

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/7465  
18 August 1966

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 17 AUGUST 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

It was with some regret that I find myself constrained to address you this communication in connexion with Ambassador Rossides's letter (S/7457) of 12 August 1966, knowing full well that polemics are not the suitable means of eliminating the dangerous tension prevailing in Cyprus.

My letter to Your Excellency (S/7439) was written because conditions in Cyprus showed signs of rapid deterioration towards an armed confrontation between the Greek and Turkish Communities and because, as I stated there, "The Turkish Government is actively and seriously interested in preventing such a development" of tension in the island. My Government, therefore, urged the adoption of measures for the purpose of averting the creation of a grave situation which could eventually escalate to actual fighting. Your Excellency is undoubtedly aware that whatever measures have been taken by UNFICYP the dangerous tension has been kept alive through deliberate actions of Greek-Cypriot armed personnel, this time at the western end of Cyprus at Ktima, Páphos. On 12 August, a Turkish-Cypriot youth has been shot (he later died in hospital), and a number of other Turkish-Cypriots have been arbitrarily arrested in Ktima by Greek-Cypriot police who crossed the Green Line into the Turkish sector of the town without any authority and, by surreptitiously cutting a hole through the wall of an abandoned Turkish home on the Line, descended upon a family by surprise.

Ambassador Rossides appears to be at great pains to disown the responsibility of the Greek-Cypriot Administration for the current tension gripping the island. In this frantic endeavour he has invoked certain paragraphs of Your Excellency's report (S/7418) in a totally tendentious manner. Ambassador Rossides conveniently disregards the opening paragraph of your report dealing with the origin of the tense situation in the Trypimeni area, and evidently would like to have everybody

else do likewise. However, even a cursory glance at the first paragraph of Your Excellency's report makes it clear that the tension in the area was brought about when the Greek-Cypriot Administration attempted to penetrate the cluster of Turkish-Cypriot villages by building a strategic road, as early as April 1966, through Turkish-Cypriot-controlled territory. There can be no question, therefore, that the Greek-Cypriots are responsible for the situation in the Trypimeni area. I think it will not be out of place to remind Ambassador Rossides, who has frequently demonstrated a fondness to draw comparisons between the international mess his Administration has created in the island and conditions which obtained in Europe prior to World War II, that building strategic roads in order to divide the hold of the victim, as has been attempted in Trypimeni area by the Greek-Cypriots, was one of the infamous methods applied in support of arbitrary expansionism.

With regard to the Trypimeni area, it cannot be said that the Turkish-Cypriot Community has refused to accept the plan. The Turkish-Cypriot leadership has agreed to the introduction of increased UNFICYP surveillance in the area, and to a return to the status quo ante as far as its own defensive positions and Greek-Cypriot fortifications were concerned. The Turkish Cypriot leadership have made good this promise as indicated in paragraph 18 of the report. The Turkish-Cypriots cannot be expected to dismantle their defensive positions, which existed before the Greek-Cypriot attempt to construct the road, simply because this situation does not please the Greek-Cypriot Community. Specially more so since the Greek-Cypriots are themselves responsible for deliberately creating the tension in Trypimeni in the first place. It should also be borne in mind that the Turkish-Cypriot leadership has agreed, in this particular instance, to the removal of old positions also, provided this is done on a basis of reciprocity.

While the situation at Ambelikou and Limnitis sectors where the Greek-Cypriot armed personnel encroached by force of arms on territory which was under the surveillance of UNFICYP units and while the Greek-Cypriot leaders continue to play fast and loose with the agreements reached between the two Communities and UNFICYP, such as their recent show of force in Famagusta district in defiance of UNFICYP's moral and armed strength on the island, it would not be justified, to say the least, to expect the Turkish-Cypriot leaders to dismantle their old

defensive positions in the area. The inescapable fact is that tension in the Trypimeni area, which the UNFICYP is still diligently trying to dispel, was deliberately created by the Greek-Cypriots treating to use brute force in defiance of the Council resolutions.

One more point in Ambassador Rossides's letter which I would like to dismiss very quickly is his protestations about international legality. The Ambassador once again appears to be out of step with his President. While he is crying wolf about imaginary threats from Turkey to the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus, President Makarios had the following to say (as published in Athens daily Elevtheros Kosmos of 28 July 1966) about the true nature of the Greek-Cypriots' designs on the State of Cyprus, an independent Member of the United Nations:

"Suspensions were expressed and charges have been heard in Greece and Cyprus that a section of Cypriot hellenism does not want Enosis. I consider charges of this nature an insult against the Greeks of Cyprus. If the aim of the struggle is not Enosis but the mere improvement of the independent regime which has been in force for the last six years, I do not think it would be worth continuing the struggle or Cypriot hellenism making so many sacrifices."

I prefer to leave it to Your Excellency and to the distinguished representatives of Member States to judge for yourselves the sincerity of Ambassador Rossides's semantics.

The fact that the Greek-Cypriots did try to provoke incidents in Ktima on 12 August, as explained above, despite UNFICYP's efforts and interventions to restrain the parties on the island from resorting to firing at each other, provides further proof to the timeliness of the Turkish Government's representation to Your Excellency which constituted the subject-matter of my last letter. The Turkish Government is aware of and appreciates Your Excellency's and UNFICYP's efforts to save the situation in Pâphos in the face of aggressive Greek-Cypriot posture and intentions there. I could do no more than urge that the UNFICYP maintain this vigil all over the island so that the Greek-Cypriots are denied the opportunity of sabotaging the efforts currently exerted in order to find a basis for a peaceful solution and agreed settlement of the dispute.

S/7465  
English  
Page 4

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

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

