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Letter dated 18 November 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring to your notice and to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council that, according to the Turkish press and other news media of 6 and 7 November 1982, the Turkish Cypriot "delegation", which recently visited Turkey, returned to the occupied areas of Cyprus with the decision to replace the Cyprus pound with the Turkish lira as the sole legal tender in that part of Cyprus that has been occupied for more than eight years by the Turkish forces. According to the same information, Mr. Cosar, speaking on behalf of Mr. Denktash's régime, said, quite characteristically, that it was not possible for them to act independently on the matter and that "it was for this reason that they went to Ankara to hold talks before replacing the Cyprus pound with the Turkish lira as the official currency". He added: "with the final transition from the Cyprus pound to the Turkish lira, a historic economic operation will be concluded". Furthermore, as it appeared in the Turkish Cypriot press, "The Cyprus pound will be treated as a foreign currency and the Turkish lira will be treated as the actual local currency" in the occupied areas.

Your Excellency is well aware of the fact that the Cyprus crisis was, and still is, the result of the 1974 invasion and occupation of Cyprus and the continuing threat of partition of Cyprus by Turkey. The Turkish invasion of 1974, the occupation of a large part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, the expulsion of 200,000 people from their ancestral homes and properties, the question of missing persons, the changing of the demographic character of Cyprus through the implantation of settlers from Turkey, the violation of the human rights of the enclaved people and so on, are part and parcel of the expansionist objectives of the Turkish Government. It is indeed regrettable that this unacceptable situation, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, of all tenets of international law and of specific resolutions of the United Nations on

the question of Cyprus, is followed by another act: the abolition of the Cyprus pound as a legal tender in the occupied part of Cyprus.

The visit of the Turkish Cypriot leaders to Ankara must be evaluated within the context of Turkey's series of illegal actions aimed at strengthening the position of its obedient instruments in the occupied area and at promoting a partitioning solution to the Cyprus problem. It becomes clearer that the Turkish Government is only paying lip service to a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem.

The decision of Ankara to replace the Cyprus pound by the Turkish lira and the carrying out of practical measures to introduce it as the sole legal tender in the occupied area is part of the separatist policy that has been pursued and furthered by Turkey since the invasion in 1974.

By this action, it is obvious that the Turkish leadership, instead of working for a solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of the United Nations resolutions and the agreements of 12 February 1977 and 19 May 1979, is striving for the speedy incorporation of the occupied area into the Turkish State. Instead of strengthening existing common elements that link the people of Cyprus, Turkey is eliminating them, thus creating conditions for the complete separation of the two communities as a result of its policy aimed against the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty and independence of Cyprus.

It is no wonder that no substantial progress has been achieved so far in the intercommunal talks now going on under Your Excellency's auspices.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus continues to believe that the proper way for the solution of the problems faced by the Turkish Cypriot community is through the withdrawal of the Turkish forces of occupation and the cessation of all foreign interference in the affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. The economic problems of the Turkish Cypriots can be solved only within the framework of a unified Cyprus economy, in a united Cyprus, and not through the "principle of economic unification with Turkey", which has been furthered by Turkey.

My Government requests Your Excellency to exert all influence upon Turkey to abandon its policy against the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and to adopt an attitude compatible with its commitments as a member of the international community.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

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