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LETTER DATED 3 APRIL 1972 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, a.i., OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency the text of a statement made yesterday in Nicosia by His Beatitude Archbishop Makarios, President of the Republic of Cyprus, in reference to the suggestion made by the Prime Minister of Turkey, Dr. Erim, during his recent visit in Washington - as published in the Turkish press - that "the Cyprus communities should hand over to the United Nations, for disarmament purposes, the arms in their possession".

The statement of President Makarios is as follows:

"We have always supported the view that a solution of the Cyprus problem cannot be achieved through the use of force but at the conference table, in a peaceful atmosphere. The Cyprus Government, following a pacification policy - besides the normalization measures taken by it - also repeatedly made certain suggestions aimed at the general disarmament of the island by stages. Within the framework of this peaceful policy, the Government of Cyprus has also accepted a proposal by the United Nations Secretary-General, made on 24 November 1967, for a reduction of the armed forces in Cyprus by stages, with the island's demilitarization as the ultimate objective, provided that guarantees will be given against foreign military intervention.

"The suggestion of the Turkish Prime Minister is acceptable to the Government of Cyprus, and we are ready to discuss the working out of a plan for the abolition, by either side, of military posts in the island, especially in points of confrontation, the reduction of the armed forces and general disarmament by stages. We believe that such a measure will constitute a tremendous contribution to the solution of the Cyprus problem and to the consolidation of peace in Cyprus."

Your Excellency is kindly requested to circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas J. JACOVIDES
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.