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Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 13 August 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, with reference to the letter dated 1 August 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/978](#)), I would like to bring to your attention the following.

The written statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Arab Republic of Egypt dated 1 August 2020, regarding NAVTEX message 0977/20 of 21 July–2 August, announcing the seismic research to be carried out by the *Oruç Reis* in the Eastern Mediterranean, has been carefully noted.

A thorough review of the area covered by the above-mentioned NAVTEX message has revealed that the coordinates indeed extend beyond the Turkish continental shelf, as declared to the United Nations in our letter dated 18 March 2020 ([A/74/757](#)), by roughly 160 metres, owing to scaling approximations. Turkey would consequently like to assure Egypt that due consideration will be accorded to the concerns of Egypt in the calculation of future NAVTEX messages.

Turkey wishes to reiterate its position that the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean should be carried out through negotiations among the littoral States on the basis of the principle of equity, international law and good neighbourliness.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next edition of the Law of the Sea Bulletin.

(Signed) Serhad Varlı
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

