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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 12 October 1965 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit enclosed the text of a letter, addressed to Your Excellency by Mr. Osman Orek, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus, and Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Communal Chamber of the Republic of Cyprus.

I would be grateful if Your Excellency would kindly have the text of this letter circulated as a General Assembly document.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations

New York, 12 October 1965

Your Excellency,

With reference to the letter of Mr. Rossides dated 6 October 1965 (A/6032), we should like to make the following observations in order to put the record right:

Referring to the visit by Archbishop Makarios to two mixed villages, Mr. Rossides says that the Archbishop "gave the assurance that the Government would repair all the damaged Turkish homes...". We thank Mr. Rossides for confirming our complaints. Potamia, where the Archbishop made the above statement, was a mixed village of 540 people, 319 of whom were Turkish. Due to the fear and terror exercised on the Turks from the surrounding Greek villages and by the so-called "security forces", almost all the Turkish inhabitants were forced to vacate their homes. Their houses were destroyed by the Greeks after this evacuation. Today there are only twenty-three Turks in the village most of whom are aged people. It is the same Greek authorities who now underline "the harmonious relations which existed between the Greek and Turkish residents" of the village. They do not give any reason for the destruction of Turkish homes and one must assume that such destruction is part of the show of goodwill and harmony by the Greeks in Cyprus towards the Turks! Let us not forget that the pattern of destruction of Turkish properties in Potamia was repeated in 104 other villages with absolute impunity by the so-called "security forces" of Archbishop Makarios, who, when invited by his Vice-President on 4 November 1965, in pursuance of the recommendation of a United Nations expert, Mr. Ortega, who prepared a detailed report on damaged houses (see map A attached to document A/6028), to consider the rebuilding of Turkish properties at a joint meeting in accordance with the Constitution, refused to do so, claiming that Turks could not settle in all areas from which they had departed but only in those areas that the Greeks thought they could (see annex III to Secretary-General's report S/6102). It is pertinent to ask the Greek Cypriot authorities why they choose to talk about rebuilding Turkish houses whenever the Cyprus question comes before the General Assembly, and they refuse to act as soon as the question is out of the scrutiny of the United Nations.

Another village which the Archbishop chose to visit was Dhali. This village had a population of 2,609 before the troubles, out of which only 206 were Turks. Since the troubles, this number of Turkish inhabitants has further dwindled, but some thirty-nine Turks continued to stay in the village. The condition for their safety is to make public declarations applauding the "charity" of the Greeks towards the Turks. They must not claim constitutional rights or the protection of law according to the Constitution. People have to live and the necessity to exist may force a handful of Turks to bow to such a life under Greek rule, but this can never be interpreted as the true feeling and wish of the Turkish Cypriot Community - a Community who chose freedom and independence in 1960 and who has been defending its freedom, independence and rights according to the Constitution and the international agreements, since December 1963.

Some further examples of the "Greek goodwill towards the Turks" may be mentioned. On 7 October 1965, the Greek Cypriot authorities reaffirmed their decision not to allow the Turks to get any material for building purposes which is badly needed in Turkish areas; they have refused the dispatch of shoes (including children's shoes) to the Turkish refugees; at Polis, where 600 Turks are still crowded in one school area, they have cut off the electricity supply. Mandria and Polemidhia Turks have been encircled by armed Greeks. In the latter village, Turkish homes were searched and ransacked only two weeks ago (S/6724). The armed threat and oppression of Greek forces, which include more than 10,000 troops from the Royal Hellenic Army of Greece, continues unabated all over Cyprus.

The Greek paradise which Mr. Rossides has tried to draw seems to be in very bad taste and in quite a bad state. Some time ago, the Greek propaganda machine had trumpeted the fact that two Turks, Zeki Osman and Ali Hussein Hindo had taken refuge in the Greek paradise. Both these men had fled from the Turkish quarter after committing petty crimes in order to avoid justice. They have now had enough of the Greek paradise and they have returned to the Turkish parts, the former on 7 September 1965 and the latter on 29 September 1965. In his above stated letter, Mr. Rossides mentions the name of one Ismet Rahmi, who, it is alleged, took refuge in the Greek sector "in order to escape persecution from the Turks". This man, it is true, did go to the Greeks after killing two of his compatriots

as a result of a scuffle over personal differences. Instead of handing him over to justice, Mr. Rossides' "Government" extend to him "full protection" and treated him as a hero. This example by itself is sufficient to indicate the kind of law and order which exists in Cyprus, and the kind of "Government" which pretends ability to rule over Turks and protect their rights. All Greeks who have killed and mauled Turks and have destroyed Turkish property all over Cyprus are "heroes" doing their "national duty"; all Turks who commit a crime, even murder, and turn to the Greeks in order to escape justice, become good citizens. All Turks who refuse to accept such a Greek rule and stick to the Constitution of the land are "terrorists" or "rebels". This is the kind of "freedom" which the Greek Cypriot Administration is seeking from the General Assembly. We think that the General Assembly has had enough of such twisted literature and will pull the Greek Cypriot Representative up in time and in the proper manner.

Mr. Rossides ends his letter with the following words: "the growing desire for a return to peace and normality among all sections of the people of Cyprus in a spirit of understanding and co-operation is a reality that would lead to a peaceful solution of the problem the moment outside interference stopped and the partitionist campaign of divisiveness ceased".

If he is sincere in this belief, we invite him and the Greek Cypriot Community to take the necessary steps towards creating peace and normality by: (a) denouncing enosis as the object and violence as the method of their policy because of which Turks are being killed, oppressed and destroyed; (b) denouncing all Greek leaders for having repeatedly declared that "the present struggle in Cyprus is a continuation of the struggle of Eoka in 1955/58 for the realization of Enosis"; (c) asking 10,000 Greek soldiers, who have come to Cyprus from Greece to impose enosis on the Turks, to leave Cyprus forthwith; (d) respecting the Constitution and the constitutional rights of the Turks until such time as "an agreed", not a "dictated or imposed" solution can be found.

Mr. Rossides and the Community he represents cannot eat their cake and have it. They cannot unilaterally defy the Constitution as well as law and order and talk about "normality"; they cannot have 10,000 troops from Greece to help their 40,000 illegally armed local forces to bring about union of Cyprus with Greece by destroying the Republic, including the Turkish Community which is its component

part, and pretend to be the defenders of the sovereignty and independence of Cyprus; they cannot force the Turks, by use of arms and all sorts of other methods of violence and terror, to defend themselves against Greek attacks and oppression and then talk of Turkish segregation and division policy; they cannot defy and attempt to destroy the constitutional Government by an armed coup and continue to pretend to be the legitimate representatives of Cyprus which is a bicomunal Government and State.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) Osman OREK
Minister of Defence of the
Republic of Cyprus

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAS
President of the Turkish Communal Chamber
of the Republic of Cyprus
