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Letter dated 27 March 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 27 March 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 AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 27 March 1990 from Mr. Özer Koray addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 23 March 1990 addressed to the President of the European Parliament by His Excellency Dr. Kenan Atakol, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

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

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

APPENDIX

Letter dated 23 March 1990 from Mr. Kenan Atakol addressed to the
President of the European Parliament

The resolution on Cyprus adopted by the European Parliament goes against both the letter and the spirit of Security Council resolution 649 (1990) adopted unanimously on 12 March 1990. The European Parliament's resolution is flawed with a great number of errors, is grossly biased and, for this reason, makes it harder for the two Cypriot parties to enter into meaningful negotiations. In this respect, the resolution is counterproductive and worse than useless. It is unfortunate that the European Parliament finds itself bound to a tendentious resolution, which obstructs the United Nations Secretary-General's good offices mission and brings no credit to this legislative body.

In the first preambular paragraph, the resolution asserts that Cyprus has been illegally divided for the last 15 years. In fact, Cyprus has been divided since 1963 when the Greek Cypriots, through the use of force, threw the Turkish Cypriots out of the bi-communal partnership State and thereby took the fateful step that has created the Cyprus problem, which has been with us for over 26 years. The United Nations peace-keeping force was dispatched to Cyprus in 1964 to save the lives of the Turkish Cypriots from the Greek Cypriot gunmen operating with the connivance and support of the Greek Cypriot administration. The division of Cyprus was, by then, already an established fact.

In the sixth preambular paragraph, reference is made to the efforts of the "Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene negotiations between the President of Cyprus, Mr. George Vassiliou, and Mr. Rauf Denktaş". This is incorrect: the Secretary-General's efforts are aimed at convening negotiations between Mr. Vassiliou, the leader of the Greek Cypriots, and his counterpart Mr. Denktaş, the leader of the Turkish Cypriots, on a footing of absolute equality. To pretend that Mr. Vassiliou is President of Cyprus is incorrect because he represents only the Greek Cypriots. There has been no legal "President of Cyprus" since the Greek Cypriots tore up the Cyprus Constitution of 1960 during the fateful events of 1963 and 1964. That Constitution provided for the executive power in Cyprus to be exercised by the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots acting conjointly.

In the seventh preambular paragraph, reference is made to the "positive negotiating stance" taken by Mr. Vassiliou. This is not so. Mr. Vassiliou came to New York with no proposals of his own. He refused to reciprocate or even acknowledge the many written proposals that President Denktaş ^{a/} submitted. When negotiations got stalled over the attempts of Mr. Vassiliou to insist on terminology that might imply that the position of the Turkish Cypriots was inferior

^{a/} Mr. Denktaş resigned as President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on 15 March 1990. Presidential elections will take place on 22 April 1990.

to that of the Greek Cypriots, he made no attempt to overcome the difficulty and rejected President Denktas' proposals to put the matter aside and proceed to other points on the agenda.

In the eighth preambular paragraph, the resolution condemns "the actions of Mr. Denktas to attempt to alter the Secretary-General's mandate". On the contrary, President Denktas supports the Secretary-General's mission of good offices, considers that direct negotiations between the two Cypriot sides under the auspices of the Secretary-General is the only way to reach a solution and has always been for maintaining the Secretary-General's mandate intact.

In the ninth preambular paragraph, the assertion of the resolution is contrary to the facts because the Greek Cypriot provocateurs who were arrested for illegally entering the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus were arrested by the TRNC police and not by the Turkish forces. Furthermore, the Turkish forces in Cyprus are not occupation forces. They arrived in Cyprus under treaty obligations. It was through this intervention that the attempt to annex Cyprus to Greece was thwarted and the Turkish Cypriots saved from liquidation at the hands of the Greek Cypriots whose "President" at the time was the notorious killer Nicos Sampson.

In the tenth preambular paragraph, the resolution pretends that "the vast majority of Turkish Cypriots deplore" Mr. Denktas' negotiating position. Given that Mr. Denktas has been the democratically elected leader of the Turkish Cypriots, such an assertion is impossible to make. In any case, the Turkish Cypriots will pronounce themselves on this subject, once again, on 22 April 1990. It is inadmissible for the European Parliament to anticipate the result of this election and conclude that Mr. Denktas does not have the support of his people.

In paragraph 2, the Turkish Government is urged to be co-operative. It should be made very clear that the solution to the Cyprus question will be arrived at through direct negotiations exclusively between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. As one of the guarantor Powers, Turkey supports the negotiations, but is not involved in this process.

Paragraph 3 refers to supporting progressive Turkish Cypriot community leaders. This is bizarre, given the fact that the TRNC is a pluralistic, democratic State where the people of that country are the sole judges about who is going to speak for them. It is extraordinary that a legislative body like the European Parliament should adopt a resolution that would seek out alternative leaders in the TRNC and thereby subvert the democratic process of that country.

Paragraph 4 peremptorily demands "the release of the young people illegally imprisoned by the Turkish occupation forces". These "young people" entered the territory of the TRNC illegally and after being arrested were tried in a properly constituted court where they were convicted for breaking the laws of the land. They will be released when they have served their sentence. Their imprisonment has nothing to do with Turkish forces. In fact, they have been arrested, tried and convicted by organs of the TRNC that have performed their duty in accordance with the legislation of this country. Furthermore, it is highly improper for

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legislative bodies, even if they happen to be the European Parliament, to arrogate to themselves the right to order the judicial organs of another State to release convicted criminals or to pass superficial judgement about the legality of the action of these judicial organs.

The last paragraph calls on Foreign Ministers to report on their actions to promote a just solution to the Cyprus problem.

As stated in paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 649, a solution in Cyprus has to be "mutually acceptable" and must be reached "freely" through the two sides co-operating with the Secretary-General "on an equal footing". The attempt of the European Parliament to involve the Foreign Ministers of the 12 member countries in Cyprus renders a complex question even more intractable. By adopting an unbalanced resolution, the European Parliament gives comfort and support to the disinformation campaign being conducted by the Greek Cypriots against the Turkish Cypriots. This violates the letter and the spirit of paragraph 5 of resolution 649, which "calls on the parties concerned to refrain from any action that would aggravate the situation".

The Greek Cypriots would do well to stop the political and economic warfare they are waging against the Turkish Cypriots so that a climate of reconciliation and mutual confidence can be restored as a first essential step in the process of building a federation in Cyprus. By providing the Greek Cypriots with a new tool for their propaganda campaign, the European Parliament has set back the efforts of all those who are working for a just and lasting Cyprus solution.

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