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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 23 June 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 dated 14 May 1982 (A/36/874-S/15086) addressed to Your Excellency by the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations by which he enclosed Dr. Kenan Atakol's letter of 12 May 1982 on the subject of the accession by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to observe the following:

1. The acceptance by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs of the instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus is an immediate response by the United Nations to the argument advanced by Dr. Kenan Atakol that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus lacks the legal and constitutional authority to accede to the above Treaty.

2. As we wrote before, it is futile to try to dispute the legality of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, recognized by the United Nations, all other international organizations and all States in the world with the sole exception of Turkey, the country which, in utter disregard of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, committed aggression against Cyprus by invading and still occupying a large part of its territory, contrary to repeated United Nations resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from the island.

3. The "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus" to which the author of the letter refers, is recognized by none, inasmuch as it is an illegal, fictitious entity, the result of the Turkish invasion set up by Turkey in the occupied area of Cyprus in pursuance of her expansionist policies. Its purported setting-up was regretted by Security Council resolution 367 (1975) of 12 March 1975 and condemned by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held at Lima in 1975.

4. The territory which the so-called "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus" occupies is an integral part of the Republic of Cyprus, whose indisputable sovereignty over it was reaffirmed also by a succession of United Nations resolutions, and as recently as 1979 by General Assembly resolution 34/30.

5. The allegation of "oppression and extermination" of the Turkish Cypriot community by the Government of Cyprus is pure political propaganda used by Turkey to justify the brutal invasion and continued military occupation of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus under the pretext of protecting the Turkish Cypriot community.

For centuries, all Cypriots, whether Greeks, Turks, Armenians or Maronites, lived and worked side by side in peace and harmony and in mixed villages, proof of the peaceful coexistence and the historical links which were forged between them.

It was Ankara's policies of segregation and partition, implemented by the extremist elements of the Turkish Cypriot leadership, that brought about the artificial barriers between the Greek and Turkish communities.

Ample evidence of this is provided by the regular six-monthly reports of Secretary-General U Thant which demolish the allegation and irrefutably show the falsehood of the mistreatment of the Turkish Cypriot community by the Government of Cyprus.

Suffice it to list the following quotations from reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the highest independent authority:

(a) "... the lack of movement of Turkish Cypriots outside of their areas is also believed to be dictated by a political purpose, namely, to reinforce the claim that the two main communities of Cyprus cannot live peacefully together in the island without some sort of geographical separation." (S/5764, para. 113);

(b) "... 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." (S/6426, para. 106).

6. As to the Chargé d'Affaires of Turkey who caused the letter under reply to be circulated, I would remind him of the memoirs of the United States' Ambassador to Turkey, Henry Morgenthau, and the writings of the British Viscount, James Bryce; he would then realize that he should avoid mentioning genocide, as this would evoke in the mind of the reader those notorious for the crime.

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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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