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Letter dated 7 April 1978 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the living conditions of the enclaved Greek Cypriot inhabitants in the areas of the Republic under Turkey's military occupation have recently become unbearable, as a result of the unthinkable inhuman practices systematically employed by the Turkish occupation forces and the colonist-settlers from Turkey. These indigenous inhabitants are thus forced to abandon their ancestral homes and lands in order to accommodate the massive importation of alien population from Turkey in furtherance of Ankara's calculated pursuit of changing by force the demographic structure of the island.

The medieval conditions of horror, torture and continuous harassment and threats, which are now applied more intensively to the remaining indigenous Greek Cypriot people, are described in the annex hereto.

At a time when there appears to be so much interest on an international level for promoting respect for human rights, there can hardly be any justification for inaction and apathy in the face of the impartially documented and internationally verified gross violations of fundamental human rights by the Turkish army of occupation against the people of Cyprus as a whole. For it should not be overlooked that the Turkish Cypriots equally suffer from the oppressive conduct of the Turkish army of occupation and the daily reported criminal activities of the colonist-settlers imported by the thousands from mainland Turkey.

The fact that these despicable acts, coupled with further aggressive actions to colonize the new town of Famagusta, are being perpetrated at a time when the Turkish side is expected to submit its long awaited proposals raises serious

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doubts as to the preparedness and sincerity of the Turkish side to enter into meaningful and constructive negotiations.

It follows then clearly that a necessary prerequisite for creating an atmosphere conducive to free and meaningful negotiations - as demanded by the relevant United Nations resolutions - is the fulfilment by the Turkish side of its solemn commitments undertaken during the previous rounds of intercommunal talks, notably that of the Humanitarian Agreement of 2 August 1975. It may be recalled that Ankara, after having cashed in its share from that Agreement, chose to ignore completely its corresponding obligations to allow the Greek Cypriot inhabitants in the occupied areas to live a normal life and instead proceeded with more expulsions and intensified tactics of oppression, harassment and brute force.

It is indeed a tragic irony that Ankara seems to be emboldened into continuing its inhuman practices of racial discrimination and genocidal elimination of the indigenous Cypriot population by the seeming indifference or reluctance of the Security Council to take expeditiously the long overdue remedial action against the aggressor.

As numerous incidents in recent history indicate, appeasement or undue tolerance as a means of pacifying an aggressor have never succeeded and, as such, could not be accepted in a United Nations era as a rational policy. Far from leading to a lasting solution of a problem or even to the containment of a certain situation, the policy of appeasement or tolerance in the face of aggression has all along led to renewed aggression by the same or other sources, thus dramatically increasing the dangers to international peace and security.

It would, therefore, seem understandable that recent signs of growing anarchy and international instability give rise to serious concern by all segments on the international scene as to the future of the United Nations security system, the best system of collective security the international community was ever able to devise.

Undoubtedly, a major negative contributor to this alarming state of affairs is the undue delay in resolving international disputes the solution of which would seem fairly easy if only the universal principles of international law and more particularly those enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations were promptly applied.

This is especially true in the case of the question of Cyprus where, despite the fact that repeated unanimous or near unanimous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions are being contemptuously disregarded and systematically violated by Turkey, the Security Council has so far appeared reluctant to take expeditiously, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the necessary measures against the guilty party. And all these in spite of the fact that the General Assembly has, by virtue of its resolutions 31/12 of 12 November 1976 and 32/15 of 9 November 1977, overwhelmingly requested

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the Security Council to "adopt all practical means to promote the effective implementation of its relevant resolutions in all their aspects".

This is why the Government of the Republic of Cyprus has consistently supported the need for strengthening the effectiveness of the Security Council through the scrupulous application of the specific provisions of the Charter, including those providing for enforcement measures, as the only effective deterrent against the evil of aggression.

In strongly denouncing these cruel and abhorrent acts of the Turkish army of occupation, I wish, on behalf of my Government, to express the hope that Your Excellency and the members of the Security Council will find it possible to intervene effectively with the Turkish Government in order to put an end to such inhuman practices against the enclaved indigenous Greek Cypriot inhabitants, whose only "offence" is that they insist on not abandoning their ancestral homes and lands.

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) Joseph J. STEPHANIDES
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Tactics of oppression, harassment and brute force employed by Turkey's
army of invasion against the indigenous Greek Cypriot inhabitants
in the occupied areas of the Republic

All information received recently from the areas occupied by the Turkish army reveals the magnitude of the racial discrimination practised against the enclaved indigenous Cypriot inhabitants remaining in this area, on the mere criterion of their being Greek in origin, and the unbearable conditions under which these unfortunate people are forced to live. They are undergoing tremendous psychological and physical pressures and are deprived of the very basic human rights. The Turkish invading forces are using every possible means to drive these people from their homes and properties.

The following are certain forms of pressure and oppressive tactics which are currently being employed by the Turkish army of occupation in order to force these inhabitants to abandon their ancestral homes and lands.

1. Curfew coupled with orders to turn off the lights is in force only in the occupied areas, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., so far as the Greek Cypriot inhabitants are concerned.

2. The enclaved Greek Cypriots are not allowed to move out of their villages unless they obtain special written permission from the occupation "authorities", which is very rarely given, if at all. Also, they are not allowed to go freely to their fields and to graze their animals.

3. The male Greek Cypriots from age 18 to 50 who, in the past, were taken as "prisoners" to Turkey, must present themselves to the "police stations" at fixed days and, if they fail to do so, they are arrested and beaten up.

4. Greek Cypriot doctors are not allowed to visit the enclaved Greek Cypriots and the medical treatment afforded to the latter is completely insufficient - sometimes criminally negligent. A characteristic case, impartially verified, was that of Maria Chrysostomou, a young girl of 18 who was left to die by an indifferent Turkish doctor.

5. The Greek Cypriots are forbidden to talk to or communicate in any way with members of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus, who themselves are closely watched by the Turkish army of occupation. Also, no free communication is allowed between the enclaved Greek Cypriots and the members of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

6. Greek Cypriot teachers are not allowed to proceed to the occupied areas in order to render their services. The functioning of Greek schools is forbidden and the equipment of many of them, such as books, writing materials and

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various instruments, has been confiscated by the Ankara's forces of invasion. In fact, the only Greek secondary school in the township of Rizokarpasso was turned into a Turkish elementary school for the children of the colonist-settlers from Turkey. The Greek elementary school of Ayia Trias had the same fate. Consequently, young Greek Cypriots in need of education are forced to leave the areas of the Republic under Turkey's military occupation so as to attend schools functioning in the free areas of the Republic.

7. Every form of direct physical violence is used against Greek Cypriots to force them to sign the so-called voluntary applications to leave their homes and land. There is objective testimony confirming a series of murders and rapes committed by the colonist-settlers from Turkey against these unfortunate people. Other forms of physical violence include breaking into Greek Cypriot homes and robbing the occupants, savage beatings, detention and ill treatment of Greek Cypriots in groups for a number of days, firing in the air and stoning houses during night time, and forced labour under the command of the Turkish military.

8. The importation and settlement of colonists from Turkey continues unabated. Mainland Turks break almost daily into the Greek Cypriot homes and through threats and physical violence try to force their owners to leave, telling them that all houses now belong to them. Their activities have been a source of much suffering not only for the enclaved Greek Cypriots but also for Turkish Cypriots who themselves are in many respects victims of Ankara's aggression.
