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Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I am writing in reference to the note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Turkey addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/46/G/24) requesting the circulation of an attached letter, which was subsequently circulated by the secretariat of the Human Rights Council.

Turkey's propensity to circulate letters on behalf of individuals purporting to represent Turkey's subordinate local administration in the occupied area of Cyprus makes a mockery of the United Nations official document system. The provisions of Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) are, I am confident, well known to all international civil servants, including all those at OHCHR.

Furthermore, it is worth recalling that the mandate of the resolution at hand is clearly laid out in resolution 4 (XXXI) of 13 February 1975, which was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in the aftermath of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. In this and subsequent resolutions, the Commission called for the full restoration of all human rights to the people of Cyprus, and in particular to the refugees, expressing alarm at "changes in the demographic structure of Cyprus" through the continuing influx of settlers. It called for accounting for missing persons in Cyprus and for the restoration and respect of the human rights of all Cypriots, including freedom of movement and the right to property. At present, it is also highly relevant to recall Commission resolution 1987/50, in which the Commission unequivocally stated that it considered "attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as illegal", and called for "the immediate cessation of such activities."

It is lamentable that the secessionist entity in Cyprus has once again chosen OHCHR as its latest propaganda conduit. The Government of Cyprus will not, however, concern itself with the substance of the letter, nor is it willing to enter into a blame game that Turkey and its subordinate local administration seek to provoke.

It would be appreciated if the present communication addressed to you could be recorded as a document of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 2, and be published on the OHCHR website.

(Signed) George C. Kasoulides
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

