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LETTER DATED 16 NOVEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to attach herewith a statement dated 15 November 1983 by His Excellency Mr. Ilder Türkmen, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, on the situation in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this statement were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Coşkun KIRCA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey
on behalf of the Government of Turkey on 15 November 1983

As you know, this morning the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Federated State of Kibris held an extraordinary meeting and approved the proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. After the meeting, President Denktas received our Ambassador and officially informed him of the decision. He also stated his hope that our Government would view this development with understanding, and, in the name of the Turkish Cypriot people, he has asked for the support of Turkey.

Our Government has, in the past, stated its views concerning the solution of the Cyprus problem. We have also explained our views in detail to Mr. Denktas. We would undoubtedly have preferred it if a just and lasting solution could have been reached through the intercommunal negotiations, without arriving at the present state of affairs. We wish to stress that again. Nevertheless, the Turkish Cypriot side cannot be held responsible for the fact that the negotiations, which have already lasted nine years, have failed to bring about a solution. In view of the elements which have formed the basis for the formation of the Cypriot State in 1960 and of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, it is incontestable that the Turkish Cypriot people enjoy the right of self-determination as much as the Greek Cypriots. The fact that the holding of negotiations between the two communities has been approved by the international community is an important element confirming the validity of this point.

With their own national will, the Turkish Cypriot people have proclaimed their independence by basing themselves on their right to self-determination. At the same time, they have specially underlined their peaceful and conciliatory stand; they have stated that independence does not necessarily mean that the island will remain divided forever and that they are determined not to unite with any State, unless it be in a federation with the Greek Cypriots. We take particular note of this stand as well as of their desire to see the continuation of the negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with satisfaction.

In the proclamation of independence it is stated that no other policy but that of non-alignment will be followed and that the 1960 Treaties of Establishment, Guarantee and Alliance will continue to remain binding. We fully approve the adoption of these principles.

Our Government, which has taken these points into consideration, has decided to recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus after the detailed examination of the situation which it has made this afternoon. Our Ambassador is informing Mr. Denktas, the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, of this decision.

We must now turn our attention to the search for a peaceful settlement. We hope that all concerned Governments will contribute to efforts in that direction. The adoption of a negative attitude towards the newly established Republic will only serve to eliminate the possibilities of agreement. Turkey will continue, as before, to support the good offices mission of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

We wish a happy future to our Cypriot brothers.
