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Letter dated 6 April 1978 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 wish to bring to your notice and to that of the members of the Security Council that according to reliable information the Turkish invading forces have, as from 3 April 1978, embarked upon a renewed process of colonization of yet another part of the new town of Famagusta which, as is well known, was never occupied but was kept as a sealed-off area pending arrangements for the return of its legitimate inhabitants.

The area which is now being colonized is situated north of Eleftheria Avenue and east of the Municipal Stadium. Approximately 120 houses and stores belonging to the expelled indigenous Cypriot inhabitants have been usurped and allotted to colonist-settlers from mainland Turkey, who are massively imported by Ankara in furtherance of its sinister design of changing by force the age-long demographic character of the island.

There is, moreover, reliable information to the effect that work is now under way for completing two high-rise apartment buildings near the Constantia Hotel area, the construction of which was interrupted following the expulsion of the area's indigenous inhabitants by the Turkish forces. Hundreds more of alien colonist-settlers are soon expected to occupy illegally these apartment complexes.

The fact that such latest instances of colonization of the new town of Famagusta come at a time when the Turkish side is expected to submit its proposals should serve as a sad reminder of Ankara's duplicity, which has been amply demonstrated and documented during the various phases of the intercommunal talks. These actions are also indicative of the ruthless determination of the Government

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of Mr. Ecevit to proceed systematically with the complete colonization of even the new town of Famagusta, a policy which was always vigorously advocated by the Turkish Prime Minister. In this respect, attention is invited to our communication addressed to Your Excellency on 22 July 1977 (S/12371) denouncing such projected illegality by the then caretaker government of Mr. Ecevit.

There can be no doubt that, if Turkey were to continue with this unacceptable process of colonization and the perpetration of other faits accomplis in clear violation of international law and of the repeated United Nations resolutions on Cyprus - more specifically Security Council resolution 414 (1977) adopted unanimously on 15 September 1977 - any prospects for a negotiated settlement of the question of Cyprus would be negated. It should also be mentioned that the Turkish side has, prior to and following the adoption of that resolution, given assurances to the Security Council itself, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other interested parties, to the effect that the colonization of the new town of Famagusta would not be proceeded with.

It is, therefore, saddening to note that, while the Government of Cyprus looks positively towards the development of a meaningful and constructive dialogue on the basis of the specific provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Turkish Government, on the other hand, recalcitrantly persists with its aggressive policies calculated at destroying the Republic of Cyprus and condemning its people as a whole to a life-time of misery and degradation. In the light of this it should not come as a surprise for anyone that Ankara has yet to convince the world community of its genuine interest in a just and lasting solution of the Cyprus problem.

Thus, if this unacceptable situation were to continue unchecked, it would seem incumbent upon the Security Council, which has an obvious special responsibility towards Cyprus, to take a new look at the deteriorating situation in the island with a view to adopting the necessary measures for the long overdue implementation of its mandatory resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of my Government, I wish strongly to protest these new aggressive manifestations by Turkey against the non-aligned Republic of Cyprus and emphasize their ominous repercussions on the prospects for a just and peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

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