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Letter dated 12 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 12 October 1989 addressed to you by Mr. Özer Koray, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

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

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 October 1989 from Mr. Özer Koray to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 12 October 1989 addressed to you by His Excellency Dr. Kenan Atakol, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense (see appendix).

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

(Signed) Özer KORAY
Representative

APPENDIX

Letter dated 12 October 1989 from Mr. Kenan Atakol to
the Secretary-General

The letter of Mr. George Iacovou, the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister (see A/44/558-S/20863, annex, of 26 September 1989) is an example of the constant Greek Cypriot propaganda exercise that has been working against a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. It misrepresents facts, tries to discredit the Turkish Cypriot position and to mislead world public opinion. This typical Greek Cypriot behaviour is to blame for the deep mistrust that separates the two peoples in Cyprus for the past 26 years. Mr. Iacovou further displays in his letter the customary Greek Cypriot lack of respect towards the Turkish Cypriot institutions that represent and voice the will and choices of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The resolution of the Turkish Cypriot Legislative Assembly of 23 August 1989 that Mr. Iacovou attacks does not suspend the participation of the Turkish Cypriot side in the current negotiating process, neither does it attack the United Nations Secretary-General or the procedure agreed upon under his auspices for the solution of the Cyprus problem.

The only procedure agreed upon for the solution of the Cyprus problem is direct negotiations on the basis of equality between the two sides in Cyprus under the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General. There have been no "agreed procedures and understandings" that would permit direct negotiations to be abandoned. The Turkish Cypriot side has been calling for adherence to this procedure and resisting Greek Cypriot designs to misuse the negotiating process simply as a vehicle to induce the intervention of third parties on their behalf without feeling the need to reach a mutually satisfactory accommodation. The resolution of the Turkish Cypriot Legislative Assembly expresses the determination of the Turkish Cypriot side to prevent the degeneration of the negotiating process and calls for meaningful, fair and direct talks. Far from suspending Turkish Cypriot participation, it aims to involve the Greek Cypriots in genuine discussions, something they have not done so far, and invites them to adopt a constructive approach to remove the hostility and deep lack of confidence between the two peoples.

Contrary to what Mr. Iacovou claims, the resolution of the Turkish Cypriot Legislative Assembly does not pose any pre-conditions for the continuation of the talks. In fact it does just the opposite and calls for direct negotiations without pre-conditions and without outside interference. In view of Greek Cypriot attempts to distort and misinterpret the said resolution, this point had already been unequivocally clarified by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in a statement issued on 30 August 1989.

But the centerpiece of the distortion in Mr. Iacovou's letter is his reference to a "document presented by the Secretary-General" and to a demand for its removal from the table. There are also several misleading references to the role of the

Secretary-General, as well as to the purported attitude of the Turkish Cypriot side in this regard.

The Secretary-General himself has clarified that there is no document presented by him on the negotiating table. As to his role, he had the following to say in reply to a question during his press conference on 19 September 1989:

"It has been some 14 years, I think, since the Security Council asked the Secretary-General to be a good officer. My predecessor was and I myself have been good officers, and a good officer is neither a mediator nor an arbiter. He presents ideas to the parties for their consideration. He cannot impose a paper and say: 'You have to work on the basis of this paper'. That is not the idea. That is a constant misunderstanding, and, unfortunately, there is no way to teach anyone, including journalists, the difference between a mission of good offices and one of mediation and arbitration."

The attempted deception of Mr. Iacovou by implying that the Turkish Cypriots are responsible for "efforts to diminish the role of the Secretary-General" is not difficult to expose. Mr. Iacovou had expressed the following views in a memorandum submitted to the British Foreign Affairs Committee on 18 March 1987, a year after the rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of the Draft Framework Agreement of 29 March 1986:

"The position of the Greek Cypriot side with regard to the March 1986 documents, as explained to the United Nations Secretariat, is that, in accordance with the mission of good offices, the Greek Cypriot side, having asked the Secretary-General not to submit a document, but to proceed with further consultations, did not expect a document to be submitted. The documents are therefore either non-existent or ab initio invalid. The Greek Cypriot side tried, by its reply of 10 June 1986, to adopt the most positive response possible in the circumstances.

"In connection with the aforesaid, it is considered pertinent to refer to the nature of the good offices mission of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General is not a mediator or an arbitrator and therefore any ideas he may have are for discussion and cannot be submitted as formal proposals for acceptance or rejection.

"In fact, the Secretary-General can submit documents only with the prior approval of both sides. It might be recalled that this position was strongly asserted by Mr. Denktash in the course of the discussions at the Security Council in April/May 1984 which preceded the adoption of Council resolution 550 (1984) and subsequently on the occasion of the submission of the April 1985 documents by the Secretary-General. These views seem to have been accepted by the Secretary-General.

"It should further be clarified that acceptance by only one side of any document validly prepared by the Secretary-General does not give that document any status."

This situation amply demonstrates how unscrupulously the Greek Cypriot side can twist every fact and deny today what it had said yesterday.

Mr. Iacovou has further laboured in his letter to blame the Turkish Cypriot side for the deterioration of the atmosphere in the island. The Greek Cypriot side is responsible for poisoning the political atmosphere in Cyprus through hostile actions and acts of aggression against the buffer zone and our territory, which have escalated in the course of the past year and culminated in the organized violence of 19 July 1989. These events have left a lasting mark in the island and have been correctly identified even by Western media as a revival of the Greek Cypriot ambition of annexing the island to Greece, which has brought so much suffering to Cyprus. During this period, the Greek Cypriot rearmament campaign has reached new proportions with the disclosure of the purchase of advanced assault weapons.

The Turkish Cypriot people deeply feel the agony of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria and have been ready to extend humanitarian assistance to those who were, under shocking conditions, forced to leave Bulgaria. What the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has been able to do is small in view of the gigantic proportions of this ongoing tragedy. But the Turkish Cypriot people, who have endured similar tribulations in the past, are proud for having been able to extend a hand to these people in their hour of need.

We know that, as Mr. Iacovou has done, the Greek Cypriot side has been trying to distort and exploit this humanitarian approach. We do not find this surprising in view of their hostile attitude and policies against us. Such policies render the lip service paid by Mr. Iacovou to negotiations meaningless and indeed repulsive. This is not the way to an agreed settlement. It has to change. This is what the resolution of the Turkish Cypriot Legislative Assembly is all about.

(Signed) Dr. Kenan ATAKOL
Minister of Foreign
Affairs and Defence
