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LETTER DATED 10 OCTOBER 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In his reply (S/7531) to my letter of 26 September 1966 (S/7507), Ambassador Rossides appears to be at pains to absolve his Community and Administration in Cyprus from the responsibility of recent acts of sabotage and arson in different parts of the island, in the course of which several wooded areas around Turkish villages have been set on fire and dams and pipelines supplying irrigation and drinking water to these villages have been blown up.

It is remarkable that Ambassador Rossides should have chosen to rely, for this purpose, solely on spurious protestations. As a result of these atrocities of the Greek-Cypriot usurpers the Turkish villages in question have been exposed to frontal attacks by Greek-Cypriot armed personnel and the Turkish-Cypriot farmers who inhabit them have been deprived of their livelihood for months to come, since the whole supply of water in the dams have been totally wasted. The dams are of the type which are fed by streams carrying water only during the rainy season and it appears that the Turkish villagers will have to keep their fields idle in spite of the commendable efforts of the UNFICYP to repair the damaged dams as soon as possible.

Those familiar with the history of the Greek-Cypriot struggle for ENOSIS (Annexation of the island to Greece) will know that the Greek Cypriot show no compunction in subordinating everything else to their political aspirations and in resorting to every conceivable means for the attainment of ENOSIS. Giving the torch to the Forests of Cyprus was utilized as military tactics by the Greek-Cypriots on previous occasions also during the earlier stages of their drive for ENOSIS. For example, in 1956, when Archbishop Makarios was again the national leader of the Greek Community, when their present Commander-in-Chief was at the Head of the then Greek-Cypriot Terrorist Organization, when the present Minister

of the Interior was Aide-de-camp to General Grivas and when Ambassador Rossides was pursuing the same misleading tactics at the United Nations in the cause of ENOSIS, in short, when the present Greek-Cypriot Leadership was again at the Head of the Greek Cypriot Community, the Greek-Cypriots had set on fire several acres of the island's most beautiful pine forests on the Trodos mountains. Ambassador Rossides will recall that the Greek-Cypriot press had then glorified this act of arson as a major military victory (!) for the Greek-Cypriot terrorists. The deliberate fire had resulted in the death of some twenty British soldiers. Then, as now, the Greek-Cypriot arsonists, after having achieved what they considered to be their objective, had turned around and collaborated with the peace-keeping Authority in the island (British soldier's) in putting out the fire. Undoubtedly what we are witnessing now is a repeat performance of 1956 by the Greek-Cypriots. Therefore, the crocodile tears shed in the letter in question over the "beautiful forests" of the island should not mislead anybody.

As for the remarks that the inhabitants of the Turkish villages were unwilling to render any assistance in putting out the fires, I shall do no more than cite what has been said in this connexion in the "News Bulletin" of the Turkish-Cypriot Community, dated 16 September 1966: "The Greek-Cypriot insinuation about the reluctance of Turkish villages to help put out the fires is too childish to need serious rebuttal; any sensible man would appreciate that no Turk would wish to risk his life by going into the confused scene of a lighted forest infested with hundreds of armed Greek-Cypriots 'where there are armed Greek-Cypriots', the risk of 'fatal accidents' is too great for any Turk."

The conciliatory statement about Cyprus of the Turkish Foreign Minister in the general debate was made in good faith. Ambassador Rossides and the leaders of his community would be well advised to take it in that spirit and try to assess the Foreign Minister's words in their true meaning, instead of trying to exploit each fleeting occasion for scoring propaganda points. Only then a contribution could be made towards a return to normal conditions in the island. As stated by the Turkish Foreign Minister, "The Turkish Community continues to be deprived of its most elementary rights, the life and safety of the Turks are in constant danger, their economic activities are paralysed and the traffic of (Turkish) goods and people is subjected to vexing and arbitrary restrictions". All these because of the unilateral and unconstitutional practices of the Greek-Cypriot

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Administration. The tragic story of unjustified and wanton searches at numerous Greek-Cypriot checkpoints and the arbitrary economic restrictions applied against Turkish-Cypriot towns and villages by the Greek-Cypriot Administration are vividly explained in the successive reports of the Secretary-General for everybody to see. These things are too serious to be glossed over by semantics.

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

Please accept, etc.

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

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