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Letter dated 9 February 1979 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 place before Your Excellency and the members of the Security Council a recent statement, published on 7 February 1979 in the Special News Bulletin, the mouthpiece of the Turkish Cypriot leadership, which states, inter alia, that:

"... The Greek Cypriots will have a big surprise when the day comes to foot the bill accumulated by their leadership ... the Greek Cypriot community should do well to know that with their present leadership, the day to pay the bill cannot be too far away and it will certainly not be a small one."

Your Excellency is well aware of the fact that the crisis and everything that is abnormal in the island was and still is the continuous threat of partition of Cyprus by Turkey. The invasion of Turkey in 1974, the occupation of 40 per cent of Cyprus land, the flagrant violation by Turkey of international law and principles, the non-implementation by Ankara of United Nations resolutions, the eviction of 200,000 from their homes and properties and the changing of the demographic character of Cyprus by continuous immigration from Turkey are part and parcel of the expansionist objectives of the Turkish Government. It is, indeed, regrettable that these provocative threats of the Turkish Cypriot leadership see the light during a very delicate period when a process is under way for the resumption of meaningful and constructive negotiations, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and under Your Excellency's aegis and personal direction.

In the light of the aforementioned statement and the bitter experience of the past, it becomes clear that the Turkish side is resorting once again to its familiar tactic of paying lip service to the intercommunal talks, while in reality it is doing everything possible to undermine the very prospects for a meaningful resumption of such talks, so much desired not only by the Government of Cyprus, but also by all peace-loving nations.

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I humbly submit that it is very clear where these threats come from, what the intentions are and why we have this unnatural situation in which the intercommunal talks cannot progress. Ankara's policy of seeking to impose by force acceptance of its terms for a partitionist solution should be viewed with requisite concern by the international community and especially by the Security Council.

On behalf of my Government, I wish categorically to state once more that it remains genuinely committed to the process of solving the Cyprus problem through the resumption of meaningful and fruitful negotiations. Concrete and constructive actions, demonstrating goodwill and a sincere desire to reach a just and lasting solution as soon as possible, would facilitate the resumption of the talks, but not actions creating an atmosphere of tensions, uneasiness and threats of the abovementioned kind.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Cyprus", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph J. STEPHANIDES
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
