

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 1 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 June 2020, addressed to you by İsmet Korukoğlu, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

1 June 2020

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 1 June 2020 addressed to you by Kudret Özersay, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

(Signed) İsmet **Korukoğlu**
Representative

Enclosure

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by Nikos Christodoulides, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, during the high-level Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council held on 8 May 2020, on the theme “Seventy-five years from the end of the Second World War on European soil – lessons for preventing future atrocities, responsibility of the Security Council”, which contained false allegations as regards various issues relating to Cyprus. Since the Greek Cypriot side is habitually utilizing every opportunity to distort facts pertaining to the question of Cyprus in every international forum in which the Turkish Cypriot side is denied representation, I am compelled to respond, once again, in writing in order to put the record straight.

At the outset, it must be underlined that the attempted portrayal of the Cyprus issue as one of “occupation” by Turkey is not corroborated by historical facts. The plain truth is that the Cyprus problem was created in 1963 when the Greek Cypriot wing of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus, established under international treaties, tried to impose its political will on the Turkish Cypriots by force of arms and with the aim of converting the binational Republic into a Greek Cypriot entity. This was admitted by the then Greek Cypriot leader, Glafcos Clerides, in his memoir entitled *Cyprus: My Deposition*, in the following words: “the Greek Cypriot preoccupation was that Cyprus should be a Greek Cypriot state, with a protected Turkish Cypriot minority” (vol. 3, p. 105). This Greek Cypriot mentality still persists today, as is evident from the Greek Cypriot leadership’s refusal to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot side, thus its rejection of political equality and effective participation. As is known, as a result of the Greek Cypriot onslaught in December 1963, Turkish Cypriots were forcefully ejected from all organs of the State and subjected to a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. Hundreds of civilians were killed, and thousands were rendered homeless refugees. It was in the face of these atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people that the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus was first deployed on the island, in 1964.

On the other hand, Turkey intervened on the island following the Greek Cypriot/Greek coup d’état, in 1974, with the aim of annexing the island. One must not forget the fact that the Greek/Greek Cypriot coup itself was described by the then Greek Cypriot leader, Archbishop Makarios, in his speech before the Security Council on 19 July 1974, as “an invasion” by Greece. The Turkish intervention was carried out against the backdrop of an 11-year-long systematic campaign of oppression directed against the Turkish Cypriots by the Greek Cypriot side. One must also not forget the fact that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention of 1974, undertaken in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, as an “invasion”, or the subsequent presence of Turkish troops on the island as an “occupation”. Such allegations are nothing but pure Greek Cypriot forgery aimed at distorting the historical facts and realities of the island and continuing the long tradition of its efforts to launder its history. In fact, the only occupation in Cyprus is the 56-year-old and continued usurpation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of Government of the binational Republic of Cyprus.

Today, the Greek Cypriot side pursues another policy of usurpation, this time as regards the co-owner rights of the Turkish Cypriot people regarding hydrocarbon resources around the island, which is leading to escalation and tension on and around the island within the context of its unilateral hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities. It is astounding to hear Mr. Christodoulides talk about actions that “gravely jeopardize peace and security” in the Eastern Mediterranean, while the Greek Cypriot leadership categorically rejects every offer of cooperation and de-escalation on this matter by the Turkish Cypriot side, including the most recent and comprehensive

proposal on the subject that was tabled on 13 July 2019. It must be emphasized that it is the unilateral and illegal activities of Mr. Christodoulides's administration in the Eastern Mediterranean that are gravely jeopardizing peace and security. The Turkish Cypriot side, one of the co-owners of the hydrocarbon resources around the island, as also acknowledged by the international community, is merely protecting its rights and interests, in collaboration with Turkey, in the face of the violation of its rights by the Greek Cypriot side.

In this connection, I deem it necessary to remind the esteemed members of the Security Council, that the Secretary-General, in his most recent report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus ([S/2020/23](#)), and the Security Council, in its resolution [2506 \(2020\)](#), have called upon the sides to cooperate without clinging to political considerations such as recognition/non-recognition, which are surmountable. No doubt, these calls for cooperation demonstrate that the two sides on the island need to be in direct communication and cooperation before and without awaiting a negotiated settlement, thus discarding the pretext for the archaic propaganda against direct communication and cooperation made by the Greek Cypriot leadership for years. It must be remembered that only through direct communication and cooperation will the sides learn to work with each other, building trust, interdependence and a sound relationship, elements that are necessary not only for any negotiated settlement on the island but for the peace, stability and security of the island and the region. Hence, we hope and trust that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot administration to cooperate with the Turkish Cypriot side as regards the hydrocarbon resources around the island.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kudret **Özersay**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
