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LETTER DATED 19 MAY 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of Turkey in a letter circulated on 15 April 1975 (S/11674) refers to my statement in the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and tries to counter it by lightly calling it "a slanderous attack" against his country. He entirely omits or fails, however, to state what facts in that statement he disputes and on what grounds. For indeed what in that statement is not accurate?

Is it not true that following the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey the indigenous Greek Cypriot population of the invaded area were expelled from their homes and lands by the invading forces and made destitute refugees in their own country on the plain ground of their racial and ethnic origin?

And is it not a fact that the so expelled indigenous population was forcibly denied the right to return to their homes and that those who ventured to go back, even temporarily in an effort to tend their abandoned livestock, were summarily arrested and shot outright upon the same ethnic grounds?

And is it not also a fact that the expelled Greek Cypriots are being replaced by massive transport of Turkish population, mainly from Turkey, with the purpose of changing by force the demographic character of Cyprus?

And can it be denied that to this end 40,000 Turkish invasion troops and their families were by arbitrary decree made Cypriot citizens, while by a similar decree the indigenous Cypriot population of Greek origin, who have been expelled from the area (over 200,000, i.e. one third of the entire population of Cyprus), were illegally declared to be "aliens" to their country?

This is the present situation in Cyprus. No organized distortion can cover it up. And it should be a matter of grave concern, affecting in its implications the whole international community.

Unless remedial measures are effectively taken internationally for the overdue implementation of the urgent provisions of the unanimous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the subject, there can be little

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hope or logical expectation that any proposed solution, resulting from the imposition by force of such appalling conditions, can have a chance of success or survival.

I would 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
