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Question of Cyprus

The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

Letter dated 10 March 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 March 2022, addressed to you by Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 67, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Öncü Keçeli
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 10 March 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in response to the statements made by the Greek Cypriot representatives during the 58th plenary meeting of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, held on 23 February 2022, under agenda item 67, and during the eleventh emergency special session of the Assembly, held on 28 February and 1 and 2 March 2022.

It is unfortunate that, at a time when international peace and security is facing one of its biggest challenges since the end of the Second World War, the main preoccupation of the Greek Cypriot side is to utilize the recent developments to further its political agenda by distorting legal and historical facts about Cyprus. It is clear that the Greek Cypriot administration is determined to blatantly exploit every opportunity, no matter how irrelevant it may be, to mislead the international community about the Cyprus problem, taking full advantage of the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side at international platforms, including the General Assembly. Therefore, I feel compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

At the outset, it should be made clear that the “Republic of Cyprus” was founded in 1960 in accordance with the international Cyprus treaties, namely the treaties of establishment, alliance and guarantee, by the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot peoples when the British Government relinquished the sovereignty of Cyprus to the partnership Republic composed of the aforesaid politically equal partners, “acting conjointly and in partnership”. The legitimacy of the 1960 Republic lay in the joint presence and effective participation of both peoples in all organs of the State. Neither of the parties had the right to rule the other or assume the right to be the Government of the whole island in the absence of the other in all organs of the State and its Government. It should be underlined that the Cyprus problem commenced in 1963, not in 1974, when the Greek Cypriot side forcibly usurped the title of the partnership Republic of Cyprus and expelled, by force of arms, the Turkish Cypriot partner from all State organs. During the years from 1963 to 1974, the Greek Cypriots, aided and encouraged by Greece, took part in an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriots, known as the Akritas Plan, with the ultimate aim of achieving the annexation of the island to Greece (enosis). This large-scale violence and the ensuing gross human rights violations necessitated that the Security Council deploy the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot representatives have long been disinforming the international community by portraying the Cyprus problem as one of “invasion” and “occupation” by Turkey. In fact, none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention on the island, carried out in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee, as an “invasion” or its subsequent presence on the island as an “occupation”. In fact, the only occupation in the island is the forcible usurpation of the seat of the Government of the 1960 Republic partnership by the Greek Cypriot side.

In view of the above, it is clear that the misleading remarks of the Greek Cypriot representatives are not corroborated by legal and historical facts pertaining to the island. While reiterating our principled stance that the only feasible way out of the current crisis in Ukraine lies in diplomacy, we once again call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue the language of deception and sincerely engage with the Turkish Cypriot side on the basis of our new proposal aimed at finding a comprehensive and sustainable settlement in Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 44 and 67, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
