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Letter dated 21 February 1990 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 21 February 1990 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Özer Koray, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

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

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 21 February 1990  
from Mr. Özer Koray to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my government, I would like to bring to your attention a recent statement, as reported in the Greek Cypriot press, by the Commander of the Greek regiment in South Cyprus, Colonel Dimitris Dimou, which is not only highly provocative but also is indicative of the military ambitions of the Greek Cypriot side and of the deep animosity among the Greek Cypriots towards the Turkish Cypriot people in general.

It was reported in the Greek Cypriot daily Simerini of January 12, 1990 that, at a luncheon given on January 11 by the Greek Cypriot National Football Federation in honour of the Officers of the Greek contingent in South Cyprus (ELDIK), the Commander of ELDIK, Colonel Dimou, said that the Turks could understand only one language, namely the "language of fists spoken by Kanaris, Kolokotronis, Karaiskakis, Kunturioti and that used by the Greek army in 1921". Dimou stressed that if the Greeks had secured the independence of their territory in 1821, they had not achieved this by keeping the Turks calm, co-existing or by being at ease with them. He said that independence came because the Greeks were fortunate enough to have, among their ranks, the aforementioned "heroes". Colonel Dimou added:

"We all know that, in Cyprus too, there is only one way for liberation. But for the last 16 years we have been sitting around waiting for others to present it to us as a gift. That liberation is not coming and our people is filled with grief and anxiety. Thus, we are losing our self-confidence. At the same time, we remember the lessons taught to us by our national ancestors. But it takes time. We must be patient. Our cause is challenging and difficult. There are people who wonder whether we cannot see that Turkey is sitting on top of Cyprus with all her weight. But remember what

Makriyannis had said: If we are outnumbered by the masses of Ibrahim it is due to our destiny, which has kept us, the Hellenes, always as a minority. As in the past, all the dragons are now also trying to devour and destroy us as Hellenes, but failing to achieve that objective. They destroy part of us but the essence remains. Those left behind are determined to fight till death. As long as they are determined to do so, they usually win, losing only in a few cases.

I have been in Cyprus as Commander of ELDIK for over 21 months. My conscience hurts because I could not make a contribution to this heroic people, this Hellenic people of Cyprus, a land which has belonged to Hellenes since the dawn of history. My bitterness and regret in this regard is immense. I can read such accusations in your eyes and hear it in your words. It is nearly time for my departure and yet we have not been able to liberate Cyprus. The invaders could not be taught a lesson. They are viewing the South in a provocative manner. I have travelled around in your towns and villages and made observations. I have tasted hospitality and sincerity befitting the Hellenes. I have learned the language and the dialects of the Cyprus Hellenes. I have established telepathic links with their souls and determined their Hellenic identities. I have learned my lesson from the Hellenes of Cyprus, lessons that provided me with guidance and instructions thereon. It is my desire to take part in combat as a soldier at the time of the liberation of our national lands. And later in festivities and celebrations marking our joy, exuberance, resurrection (revival) and victory.

My aim and belief is that each one of us, including myself, as the Commander of ELDIK, and every soldier in my contingent, should be a defender, a lobbyist and a proponent of the Cyprus idea, both during and after their military service on the island. The existing unity and integrity of national feelings among the Hellenes of Cyprus and the Hellenes of Greece are not plain words. It is not theoretical either. It is factual. It is there. And it will exist until we reach our goal. I don't think I am mistaken in saying the foregoing, as I am well aware of the fact that the Cyprus Hellenes are masses worthy of every sacrifice, including human sacrifice. I hope that when we meet again we shall be marching towards our highest and most sacred national goals."

The words of hatred uttered in a hostile tenor by the Greek officer in command of the Greek regiment in South Cyprus came as no surprise to the Turkish Cypriot side. We are familiar with the mentality behind such

Greek enmity. The "language of fists" referred to by Colonel Dimou was employed in Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot regime, in collaboration with the Greek forces, between 1963-1974. The assailing Greek Cypriot EOKA bandits, reinforced by some 20,000 troops from Greece, were trigger-happy against defenseless Turkish Cypriots. Hundreds of Turkish Cypriot lives were lost and thousands rendered homeless. The partnership state, the then "Republic of Cyprus" established by both peoples, was destroyed through a conspiracy which aimed at colonizing Cyprus and making it a part of Greece. Today, against this background, Greek and Greek Cypriot leaders such as Colonel Dimou brazenly talk about "liberation of their ancestral lands", which, in effect, means the complete elimination or domination of the Turkish Cypriots by the Greek Cypriots.

The persistent efforts of the Greek Cypriot administration to extend its illegal sovereignty over the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the declared intention of resorting to force, if necessary, to accomplish that objective, leave little room for hope of a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus issue.

Greek Cypriot political and military leaders, encouraged by Greece and its forces in South Cyprus, have been following a policy of intimidation and provocation towards the Turkish Cypriots. Illegal border crossings, violent demonstrations and shooting incidents perpetrated by the Greek Cypriot side in recent years are seen by the Turkish Cypriot side as a prelude to more serious offences in the future. The Turkish Cypriot side has also drawn Your Excellency's attention to the possibility of a Greek Cypriot armed attack on Turkish Cypriot territories given the amassment of troops and weaponry in South Cyprus and the repeated statements by Greek Cypriot leaders to that effect.

We feel that the above recent statement by the Commander of the Greek forces in South Cyprus should be read carefully and evaluated in conjunction with other similar statements made by the Greek Cypriot leadership in South Cyprus. It should be underlined here, once again, that the process of negotiations has been greatly harmed by aggressive Greek Cypriot policies and the deliberate escalation of tension in the island. We, therefore, expect Your Excellency to take a firm stand on this issue which would otherwise jeopardize your mission of good offices and the resumption of a meaningful dialogue between the two sides. It should be understood that the Turkish Cypriot side is prepared to resume talks with the Greek Cypriot side on the basis of equality, in an atmosphere of good-will and reciprocity,

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but will not tolerate intimidation or threats of violence directed against its sovereignty, territorial integrity and the security of the Turkish Cypriot people.

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