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'US DECISION TO LIFT EMBARGO MAY LEAD TO ARMS RACE ON SOUTH CYPRUS'

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The United States' decision to lift its arms embargo on the Greek Cypriot administration will "embolden" it and hence lead to an escalation in the region, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) said on Saturday, while Türkiye also "strongly" condemned the decision and warning that the move would harm efforts for a Cyprus peace deal, lead to an arms race on the island and undermine regional stability.

TRNC President Ersin Tatar warned in a statement that the decision can also cause further intensification of tension between Ankara and Athens, both NATO members.

"As the Greek Cypriot administration is expected to further accelerate its armament efforts and provocative position, we will not remain idle," he said.

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