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

I have the honour to bring to your notice and to that of the membership of the Security Council the following event characteristic of the extreme policy of Ankara and its instruments in preventing and suppressing even by the most violent methods any indication of goodwill between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots and any tendency towards mutual understanding and conciliation.

A Greek Cypriot national guardsman and a Turkish Cypriot militiaman, both from the same village of Koukليا, who showed signs of good feelings towards each other and frequently entered into friendly conversations reminiscing nostalgically of the good days they lived together at Koukليا, Paphos, were marked out by officers of the Turkish army of occupation.

On 9 April 1976, when the Greek Cypriot guardsman, 19 years old, Michael Sophocleous, went from his post along the "green line" to offer cigarettes to his Turkish Cypriot fellow villager, a Turkish army officer came forward and shot the Greek Cypriot guardsman three times through the head at point-blank range. Members of the UNFICYP who witnessed the event rushed to the spot and carried him to the hospital where he died.

This incident brings out the tragedy of unwanted enmity and fighting imposed upon the people by outside forces contrary to their own deeper feelings and intrinsic interests.

The spirit of conciliation and the yearning for a return to normal conditions of friendliness and co-operation has repeatedly shown itself over the years among the Cypriots, Greek and Turkish alike.

As the Secretary-General in his report S/8446 of 9 March 1968 observed: "Ordinary Greek and Turkish Cypriot people desire to live together in peace and harmony." In the same report, the Secretary-General further remarked: "How gratifying was to observe the ease with which ordinary people of both communities were beginning to resume their former amicable relations ...".

Reference has already been made in my letter of 31 March 1976 (S/12032) to the attestation by the World Council of Churches contained in a report prepared after the invasion by a fact-finding mission, as to the inherent feeling of solidarity

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and friendliness between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. This feeling, we hope, will at the end flower in the hearts of all the Cypriots despite all actions of force to destroy it.

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