



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

September 21, 2021

The Honorable  
Nicole Malliotakis  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Malliotakis:

Thank you for your letter of July 1 addressed to Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield regarding developments in Varosha. The Department shares your concern over the unilateral reopening of sections of Varosha, as well as the July 20 announcement to transfer parts of Varosha to Turkish Cypriot control. That announcement by Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar, with support from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was made despite months of U.S. and EU engagement at the most senior levels urging Turkey and Turkish Cypriots against this decision.

As Secretary Blinken noted in his statement released on July 20, and as Under Secretary Nuland reiterated during the July 21 Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on “U.S.-Turkey Relations,” the United States condemns this move by Turkish Cypriot leader Tatar and Turkish President Erdogan. It is inconsistent with UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions 550 and 789, which explicitly call for Varosha to be administered by the United Nations. The United States views Turkish Cypriot actions in Varosha, with the support of Turkey, as provocative, unacceptable, and incompatible with their past commitments to engage constructively in settlement talks. We will continue to urge Turkish Cypriots and Turkey to reverse their decision and all steps taken since October 2020.

Following the July 20 announcement, the United States worked closely with UNSC member states to craft a strong Security Council statement that was unanimously adopted on July 23, condemning the announcement and calling for the immediate reversal of this decision and all steps taken since the reopening of parts of Varosha in October 2020. The Department continues to underscore the

importance of avoiding provocative unilateral actions that increase tensions on the island and hinder efforts to resume Cyprus settlement talks in line with relevant UNSC resolutions. The Department has noted our concern regarding Turkish and Turkish Cypriot calls for a “two-state” solution and remain supportive of a Cypriot-led comprehensive settlement to reunify the island as a bizonal, bicomunal federation to benefit all Cypriots and the wider region. This is the only framework with international community support and approved by the UNSC.

We hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Naz Durakoglu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Naz Durakoglu  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs