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Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Letter dated 27 April 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the President of the Human Rights Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the note verbale dated 25 March 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/13/G/21) requesting the circulation of a letter of the so-called “minister for foreign affairs” of the legally invalid “TRNC”.

The position of Cyprus on the issue of the circulation by Turkey of letters of the so-called officials of the “TRNC” is well known. Such a practice is both an abuse of the process of circulation of United Nations official documents and a violation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 550 (1984) which, inter alia, “calls upon all States not to recognize the purported State of the ‘Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus’” set up by secessionist acts and calls upon them not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity”.

The Government of Cyprus firmly rejects the Turkish points contained in the above-mentioned note verbale since they are contrary to the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular those referring to the “secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus” (resolution 550 (1984)), and are also irrelevant to the mandate under the terms of resolution 4 (XXXI), adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in the aftermath of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. It should be recalled that, in resolution 4 (XXXI) and subsequent resolutions, the Commission called for the full restoration of all human rights to the population of Cyprus, and in particular to the refugees; expressed alarm at changes in the demographic structure of Cyprus through the continuing influx of settlers; and called for the accounting for missing persons in Cyprus and for the restoration and respect of the human rights of all Cypriots, including the freedom of movement and the right to property. All these violations of human rights are the direct outcome of the acts of Turkey in Cyprus since the 1974 Turkish invasion and military occupation of one third of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

As the occupying Power that exercises effective control over the northern part of Cyprus through the presence of 43,000 heavily armed Turkish troops, Turkey has a clear obligation to provide information concerning the implementation of the provisions of the

above-mentioned resolutions, in particular with regard to the restoration of the human rights of internally displaced and missing persons, as well as on the issue of the illegal alteration of the demographic profile of Cyprus.

It is regrettable that, instead of assuming its responsibilities under the terms of resolution 4 (XXXI), Turkey has chosen once more to hide behind its subordinate local administration in the occupied area of Cyprus in order to air its views through the circulation of a document full of unfounded allegations, half-truths, inaccuracies and politicization.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 2.

(Signed) Andreas Hadjichrysanthou
