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LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my earlier letters on the subject, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the ever-increasing cases of harassment and forcible expulsion of the remaining Greek-Cypriot people in the occupied areas of Cyprus, in breach of specific commitments undertaken by the Turkish side in an intercommunal humanitarian Agreement during the Vienna talks of August last in the presence of the Secretary-General.

Such Agreement is to the effect "that the Greek Cypriots at present in the north of the island are free to stay and that they will be given every help to lead a normal life, including facilities for education and for the practice of their religion, as well as medical care by their own doctors and freedom of movement in the north" (Interim report of the Secretary-General, 5 August 1975, S/11789, para. 2). Also that "UNFICYP will have free and normal access to Greek-Cypriot villages and habitations in the north" (para. 4). And it was further stipulated that "in connexion with the implementation of the above Agreement priority will be given to the reunification of families, which may also involve the transfer of a number of Greek Cypriots, at present in the south, to the north" (para. 5).

The Turkish side has flagrantly violated every one of its aforesaid commitments after having fully cashed in on its share in the Agreement.

Details of the violations are hereto attached.

At a time when general expectations turn to the intercommunal talks as a means for a just solution of the problem and the implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus, there could be no more direct blow to the earnestness and prospects of the talks than such display of bad faith from the Turkish side, in deliberately refusing to perform its expected commitments undertaken in the Vienna intercommunal talks.

A prime necessity in any effort to advance positively the procedure of the talks is to obtain from Turkey the due carrying out of the Turkish commitments in the 2 August Agreement. More particularly as such commitments by their humanitarian nature are also Turkey's obligations under international law, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as under the resolutions on Cyprus, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council, all of which are by the conduct and practices of Turkey's army in Cyprus increasingly and blatantly violated.

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Needless to stress once again that all the above practices, coupled with the massive importation of population from Turkey, are but a further manifestation of Ankara's sinister plan to alter the ages long demographic character of the island, using in the meantime the intercommunal talks as a smoke-screen to confuse and deceive world opinion.

While strongly protesting on behalf of my Government the above practices, I hope and trust that Your Excellency will take all necessary steps towards arresting these ominous developments, which are calculated to render any negotiations devoid of content and meaning.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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

Annex

Violations of the Vienna Agreement of 2 August
in the intercommunal talks

With regard to "the priority" provisions of the Agreement for the reunification of families, out of 937 entitled to return under the relevant commitments, the Turkish side allowed only 327 persons to move to the north, refusing permission to the rest.

On the agreed educational facilities, in spite of the fact that a concrete plan for the operation of three secondary and 10 elementary schools as well as a list of educationists were submitted, the Turkish leadership refused "approval". In one case where such "approval" was given, it was negated by not fixing the relevant date.

Regarding medical facilities and care for the Greek-Cypriot population by Greek-Cypriot medical practitioners stationed in the occupied areas, the Turkish side, far from complying with their commitments, forced the only one remaining in the whole area to leave.

As to the commitment to allow freedom of movement of the Greek-Cypriot people in the north, there is not even a semblance of such freedom of movement from the villages where they live. Each Greek Cypriot, furthermore, has to report to the "Turkish police" twice a day at fixed hours. If one is late even by a few minutes, he is subjected to beatings and other ill-treatment.

More importantly, there is no freedom of movement for UNFICYP. They cannot make contact with the Greek Cypriots or render any necessary assistance. In spite of the planned establishment of liaison posts as required in the area, the Turkish army not only refused to allow such establishment but also banned those UNFICYP members manning already existing posts, from going anywhere without a permit from the Turkish military. Moreover, next to each UNFICYP "liaison post", a Turkish post has been planted to keep the UNFICYP men under surveillance and prevent any contact between them and the Greek Cypriots contrary to the express provisions of the Agreement.

Beyond the refusal of the Turkish side to carry out its aforesaid commitments, the very opposite policy is systematically followed through the continuing expulsion of the remaining Greek Cypriots in the occupied areas and the massive settlement of colonists from Turkey in their places.

Arrests, searches, beatings, threats, various modes of intimidation, destruction of property, firing of shots at houses and other acts of terror are among the means of expelling these unfortunate people whose only "crime" is that they want to continue living in their ancestral homes and lands.
