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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

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Letter dated 13 June 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the situation arising from the malicious acts by Turks in setting fire to orange and grapefruit groves and orchards situated in the buffer zone between the two lines near the villages of Ano Zodia, Katakopia and Astromeritis. By these criminal acts extensive groves have been reduced to cinders, with the result of devastating damage running into millions of dollars.

The repeated previous occasions of such fires in the buffer zone, and not anywhere else in the island, and the fact that these fires invariably start from the Turkish side, as well as other conclusive indications, leave no doubt that these fires are deliberate acts of arson.

I wish in this respect to protest emphatically these criminal acts of vandalistic destruction, obviously instigated at the present juncture by Turkey's occupation forces. Regrettably, they are but part and parcel of the over-all negative policy of Ankara, the aim of which is to bring about by use of force and violence the dismemberment of the island and the demolition of the Republic of Cyprus - to the ultimate destruction of the independent existence of its people as a whole.

On behalf of my Government, I urgently request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps for full inquiry into this grave matter of repeated fires in the buffer zone and for appropriate action.

* A/33/50/Rev.1.

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I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations
