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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND
OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 2 March 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of
the Commission on Human Rights

1. I have the honour to enclose herewith a message addressed to you on behalf of one of the two main parties to the Cyprus dispute, i.e., the Turkish Cypriot Community, by H.E. Mr. Kenan Atakol, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence.
2. As will be recalled, a statement was made in the Commission on Human Rights, on 1 February 1990, on the question of Cyprus, unfortunately in the absence of the Turkish Cypriot Community, one of the two main parties to the conflict. Under these circumstances the Turkish Cypriot Community has been left with no alternative but to submit its views in writing, so that its views could at least appear on the records.
3. It will be appreciated if the present letter and the attachment thereto would be issued, in line with practice as before, as a document of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 12.

(Signed): Cem Duna
Ambassador

ANNEX

1. Further to my letter of 21 February 1990 and with reference to the statement of Mr. Iacovou, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus, before the United Nations Commission of Human Rights on 1 February 1990, I deem it fit to send this letter to you in order to deal with some of the distortions and misrepresentations abounding the said statement.
2. I would like, at the outset, to impress upon all concerned that Mr. Iacovou, despite all the pretensions, in fact, spoke before the Commission not as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the "Republic of Cyprus" but as the Spokesman of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus, to which the Turkish people of Cyprus owe no allegiance whatsoever. He did not speak for Cyprus as a whole and did not, as a matter of fact and legality, represent the Turkish people of Cyprus who are represented solely by the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.
3. Taking advantage, as his Administration always does, of the absence of the Turkish Cypriot Representatives from such fora, Mr. Iacovou proceeded to be highly economical with the truth. His memory may have weaknesses but archives never lie.
4. "Invasion of the island of Cyprus by Greece", as the late Archbishop Makarios called it, in his statement before the Security Council of 19 July 1974, had occurred on 15 July 1974 in contravention of the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960. Through the Treaty of Guarantee the three Guarantor powers had undertaken to protect the independence of Cyprus.
5. Greece, however, by its armed actions on 15 July 1974 did exactly the opposite of its undertaking and attempted to destroy the bi-communal independence of Cyprus in favour of Enosis (union of Cyprus with Greece). Turkey, in fact, did nothing more than preventing this brutal illegality by its intervention on 20 July 1974.
6. The Turkish people of Cyprus, without exception, are and forever will be, grateful to Turkey for being true to her rights and obligation under the Treaty of Guarantee which saved them from imminent annihilation.
7. Those are the determining facts and sentiments that Mr. Iacovou and his administration have to reckon with, though they may not like them.
8. As for the preposterous allegation of "occupation", it will, I think, suffice to state and an action with so many positive results in its wake cannot possibly and sensibly be called "occupation". The Turkish intervention of 20 July 1974 put a stop to Greece's invasion of Cyprus and pushed it back to the present dividing line; deposed the Fascist régime of Nicos Sampson installed by the then Greek junta in Athens; prevented the annexation of Cyprus to Greece; saved the Turkish Cypriot people from the brink of total destruction; brought an end to the internecine war between Greeks; helped Greece's return to democracy; preserved and consolidated the partnership rights of the Turkish Cypriots in the sovereignty and independence of Cyprus and provided Cyprus with the longest peaceful period in its recent history.

9. Mr. Iacovou is free to continue indulging in fake scenarios, as he has done in his said statement, but he will hardly be able to convince the Turkish people of Cyprus that a legal action with such an excellent track-record can, or should be, vilified and/or derogated from.

10. Turkish Peace Force are at present in Cyprus within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus governed by the Turkish Cypriots. They will continue to stay as the guarantor of the peace that is prevailing in the island, as long as the Turkish Cypriots will want them to stay and until a negotiated settlement is found through direct negotiations between the two sides in Cyprus. Mr. Iacovou's clamour about "invasion and occupation" can only reflect his racist longing for recreating the conditions of 1963-1974, a torturous period devoid of human rights for the Turkish Cypriots.

11. Our responses to his false allegations regarding "human rights" are contained in my letter of 21 February 1990, which I had addressed to Your Excellency in response to the statement of Mr. Markides, the Greek Cypriot representative at the Commission. I need not, therefore, repeat them here.

(Signed): Kenan Atakol