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LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the grave situation that arises in Cyprus in consequence of the British Government's shift of position by acceding to the arbitrary Turkish demands for the removal of the Turkish Cypriot refugees from the British bases to Turkey, from where they are expected to be transferred to the northern part of Cyprus, now under the control of the Turkish invasion forces. The position of the British Government on this matter - particularly as a guarantor of the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus under the Treaty of Guarantee 1960 - had legitimately been to resist such illegal action as a political move for the partition of the island, to which the United Kingdom presumably did not wish to be a party. The present unexpected shift, therefore, in the British position creates a situation of upheaval in the island, with grave consequences most prejudicially affecting the whole effort for a just and peaceful solution through negotiation.

It is a tragic irony that while Turkey blatantly violates the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions - for the return of 180,000 Greek Cypriot displaced persons to their homes and lands - by pretending that their implementation should be made subject to the negotiations, it seeks, at the same time, in utter derogation of such negotiations, to force the transfer of the Turkish Cypriot population to the north, where they are to usurp the homes and lands of forcibly expelled Greek Cypriots in order to create an illegal fait accompli of partition, thereby prejudicing the outcome of the negotiations and negating their very meaning and purpose.

It is further to be noted that, according to reliable and objective testimony, many of the Turkish Cypriots to be transferred to the north are under pressure of their leadership, whereas their preferences are to return to their homes and businesses.

The whole scheme of such transfer of population, calculated to change the demographic character of the island, flagrantly violates not only the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus but also the Treaty of Guarantee 1960, as well as customary and conventional international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, it involves "a grave breach" of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (IV art. 147) signed, among other nations, by Cyprus, Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom.

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I, hereby, have the honour to register a categorical and emphatic protest in respect of the above and to request that Your Excellency may take all necessary steps towards arresting these grave developments towards the disaster of partition and the consequent further dangerous deterioration of the situation in Cyprus.

In this connexion, may I refer to my letter of 6 January 1975 (S/11596) regarding the return of the Greek Cypriot displaced persons to their legitimate homes and lands through the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions. The situation, as it now unfolds, calls for prompt action by Your Excellency within the provisions of Security Council resolution 365 (1974) in a determined effort to bring the required balance and harmony for free and positive progress in negotiation towards the generally desired objective of a just, peaceful and viable solution of the problem.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will circulate this letter as a Security Council document.

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