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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

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Letter dated 18 April 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter of 18 April 1978 (A/33/84-S/12653), I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention and that of the members of the Security Council to a further and serious aggressive action by Turkey against the Republic of Cyprus.

This morning, Turkish military aircraft flying at a low altitude violated the air space of Cyprus. According to United Nations sources, these violations involved two fighter aircraft which made seven passes in the area west of Nicosia at 9 a.m. and later at 9.28 a.m. in the area north of Yerolakkos.

These Turkish military activities at this very critical moment are contrary to and flagrantly violate the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus which urge "utmost restraint" and call upon the parties "to refrain from any unilateral or other action likely to affect adversely the prospects of negotiations for a just and peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem".

The above aggressive actions came right after the arrogant and provocative declaration of the Prime Minister, Mr. Ecevit, to the effect that 28,000 Turkish occupation troops will continue to remain on the territory of the Republic. Furthermore, they follow in sequence of the threat pronounced the day before by the Turkish constitutional adviser, Mr. Soysal, to the effect that "regrettable things may happen in the immediate future if the Turkish proposals were not accepted and intercommunal talks were not resumed" (see A/33/84-S/12653).

The close connexion between these three separate events clearly shows the motive behind them, namely to impose acceptance of Turkish terms through intimidation and threats of force on the eve of the Secretary-General's arrival

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

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in Cyprus for consultations. The timing and circumstances in which these activities take place constitute a blackmailing of the Government during the consultations with the Secretary-General and at the same time constitute lack of respect for the latter's person.

Indeed, Turkey is now unabashedly following a gunboat diplomacy - impermissible in a United Nations age - in the pursuit of its expansionist aims against Cyprus.

On behalf of my Government, I wish emphatically to protest the above illegal Turkish military activities and strongly to denounce their sinister and disruptive purposes.

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) Zenon ROSSIDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations
