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Letter dated 25 July 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the note verbale dated 21 March 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/19/G/16), in which it requested the circulation of a letter of the so-called “minister for foreign affairs” of the legally invalid “TRNC”.

The position of Cyprus on the issue of the circulation by Turkey of letters of the so-called officials of the “TRNC” is well known. Such practice is both an abuse of the process of circulation of United Nations official documents and a violation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 550 (1984), in which the Council, *inter alia*, called upon all States “not to recognize the purported State of the ‘Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus’” and not to facilitate or in any way assist the illegal secessionist entity.

The Government of Cyprus definitely rejects the Turkish points contained in document A/HRC/19/G/16, since they are contrary to the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular those referring to the “secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus” (resolution 550 (1984)), and also irrelevant to the mandate under the terms of resolution 4 (XXXI), which was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in the aftermath of the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus. It should be recalled that, in its resolution 4 (XXXI) and in subsequent resolutions, the Commission called for the full restoration of all human rights to the population of Cyprus, and in particular to the refugees, expressed alarm at “changes in the demographic structure of Cyprus” through the continuing influx of settlers, and called for the accounting for missing persons in Cyprus and for the restoration and respect of the human rights of all Cypriots, including the freedom of movement and the right to property. All these violations of human rights are the direct outcome of the acts of Turkey in Cyprus since the 1974 Turkish invasion and military occupation of one third of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

As the occupying Power that exercises effective control in the northern part of Cyprus through the presence of 43,000 heavily armed troops, Turkey has a clear obligation to provide information concerning the implementation of the provisions of these resolutions, in particular with regard to the restoration of the human rights to internally displaced and missing persons, as well as on the issue of the illegal alteration of the demographic profile of Cyprus.

It is regrettable that, instead of assuming its responsibilities under the terms of resolution 4 (XXXI), Turkey has chosen once more to hide behind its subordinate local administration in the occupied areas of Cyprus in order to air its views through the circulation of a document full of unfounded allegations, distorted presentation of events and pure politicization. It is all the more regrettable that the occupying Power, Turkey, continues its deplorable behaviour of using the Turkish Cypriot leadership to mount verbal attacks against the Greek Cypriots in an obvious attempt to instigate hostility and confrontation between the two communities on the island.

Regrettably, during the past nine months, the current negotiating process for a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem has been conducted in a climate of increasing threats by high-level Turkish officials. The culmination of this behaviour, which has also been adopted by the current leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, has been the promotion of an artificial deadline (1 July 2012) for the conclusion of the negotiating process. Should such a random deadline not be observed, Ankara actually threatens to annex the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus.

The way that the Turkish Government understands international relations not as a platform of dialogue and conciliation but rather as an arena of imposition of its own desiderata is an intrinsic part of the problem. So is the segregationist approach of Mr. Eroglu, who, as of mid-2012, assumed the leadership of the Turkish-Cypriot community.

It is about time that Turkey decided to remove its 43,000 heavily armed troops from Cyprus. This would be the greatest contribution that this country could make for the respect and promotion of human rights in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 2.

(signed) Leonidas Pantelides