East Mediterranean under military control. It is one step off the Turkish coast and two steps from the Arab Peninsula. It is like the guardian of the Suez Canal. Without keeping in mind this strategic importance of Cyprus, one cannot understand the 20 July peace operation, or rather, it is impossible to understand the whole Cyprus crisis".

The above statement, emanating from a key political personality of Turkey who, more significantly, was his country's Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time of the invasion, authoritatively disproves the allegations advanced so many a time by Turkish officials that the invasion of Cyprus was a "peace-keeping operation" destined "to restore constitutional order" and to "protect the Turkish Cypriot community." Mr. Gunes finds it possible now even to point an accusing finger to some friends of Turkey and declare in the same statement: "Many States, to a certain extent because it suits their interests, want to see the Cyprus problem merely as our desire to protect the Turkish community in the island. Whereas, the actual problem

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is the security of the 45 million Turks in the motherland together with the Turks in the island and the maintenance of the balance in the Middle East."

Statements such as those by Mr. Gunes, although useful to the extent that they reveal beyond any doubt the expansionist aims of Turkey and may convince even its staunchest supporters of its real objectives, are certainly to be deplored inasmuch as, inter alia, they help entrench or create new insurmountable obstacles in your efforts, and ours, for the resumption of meaningful and substantive intercommunal talks.

Thus, three days after the above statement by Mr. Gunes, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Denktash, made a statement to the press, on 23 July 1980, in which he defiantly raised a number of issues which are anything but conducive to the resumption of talks. Thus, Mr. Denktash said that President Kyprianou rejected the Makarios-Denktash and the Kyprianou-Denktash agreements, denied the population exchange and relied on the illusion of the return of the refugees. He went on to declare that, if these constituted Mr. Kyprianou's basis for discussion, then it was really unnecessary to discuss the Cyprus problem with him. Furthermore, Mr. Denktash added: "Those who still dream that the Turkish Cypriot people will go back to the pre-1974 period cannot be expected to negotiate with the Turkish Cypriots...".

From these statements it is quite evident that Mr. Denktash is not interested in the resumption of the intercommunal talks and is using his familiar method of undermining any effort for progress.

While strongly protesting on behalf of my Government the content and purport of the above statements, I wish to reiterate our full support of your efforts for the resumption of the intercommunal talks on the basis of the 10-point agreement reached in May 1979, which incorporates the February 1977 guidelines, as well as the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 23 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Michael El. SHERIFIS
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Cyprus to the United Nations
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
