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Letter dated 11 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

My Government has brought to the attention of the United Nations several times in recent months a matter of grave concern for us, namely the threats by Turkey to open the occupied city of Varosha, in violation of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus. Alarmed by the prospect of the occupying power creating additional *faits accomplis* on the ground and anxious to secure compliance with the said resolutions, the Cyprus Government decided to resort to the Council under article 35.1 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Following my Government's request to the Security Council to be seized of the matter, the latter issued press statement SC/13980 on 9 October 2019, in which it stated that the members of the Council "recalled the importance of the status of Varosha as set out in previous Security Council resolutions, including resolution [550 \(1984\)](#) and resolution [789 \(1992\)](#), and reiterated that no actions should be carried out in relation to Varosha that are not in accordance with those resolutions".

The special status of Varosha has been defined through a number of stipulations adopted either directly by the Security Council or endorsed by it, including:

(a) A specific framework for the return of Varosha to its lawful inhabitants under United Nations administration, as a priority and without awaiting the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, was shaped as early as 1979 pursuant to the High-level Agreement between the leaders of the two communities. This Agreement was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution [482 \(1980\)](#);

(b) Resolution [550 \(1984\)](#) of the Security Council, in which the Council expressed deep concern "about recent threats for settlement of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants", considered "attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible", and called "for the transfer of this area to the administration of the United Nations";

(c) Resolution [789 \(1992\)](#) of the Security Council, in which the Council urged that "with a view to implementation of resolution [550 \(1984\)](#), the area at present under the control of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus be extended to include Varosha";



(d) Resolution 2483 (2019), the most recent Security Council resolution on Cyprus, adopted in July 2019, in which the Council recalled “the status of Varosha as set out in relevant resolutions”.

Additionally, the status of Varosha, as an area under the direct control of the Turkish army and an area for which Turkey has control and responsibility, is explicitly stated in reports of the Secretary-General, which affirm that “the United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha”. It is recalled that Varosha was occupied and its inhabitants violently expelled during the second phase of the Turkish military invasion of 1974, looted, and fenced by the Turkish army, which, to this day, has exclusive access to the city.

The Cyprus Government expects the Government of Turkey and its illegal subordinate administration in the occupied part of Cyprus to comply with the clear calls of the Security Council to respect the status of Varosha. Any actions that might adversely affect the right of return and the property rights of the city’s lawful inhabitants must be avoided. We also expect Turkey to put an end to declarations by high officials of its Government threatening to open Varosha, and to cease violations of relevant Security Council resolutions on the ground by undertaking “inventory studies” in Varosha.

My Government will continue to exert every effort for the return of Varosha to its rightful and lawful owners and inhabitants under the auspices of the United Nations, as a matter of priority and in line with relevant Security Council resolutions and the 1979 High-level Agreement, pursuant to which we have repeatedly made specific proposals to realize the return of Varosha, not only as an obligation but also as a means to create a win-win situation. We remain convinced that such a venture would serve as a tangible confidence-building measure and could prove to be a gamechanger, contributing greatly to the efforts for creating a climate conducive to the resumption of the peace process and eventually leading to a fair and durable comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Andreas D. Mavroyiannis**
Permanent Representative