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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Explanation of Vote by Gordon Olson, Deputy Political Counselor, on Resolution 1568
Addressing the Renewal of the UNFICYP Mandate in Cyprus, in the Security Council, October
22, 2004*

The United States voted in favor of this resolution because it endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation [in [S/2004/756](#)] for a 30 percent force level reduction and his intention to conduct a further review of [UNFICYP](#)'s mandate as well as, force levels and concept of operation, continuing to take into account developments on the ground and the view of the parties, prior to the next UNFICYP renewal. This resolution is an important first step in the on-going examination of UNFICYP.

As we have noted, resources for peacekeeping operations are under strain as the demand for UN peacekeeping has risen significantly in recent years. Accordingly, we welcome the resolution's support for the Secretary-General's request for further voluntary contributions to the UNFICYP from other countries and organizations.

We note in addition the Secretary-General's assessment that a recurrence of fighting in Cyprus is increasingly unlikely, with the emphasis of UNFICYP's activity moving toward liaison, observation and mediation rather than the deployment of forces to prevent the recurrence of fighting and maintain the status quo.

We also note that the Secretariat team that conducted the review of UNFICYP sought the views of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides about the situation on the ground, and the Secretary-General's observation that both sides, as well as the Guarantor Powers, shared the view that under current conditions UNFICYP should remain in Cyprus beyond 15 December 2004.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for the Secretary-General's report [[S/2004/437](#)] on his [Mission of Good Offices in Cyprus](#). We agree with the report that the way ahead to a settlement is for the Greek Cypriots to articulate with clarity and finality concerns they have indicated regarding implementation of the settlement plan and its security provisions.

We continue to support the report's assessment that Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots have done everything possible to reach a Cyprus settlement. We also appreciate Greece's support for the Secretary-General's efforts, including specifically for his final settlement plan.

We reaffirm our support for the Secretary-General's recommendation in paragraph 93 of the Good Offices Mission report that, not for the purpose of affording recognition or assisting secession, the Security Council should encourage all states to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development. We concur with the Secretary-

General's assessment that such a move would be consistent with Security Council resolutions [541](#) and [550](#).

We regret that to date the Council has not endorsed the Secretary-General's report on his Mission of Good Offices in Cyprus and look forward to Security Council action in this regard.

Mr. President,

I would also note that it is the policy of the United States Government to ensure that members of the armed forces of the United States of America participating in [UN peace operations](#) are protected from criminal prosecution or other assertion of jurisdiction by the [International Criminal Court](#), including through the possible inclusion of express provisions providing such protection.

Thank you Mr. President.