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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION  
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY  
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirtieth year

Letter dated 6 October 1975 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to the reply of the Government of Greece, as it appears in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (A/10205), I have the honour to make the following observations.

It is regrettable that the Government of Greece saw fit to distort the facts regarding the question of Cyprus.

Setting 20 July 1974 as the beginning of the Cyprus crisis can only be defined as a futile attempt to rewrite current history. Through such revisionism, the 11-year-old Greek occupation of Cyprus, several Greek onslaughts on Turkish Cypriots, citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, total Greek disregard for international agreements solemnly signed and the naked invasion of 15 July 1974 are all cast aside and erased from the annals. Overlooking the policies of the past and their disastrous consequences may serve to ease the Greek conscience, but it does not suffice to alter, in any way, well-established facts. Instead, a gracious awareness of the mistakes committed, however painful, may serve as a lesson that would enhance the prevention of their repetition.

Turkey's intervention in Cyprus on 20 July 1974 was not an illegal invasion, as alleged, but a fully legitimate action, in conformity with international treaties, to counter the Greek attempt to destroy the independence of Cyprus and to annex the island. The Greek Government is, of course, entitled to spare no effort to cleanse itself of the notorious recent past, but this cannot be done through slandering Turkey and others.

As regards the dispute over the respective rights of the two countries in the Aegean Sea, it was Turkey that first advanced the idea of negotiations. The Greek

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Government maintains that the only way is to refer the Aegean problems to the International Court of Justice, without any prior talks on the matter. Turkey, nevertheless, stands ready to refer to the International Court of Justice those aspects of the Aegean question that would prove to be impossible to agree upon in bilateral negotiations, recognized in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security as the primary resort among peaceful means.

With these considerations in mind, I submit that paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the reply of the Government of Greece are misleading and totally unfounded.

I shall be grateful if you could circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 49 and 125, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ilter TÜRKMEN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative