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LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1976 FROM THE CHARGE 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 draw Your Excellency's attention to a statement made by the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. S. Demirel, to the Associated Press correspondent in Ankara on 9 May 1976 on relations between Greece and Turkey. In the course of that statement, he is reported to have said: "We are not afraid Greece will be aggressive against us. It should be very expensive for them ... We could have occupied the whole of Cyprus and we can still do it today".

This grave threat against the independence of a small, defenceless, non-aligned Member State of the United Nations is too obvious to require elaboration. It flagrantly contradicts the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and demonstrates once again Ankara's contemptuous disregard of the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

This statement constitutes an open admission of the fact that the Turkish armed forces are in aggressive occupation of a large part of the territory of Cyprus.

It is both significant and revealing that, instead of complying with the relevant United Nations resolutions adopted by an overwhelming majority which "demand the withdrawal without further delay of all foreign armed forces and foreign military presence and personnel from the Republic of Cyprus and the cessation of all foreign interference in its affairs", the Prime Minister of Turkey ominously speaks of the possibility of the occupation of the whole island by the Turkish army.

Furthermore, it should not be overlooked that Mr. Demirel makes this threat, not in the context of the situation in Cyprus itself or in relation to the so-called "protection" of the Turkish Cypriots - as Turkish propaganda has been at pains to allege until now - but in the context of the differences between two outside Powers.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to protest strongly this provocative statement by the Prime Minister of Turkey which tends to aggravate further

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the situation in Cyprus regarding which the Security Council has a continuing responsibility.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas J. JACOVIDES
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
