



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/12190
26 August 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 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 and that of the members of the Security Council to certain statements made by Mr. O. Asilturk, Minister of the Interior of Turkey, who has been visiting the area of the Republic of Cyprus occupied by the Turkish forces on a "fact-finding" mission.

These statements were broadcast over the clandestine Bayrak radio on 21 and 22 August 1976 and have also appeared in reports published in the Turkish Cypriot dailies Zaman and Halkin Sesi of 22 and 23 August 1976, respectively.

Referring to the possibility of UDI for the Turkish-occupied area of Cyprus, the Minister of the Interior of Turkey stated that "no one in Turkey is against the proclamation of the independent Turkish state of Cyprus - this is something which we have in our minds. We heartily support it ... If you proclaim your independence on 29 October - the /Turkish/ Republic Day - we wish to visit you as the Council of Ministers as a whole and hold our meeting here /in Kyrenia/".

Regarding Famagusta, Mr. Asilturk stated: "During my visit to the eastern region, I came to the conclusion that Famagusta should be resettled at once, because this would be in our national interest. The most important reason for this is to erase from the mind of world public opinion the wrong idea that we are keeping Famagusta in order to return it. It is impossible for us to give the region back. We never considered such a thing. Famagusta should be resettled at once."

Referring to territorial concessions, the Turkish Minister said: "We are firmly determined on this issue. We shall let no one make even an inch of territorial concessions".

Mr. Asilturk is also quoted as having called the occupied area as "part of the mother country."

The above provocative and inflammatory statements, emanating from a responsible responsible key member of the Turkish Cabinet, shockingly reveal the true intentions of Ankara against the independence, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the non-aligned Republic of Cyprus. They also demonstrate Turkey's intransigence and its contemptuous disregard and violation of the repeated United Nations resolutions with regard to Cyprus.

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On behalf of my Government, I wish to strongly protest the above statements and their ominous implications. The attitude they manifest does not augur well for the prospects of finding a just and peaceful solution to the problem of Cyprus, and this must be a matter of grave concern to the international community as a whole.

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.
