



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and further to the latter's Note LA/COD/4 of 19 April 2006, with which he transmitted a Note from the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, has the honour to communicate the following as regards the obligations of Cyprus to ensure the protection of diplomatic representatives and premises on its territory:

The competent public order authorities in Cyprus registered on 5 December 2003 a complaint by the Charge d' affaires of the Holy See in Cyprus on an incident that had taken place the day before during which he himself had been attacked in an attempted robbery. Cyprus police have recorded testimony of the crime, have carried out the necessary crime scene investigation and have isolated evidence that provide solid grounds for prosecution.

However, the investigation is ongoing and the case has not progressed because it has been verified by Cyprus police that the perpetrators entered the Nunciature from the area of Cyprus which is occupied by Turkish troops and where the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control. Cyprus police are therefore unable to extend their investigation to the entire territory of Cyprus, which would in this case be required for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

It should also be noted that the premises of the representation of the Holy See in Cyprus are situated inside the buffer zone, which separates the area controlled by the Cyprus Government and the area occupied by Turkish troops, and which is an area that only the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNIFICYP) currently uses to effectively carry out its mandate. Due to the narrow width of the buffer zone where the Nunciature is located, its northern face is in the area under the control of the Turkish occupation army. Its main, southern, entrance is situated in the Government-controlled area and is included in regular patrols of the Cyprus police.

Despite the limitations placed on Cypriot authorities by circumstances outside their control, Cyprus is firmly committed to its obligations for diplomatic protection under international law and will pursue this investigation until the perpetrators have been