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Thirty-third year

Letter dated 16 May 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

I have the honour to enclose herewith some excerpts from the remarks made by His Excellency Mr. Bülent Ecevit, the Prime Minister of Turkey, at a press conference held at Bonn on 11 May 1978.

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) Ilter TURKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Excerpts from the remarks made by His Excellency
Mr. Bülent Ecevit, the Prime Minister of Turkey,
at a press conference held at Bonn, on
11 May 1978

Last but not least I should like to remark briefly on the recent developments or non-developments concerning Cyprus and relations between Turkey and Greece.

We used to say, while in opposition, that Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots should not wait for the lifting of the American embargo in order to take the initiative for speeding up a solution to the Cyprus question and we kept our word as soon as we came to Government and encouraged the Turkish Cypriots - and they accepted - to take the initiative and to come out with concrete proposals for a solution to Cyprus.

However, in spite of this the Greek Cypriots have even increased their intransigence, which shows that no matter how much goodwill the Turkish side may show, a negotiated solution for Cyprus cannot be found as long as the embargo, the American embargo, continues, because the Greek Cypriots seem to be more concerned, more anxious to see to it that American and Western pressures over Turkey continue. They are more concerned with this than reaching a federal solution for Cyprus. They seem to have at the back of their minds and in their hearts the dream of returning to the status quo ante in Cyprus. This is only a dream.

Immediately after the Turkish Cypriot side gave its proposals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Waldheim, in the framework of his mission of good offices, the Greeks reacted by saying that the Turkish proposals could not even be considered as a starting point for negotiations.

They claimed, for instance, that Turks were considering only 1 per cent of the territory in their proposals and that they were not envisaging a real federation. However, it becomes obvious that such claims are not factual, because in effect the Turks did not include any percentages in their proposals regarding the geographical arrangements. Instead, in order to adopt a flexible attitude, they indicated six areas in the region under Turkish control, six areas in which they would be prepared to discuss the geographical arrangements. The percentage would emerge at the end of discussions on these six areas. Apart from that, they have indicated that they are willing to let the Greeks have all of the security zone, which is completely empty now and unused except for the United Nations patrols. They are prepared to let the Greeks have all this land, which alone constitutes about 3 per cent of the territory of the island.

The Turkish side, as a third item regarding the geographical arrangements, indicated their willingness to let Greeks be settled in Varosha, which means that

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the settlement problem for at least 30,000 Greeks, perhaps more, would be provided for in such a part of the island, whose value could not be measured by percentages because the existing and immediately useful economic potential of Varosha is worth half the island.

Apart from that, the Turkish Cypriots indicated that they leave the political framework for Varosha open to negotiations.

As to the constitutional proposals, I am sure any specialist who would study these proposals would admit that the Turks mean real federation from the beginning. It will at the same time be an evolutionary federation, which means that in time the bizonal and bicomunal independent and non-aligned federal State of Cyprus, which is envisaged in that constitution, will evolve into an even more closely knit political structure.

The draft constitution prepared by the Turkish side also envisages several areas of joint responsibility which would ensure that the state structure to emerge will be a federal one in the real sense of the word.

In the meantime, a hopeful dialogue between Mr. Karamanlis, the Prime Minister of Greece, and myself was started in March this year, again at our initiative. We were hoping that we would be able to take up the problems between the two countries, particularly concerning the Aegean, through this dialogue, which we decided should continue and also be supplemented at high-level technical talks. The first meeting for these high-level technical talks was scheduled to take place at Ankara on 14 April. But, as soon as Mr. Carter, the President of the United States of America, approached the Congress asking it to lift the embargo, then the Athens Government unilaterally postponed this meeting indefinitely.

I believe all these facts are sufficient to show that to allow the Cyprus problem and the problems between Turkey and Greece to be linked to Turco-American relations would render it impossible to find a negotiated settlement for Cyprus and to resolve the problems between Turkey and Greece through negotiations.
