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Letter dated 25 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 25 May 1988 addressed to you by Mr. Özer Koray, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the forty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 46, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İler TURKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 25 May 1988 from Mr. Özer Koray
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 25 April 1988 (A/42/950-S/19832) from the Representative of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus, Mr. Constantine Moushoutas, addressed to Your Excellency, and to respond to the misrepresentations and falsehoods contained therein.

It must be stressed at the outset that the procedures applied by the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus at the border gate are in full conformity with universally accepted practice in this regard, which is exercised by any sovereign State. Therefore, the decision to discontinue the exemption from passport procedures of some of the categories using the Ledra Palace border gate is simply an internal administrative procedure. Naturally, these procedures may, as in all countries, vary from time to time, as demanded by the circumstances prevailing at the time.

As regards the absurd claim that Turkey is responsible for this or any other action of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I would not even wish to dwell upon such ridiculous assertions, as they do not merit any comment. Suffice it to say that such laughable claims can only demonstrate the callousness and arrogance of the Greek Cypriot side as well as their lack of respect for their Turkish Cypriot neighbours.

In any event, three major categories, namely United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus personnel, holders of diplomatic passports and British Sovereign Base Area (SBA) personnel are not affected by the lifting of this exemption, nor are the Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the North. But now that the Greek Cypriot Administration has decided to impose compulsory military service on all Maronites, this matter will be looked into anew as. I am sure you will agree, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus authorities cannot facilitate the entry of Greek Cypriot Army personnel into its territory. The only group that can no longer benefit from this exemption are tourists entering the island through Southern ports, who, in any case, have long been subject to severe restrictions and limitations on their travel to the North, imposed by the Greek Cypriot Administration, examples of which are given below:

(a) Various methods of dissuasion, ranging from scare tactics to malicious slander about the North, were used against these people by the Greek Cypriot border guards;

(b) If this did not succeed in keeping the tourists away from the North, such tourists were prevented from staying overnight in the North and their stay was arbitrarily limited to a time after 7.00 a.m. and before 6.00 p.m.;

(c) Furthermore, with a view to preventing the tourists from leaving the island through the North, the travellers were not allowed to take their personal belongings with them;

(d) Visitors insisting, in spite of all the above, on crossing to the North, were then required to perform certain "favours" for the Greek Cypriot side, such as taking photographs of certain sensitive places or carrying out espionage activities. These facts are based on and confirmed by many of the visitors involved themselves;

(e) In addition, tourists managing to cross to the North were told beforehand, by the Greek Cypriot Police at the border, that they could not purchase any goods in the North. In many instances, if a purchase was made, the goods were not allowed into the South and the buyer was made to return them to the place of purchase in the North.

Now, I think it would be pertinent to have a look at the general practice adopted by the two sides in Cyprus concerning the crossings at Ledra Palace gate, which is indicative of each side's attitude in this regard:

(a) All those who arrive in the island through the North are allowed by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to go to the South without any limitation or hindrance. By contrast, the Greek Cypriot authorities do not permit any person who enters the island through the North, to go to the South;

(b) All those who arrive in the island through the South are allowed by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to come to the North. The Greek Cypriot authorities, on the other hand, used to do all in their means to prevent these people from visiting the North, as explained before. Recently, however, they have further hardened this practice, by totally preventing all such visitors by turning them back at their own border gate.

The above facts clearly illustrate which side is placing obstacles in the way of visitor traffic between the North and the South. Notwithstanding the negative and obstructive attitude of the Greek Cypriot side in this respect, President Rauf R. Denktas has stated clearly that the Turkish Cypriot side would be prepared to discontinue stamping the passports of tourists at our border gate, if the Greek Cypriot side agreed to lift the inhuman ban on visitors entering the island through the North. We have so far received no positive response from the Greek Cypriot side on this matter. It will also be recalled that President Denktas has proposed to meet with Mr. Vasilliou in order to discuss the whole matter of border crossings with a view to resolving the existing differences between the two sides.

The reference in Mr. Moushoutas' letter to "the favourable climate ... regarding the solution of the Cyprus problem" is an absolute irony, in view of the fact that the Greek Cypriot leadership's record continues to be one of absolute intransigence and bad faith;

President Rauf Denktas has offered to meet the new Greek Cypriot leader on the basis of equality and "without any prejudice to the respective positions of the two

sides". Mr. Vassiliou turned down that offer and instead chose to offend his counterpart by offering to "receive him at his palace as the President of the Republic of Cyprus".

In the same negative vein, the new Greek Cypriot leader rejected, out of hand a package of goodwill measures proposed by the Turkish Cypriot side on 3 March 1988 - a package that would have helped in the re-establishment of trust and confidence between the two peoples, thus creating an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of negotiations.

But what is really poisoning the atmosphere between the two peoples and eroding all possibilities of rapprochement is the multifaceted, economic and diplomatic aggression of the Greek Cypriot side against our people in the international arena under the guise of the so-called "Government of Cyprus". This malicious campaign ranges from preventing tourist traffic to the North by going to the source, namely to the countries that send tourists to Northern Cyprus, to curtailing the cultural, social and sports contacts of our people with the outside world, and to exploiting all international occasions and forums for disseminating slanderous anti-Turkish propaganda and extracting one-sided resolutions in our absence. This vicious campaign has shown no sign of abating and has in fact recently been intensified with the prevention of tourist traffic into Northern Cyprus from a number of European countries, as well as many other inhuman measures.

A final point that I would like to make with regard to the creation of a favourable climate between the two sides, is that, as I am sure Your Excellency would also agree, it would certainly help matters if this flurry of abusive letters from the Greek Cypriot Representative were to be refrained from.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the forty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 46, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Özer KORAY
Representative
