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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 12 June 1985 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 June 1985 addressed to you by Mr. Özer Koray, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 42.

(Signed) İltis TÜRKMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Previously circulated as document S/17261.

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 June 1985 from Mr. Özer Koray to
the Secretary-General

It has come to my notice that still another letter has been sent to Your Excellency on the subject of the constitutional referendum held in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on 5 May 1985, this time by the so-called "Chargé d'affaires" of the Greek Cypriot Administration to the United Nations. The said letter contains additional allegations, backed up by false or distorted statistics, which had not been mentioned in Mr. Iacovou's previous letter addressed to you on this subject on 3 May 1985 (A/39/902-S/17198), to which Mr. Ertekün had replied earlier with his letter of 17 May 1985 (ibid., appendix).

As the above-mentioned letter of 17 May sufficiently deals with the other allegations put forward by Mr. Iacovou in this regard, I will confine myself to answering the Greek Cypriot "Chargé d'affaires'" false claims that "settlers from Turkey" influenced the results of the referendum.

At the outset, it should be pointed out that the said letter of the Greek Cypriot "Chargé d'affaires" appears to be a malicious attempt on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to cast a shadow, in international circles, on a democratically conducted referendum on the new Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Through various petty and unfounded allegations contrary to what has been claimed by the Greek Cypriot "Chargé d'affaires" in this regard, it must be categorically stated that all those who have voted in the referendum of 5 May were Turkish Cypriot citizens. When referring to the alleged "settlers from Turkey", therefore, the Greek Cypriot "Chargé d'affaires" must certainly mean those Turkish Cypriots who, over the years, were forced to leave their native country because of Greek Cypriot violence, oppression and political and economic pressures, and who have now returned to their homeland after the liberation of the North by the Turkish Peace Operation in 1974. As regards the few thousand mainland Turkish skilled workers and seasonal labourers who have come to North Cyprus after 1974, I would like to stress that it is most unjustified for the Greek Cypriot side to exploit this subject for propaganda purposes, at a time when importation of labour is normal practice in any developing economy, and immigration is an international phenomenon respected by any democratic country.

To confirm the above, it would suffice to take a glance at the world press which has reported on the subject, indicating that it was the Turkish Cypriots themselves, and not anybody else who had given overwhelming support to the new Constitution by over a 70 per cent majority. Newspapers representing different shades of opinion, much more credible than some of the sources quoted by the Greek Cypriot "Chargé d'affaires" (who, incidentally, misquoted or quoted out of context the other sources), have confirmed this fact: The Guardian Newspaper published in London reported on 6 May 1985 that "Turkish Cypriots gave overwhelming approval yesterday to a new Constitution ...", while The Times of London, on the same day, published a similar article stating "Turkish Cypriots gave an overwhelming approval in a referendum yesterday to a new Constitution ...". On 7 May 1985, The Daily

Telegraph, another London newspaper reported that "... an overwhelming majority of Turkish Cypriots had voted to accept a new Constitution in their sector providing for a strong presidency in a parliamentary system". These are only a few examples of the nature of the positive coverage given to the referendum of 5 May by the world press.

The Greek Cypriot propaganda with regard to the democratic process which is currently under way in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus compels us to believe that the Greek Cypriot side has not actually reconciled itself to the idea of reaching a solution with the Turkish Cypriots on the basis of equality and within the framework of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal republic, as previously agreed. I wish to stress that this negative attitude is incompatible with good will and is not at all helpful to Your Excellency's mission of good offices.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 42.

(Signed) Özer KORAY
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus
