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THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING  
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 22 September 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is with deep regret that I bring to your attention the cruel assault perpetrated by two Armenian terrorists at Ankara airport on 7 August 1982, as a result of which innocent persons once again became victims. The circumstances under which the incident took place and the texts of the statements made by the Head of State of the Turkish Republic, General Kenan Evren, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Bülend Ulusu, are enclosed.

I would be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 59, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Coşkun KIRCA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Description of the terrorist incident at Ankara airport on  
7 August 1982 and statements by the Head of State and the  
Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic

On Saturday , August 7 1982, at about 4.15 p.m.  
two Armenian terrorists launched an assault at the  
international passenger terminal of Esenboga Airport  
(Ankara).

They first threw hand grenades and then fired  
with machine guns at the passengers. During the incident,  
security officers wounded and arrested one of the  
assaillants.

The other terrorist continued firing at random and  
after taking a Service Manager of the terminal hostage  
passed to the restaurant area, where he also took hostages.

In the operation undertaken by the security force  
at the airport, this assaillant was captured dead.

In the terrorist attack, nine people lost their lives,  
including three security officers, one public official, two  
Turkish citizens, one U.S. citizen, and one Federal German  
citizen. 72 others were wounded.

The terrorist who was seized wounded and hospitalized  
for treatment revealed his name as Levon Ekmekciyan.

It was established that the two criminals had come  
to Turkey separately and that they were militants of an  
Armenian terrorist organization called ASALA.

The ASALA terrorist organization later revealed  
the name of the other terrorist, Zohrab Abraham Sarkisyan.

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It is believed that the terrorists planned to seize a KLM plane due to land in Ankara at that time and to fly to another country together with the hostages.

The investigation of the incident is in process.

The ASALA terrorist Organization, issued messages in Beyrout and Athens declaring that it was assuming responsibility for this terrorist attack and that it would stage similar acts of indiscriminate violence in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Sweden, Switzerland and France, if the 85 Armenians detained in these countries on charges relating to terrorism were not set free.

HEAD OF STATE OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC  
GENERAL KENAN EVREN'S MESSAGE

"Esteemed citizens, we have learnt with great sorrow and disgust that nine people have lost their lives and 72 persons were injured as the result of the armed bomb attack on the Esenboga Airport on August 7 by the international Armenian terror organization "ASALA", three of the nine people being the members of the police forces. This bloody siege has opened a new wound in the hearts of our citizens, regardless of their origins.

It is hard to understand the aims of such terror organizations as ASALA that kill many innocent citizens or cause bloodshed, as the result of inhuman and monstrous attacks, which consists of a handful of murderers with evil intentions.

All those nations who provide moral and material support and who harbour those terrorist groups and their provokers almost to the point of granting them legal status should know that the Turkish nation is the determined guardian of its unity and integrity within its national borders against

any waves of madness that might try to tear it down.

The Turkish nation has yielded many martyrs for that cause for centuries and has given a word of honour to yield even more in its struggle.

The Turkish security forces are determined to continue with their struggle against the international terror organizations in the most intensive manner and will try their best to reveal the hiding places of those terrorists both within the country and abroad.

The basic factor in this struggle consists of the awareness of the Turkish citizens in preserving their calm and common sense by the schemes of those groups and the utilizations of the legal authorities by the martial law commanders in rendering ineffective the efforts of the terrorists who have infiltrated into Turkey.

I would like to call on certain foreign states and international organizations which go as far as infringing upon the sovereignty rights of a country in their quest for championship of human rights to channel their efforts instead, towards more humane and civilized efforts that will provide cooperation aimed at rooting out international terrorism from the face of the earth."

May the souls of all those who have lost their lives rest in peace. Furthermore, I would like to present my condolences to the grieving families of the security guards and all those innocent people, who were killed during the incident, and I wish a speedy recovery to those who got injured.

Our sorrow is very deep. The reckoning for all the lives taken and bloodshed would not be left to history.

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I ask my citizens to maintain their reason and common sense and not to be tricked by the schemes of those organizations, which have nothing to do with the Armenian community.

STATEMENT OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER  
BULEND ULUSU

Honourable citizens, I am addressing you on the occasion of this sad event which grieves us all. While expressing my condolences to the Turkish nation, and to the whole of mankind, I pray for the innocent people who have lost their lives in the dastardly attack and wish speedy recovery to those who have been wounded. Yesterday the 7th of August at 4.15 p.m., when the passengers on the Lufthansa flight were invited to customs control at Ankara airport and the passengers on the Klm flight who had completed their passport formalities were preparing to board their plane, one of the two terrorists in the lounge, who shouted that they were Armenians threw a hand grenade which he was holding, while the other started to fire his machine gun, causing the death of nine people and wounding seventy-two others. Among the dead were Turkish security personnel and Turkish and foreign travellers.

It is obviously clear that the raid of Armenian terrorists at Ankara Esenboga Airport cannot be accepted as a sole act against Turkey. This act cannot be anything but a miserable, misguided attack and an inhuman murder of innocent people, and this gives no opportunity for the act to be thought of being an attack against Turkey. The only result such kinds of inhuman massacres

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can bring about for their perpetrators, is once again to blemish and condemn themselves and the community to which they belong, in the eyes of the world. It would only be an illusion to expect any other result.

The most important aspect of this attack is that it has once again highlighted the dimension attained by terrorism which has become a scourge on the international community as a whole. The principal element encouraging and provoking such crimes is the fact that the danger posed by this scourge has not yet been properly understood by a number of states which consider themselves immune to this danger and therefore view such acts with tolerance.

Certain recent events have proved sufficiently that all countries will suffer if international terrorism is met with tolerance. The way to save oneself from terrorism is not to remain inactive because of fear. It is high time to realize that joint action is needed to counter terrorist acts. This issue does not concern Turkey alone. It is a problem common to the international community as a whole. For this reason, it is increasingly necessary for the states which have not yet participated in joint action on this problem, to realize the dimensions reached by the danger and to start giving due attention to it.

In the case that other countries do not struggle against terrorism seriously and decisively and give due attention to this problem, these bloody murders causing innocent people to die will not end. And this will put the responsibility directly on the shoulders of those countries which ignore this problem.

Keeping these thoughts in mind, I am calling all of the countries of the world to struggle against this international terrorism persistently and decisively.

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