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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to refer to the letter dated 17 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative of India, circulated as Security Council document S/19354.

In his letter, the Permanent Representative of India asserts that in my statement of 14 December 1987 at the 2771st meeting of the Security Council, I "sought to draw an extremely misleading parallel" between the Turkish troops in Cyprus and the Indian forces in Sri Lanka. He points out that the Indian forces are in Sri Lanka in conformity with international law and that India fully respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. He then draws the conclusion that "there is no analogy between the legal activities of the Indian peace-keeping Force in Sri Lanka and the presence of Turkish forces in Cyprus where withdrawal has been demanded by the Security Council and the General Assembly".

I feel that this letter was unwarranted, since in my statement at the Security Council I have not contested the legality of the presence of Indian forces in Sri Lanka. I have just referred to the similarity between the political realities underlying the situation in Cyprus and Sri Lanka, and the need felt in both cases to non-island forces to prevent bloody communal fighting at the present time. I therefore regret that the Indian Permanent Representative has thought it appropriate to circulate a letter in which he explicitly questions the legality of Turkish forces in Cyprus. The claim to the monopoly of virtue is never quite convincing. The Indian Permanent Representative undoubtedly knows that the Turkish intervention undertaken in conformity with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960 and therefore with international law, was prompted by the attempt of Greece to destroy through a coup the independence of Cyprus and to annex the island. He would also remember that the invasion of Greece was condemned by the late Archbishop Makarios in the Security Council in 1974 and that only at the latest Security Council meeting did the representative of Greece refer to the action undertaken by the Greek Government of the time as "an act of high treason".

The Permanent Representative of India in his letter implies that, unlike the Government of India in Sri Lanka, the Government of Turkey does not support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus. This view is incompatible with

the relevant facts, since the Turkish Government is on record as supporting the Draft Framework Agreement of 29 March 1986, proposed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which reaffirms the principle of independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

Regarding the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions which the Indian Permanent Representative mentions, I wish to point out that, as far as the resolutions of the Security Council are concerned, their main thrust is the good offices mission of the Secretary-General and that all negotiations conducted within this framework between the two Cypriot sides were consistently based on the understanding that no withdrawal of forces would be envisaged except as part of a negotiated settlement. It is difficult to see why the Indian Permanent Representative is bent on an interpretation of the Security Council resolution that goes beyond the requirements even of the Greek Cypriots in the negotiating process, as distinct from their rhetorical stand.

The Permanent Representative of India also refers to the General Assembly resolutions of which India has invariably been a co-sponsor until now. He probably forgets that even these resolutions do not demand the withdrawal of the "Turkish forces" but of foreign forces in general and that there are at present forces other than Turkish forces in the island.

I would appreciate the circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Iltis TURKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative