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SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 26 May 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to a letter from Mr. Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, dated 10 May 1982, which was sent to Your Excellency with a covering letter by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations (A/36/873-S/15067), and to point out at the outset that his arguments are as invalid as the title of "President of the Turkish Federated State" which he assumes, and as illegal as the entity on behalf of which he claims the right to speak.

It is well known that the so-called "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus" is a non-existent, illegal entity recognized by none, whose self-proclamation was regretted by the Security Council in its resolution 367 (1975) of 12 March 1975.

On the other hand, it is both futile and ridiculous to try to dispute the legality of the Government of Cyprus recognized by the United Nations, all other international organizations and all States, with the exception of Turkey which invaded and still occupies about 40 per cent of the territory of Cyprus, contrary to the relevant United Nations resolutions calling for the withdrawal of all Turkish troops from the island.

It is to protect the victims of aggression against this occupation, the usurpation and the outright robbery of their ancestral homes and lands that these laws to which Mr. Denktash refers were enacted by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

If the usurpation of our homes and lands were not so tragic, it would be ironic indeed for any one to assert that the sovereign State of Cyprus and its people cannot exercise their inalienable right to protect through all legal means what by sweat and tears they created and is rightfully theirs. It is not "aggressive policy", or policy of "economic attrition", to refuse to accept the faits accomplis of usurpation of our properties and lands where we lived, built and prospered for centuries.

The Government of Cyprus, far from imposing an economic blockade on the Turkish Cypriot community, has an obligation to all its citizens, be they Greeks, Turks, Armenians or Maronites, to protect their property rights. On this legal basis, the Government has declared as illegal ports of entry those fallen under the occupation of the Turkish troops and has warned that arrivals of ships at these ports would constitute a violation of the Republic's laws. Besides the Government, the legitimate owners of property in the occupied territories which were usurped by the invaders have a duty and the legal and moral right to take measures by recourse to the courts of law or to international organizations, to stop the exploitation of their properties by those who illegally hold them.

The "political isolation" and "aggressive policy against the Turkish people" to which Mr. Denktash refers are caused by the Turkish army and are the consequences of the Turkish invasion and occupation of a part of Cyprus and the continued oppression which is rampant in the occupied part of the island.

It is the Turkish invasion and occupation with the resulting division by force of arms of our people and the illegal proclamation of the so-called "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus" which have led to the political and economic isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community, and not the policies of the legitimate Government of the Republic. Mr. Denktash has Turkey and his own segregationist policies to blame for the serious socio-economic and political problems faced today by the Turkish Cypriot community in the occupied areas of Cyprus. Even before the invasion of July 1974, the reports of the Secretary-General pointed out that "(the) deliberate policy of self-segregation by the Turkish Cypriots ... the hardships suffered by the Turkish Cypriot population are the direct result of the leadership's self-isolation policy, imposed by force on the rank and file". 1/

The lack of substantive progress in the international talks is due to the presence of the Turkish troops in Cyprus and the intransigent positions of Turkey, and not to the laws of the Republic of Cyprus enacted for the protection of the legitimate property rights of all its citizens. The best service that can be rendered to the intercommunal talks which my Government, in good faith, has accepted for the solution of the internal aspect of the problem of Cyprus, is the immediate withdrawal of the occupation troops, as provided by the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Constantine MOUSHOUTAS  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Cyprus  
to the United Nations

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1/ See Official Records of the Security Council, Twentieth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1965, document S/6426.