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QUESTION OF CYPRUSSECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth yearLetter dated 10 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that because Turkey, despite the continuing occupation of almost 40 per cent of the Cyprus territory by 35,000 Turkish troops, has repeatedly questioned the right of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to reinforce its defences, it has become necessary to state the following:

It is the sovereign right of every independent State to self-defence, and as long as the situation remains as it is, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus considers it a priority duty to strengthen effectively its defences.

This has been officially and repeatedly declared, underlining the fact that the improvement of the defence capabilities of the Republic of Cyprus is merely aimed at increasing the level of preparedness against the constant threat of the occupation troops equipped with heavy and sophisticated arms, including 300 tanks, in case they embark on a new military adventure against the Republic.

It is, therefore, absurd to even suggest, let alone allege, as the Foreign Minister of Turkey did recently in his statement to the plenary of the current session of the General Assembly, that the exercise by Cyprus of the sovereign right of self-defence poses a threat to Turkey, the standing army of which by far exceeds the total population of Cyprus, including both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

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I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 47, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas MAVROMMATIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations
