



Security Council

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Letter dated 6 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Referring to the letter by the Permanent Representative of Greece dated 12 June 2020 ([S/2020/543](#)), I would like to make the following points.

At the outset, I regret that the Greek side attempts once again to evade its undeniable responsibility in the creation of the Cyprus issue by manipulating both history and international law to its own expediency. The reasons that compelled Turkey, as a guarantor power, to intervene in 1974 in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960 are well known and amply documented. The 11-year-long ethnic cleansing campaign targeting the Turkish Cypriots culminated in the infamous coup d'état on 15 July 1974, aiming to annex Cyprus to Greece. This is a historical fact, not an interpretation of history. Blaming Turkey for exercising its legitimate rights emanating from international law while condoning the atrocities committed by Greek Cypriot militia against Turkish Cypriots indeed does a great injustice to history.

Furthermore, equating the Cyprus question with Turkey's military presence in the island is clearly a flawed approach. The binational partnership State of the Republic of Cyprus was effectively terminated by the Greek Cypriots when they abrogated the Constitution and expelled their Turkish Cypriot partners from all State organs. Today, there is no single authority that is competent to represent the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots jointly. Rather, there exist two independent, separate political entities in Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory. If my Greek colleague wishes to talk about occupation, it would be a good start to recognize the 56-year-old usurpation by the Greek Cypriot side of the name and the seat of government of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus.

Let me also remind you that the parameters of the negotiations, which have emerged over the course of their five-decade-long history, are well known. A simple analysis of various negotiation rounds clearly shows which party has been rejecting the main parameters of a settlement.

In light of the foregoing, it is rather the Greek side that is clearly resorting to dictating to the international community its own version of history, international law and the current state of affairs in Cyprus. This mindset could not lead us towards the resolution of the Cyprus issue if the goal is to construct a common future for the two peoples of the island. Above all, for a common future to shape up, it is imperative to examine history in an objective manner and draw the ensuing lessons accordingly.

Lastly, as the country with the longest continental coastline in the Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey will continue to protect its legitimate rights and vital interests,



as well as those of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in line with international law. As we have stressed time and again, Turkey is open for dialogue with all relevant coastal States with which it has diplomatic relations. We are ready to give our full support for a just, equitable and peaceful resolution of all pending issues in the Mediterranean basin.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative
