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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 28 March 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit for your consideration some observations concerning those customary rules of behaviour that govern the making of statements by diplomatic representatives. My observations are occasioned by a letter dated 17 March 1983 (A/37/794-S/15648) recently addressed to you, the contents of which are laced with unfortunate innuendos of a personal nature that are categorically incompatible with the practice of the United Nations.

Official views or opinions may always be expressed freely and there can be no substantive limitations in this regard. However, ad hominem arguments can have no bearing on the substance of issues and there can never be any legitimate justification for resorting to them. Such personal attacks must not be allowed at the United Nations. The sanctity of the person who is acting as an official representative of his authorities must be respected and protected by all. This is essential if diplomatic discourse is to continue within accepted limits of customary courtesy.

It is therefore out of a sense of duty that I thus bring the matter to your attention.

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

(Signed) A. Coşkun KIRCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
