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LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

According to reliable and confirmed information, Turkey is preparing for the construction of a military air base in the area of Ayios Epiktitos, including Karakoumi, Kazaphani and Klepini, near Kyrenia in occupied northern Cyprus. To this end the Turkish occupation forces have given orders to the inhabitants of these villages to evacuate their homes and move elsewhere within a fortnight, "as their villages will be used for the settlement of Turkish military". The victims of this action are the remaining Greek Cypriots of the area, a great number of Turkish Cypriots - about 2,000 who were transported from the South - and a number of imported colonists from Turkey.

The element of aggressive possessiveness over the territory of an independent and sovereign country is amply discernible in this action by Turkey. It reveals still more emphatically Turkey's expansionist aims as the actual motivation behind its invasion of Cyprus. In addition, the violation of the fundamental human rights of the people involved, including a large number of Turkish Cypriots, clearly demonstrates that Ankara's professed concern for the rights of the Turkish Cypriots is but a pretence, strikingly reminiscent of similar developments of sad memory that led to the subjugation of a small country in the period that preceded the Second World War. It is abundantly obvious that the continuing military stranglehold on the territory of Cyprus is an evil of increasing dimensions, engulfing the whole of its population, whether of Greek, Turkish or other origin, with wider repercussions.

It is to be hoped that this situation will be given by Your Excellency the serious consideration it deserves.

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