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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 24 June 1975 addressed to you by Mr. Nail Atalay, Acting Representative of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman OLCAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Letter dated 24 June 1975 from Mr. Nail Atalay
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 16 May 1975 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktas, President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nail ATALAY
Acting Representative of the
Turkish Federated State of Cyprus

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Letter dated 16 May 1975 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktas
addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to refer to the letter of 18 April 1975 written by Mr. Rossides, the representative of the Greek Cypriot Administration at the United Nations, which was circulated on 21 April 1975 as Security Council document S/11677, and to inform you that the allegations contained therein are totally unfounded and are a gross misrepresentation of the true situation.

The instrument referred to by Mr. Rossides (i.e., the Leasing of Touristic Workplaces Regulations, 1975, which was published in the Official Gazette No. 3 of 28 January 1975) in no way evidences the fact that property registered in the names of Greek Cypriots has been unlawfully usurped by the Turkish authorities, as alleged by Mr. Rossides. The Regulations in question merely make temporary provisions for enabling the maintenance and upkeep of touristic workplaces situated in the area under the control of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, in the interests of the property itself and of the economy of the region as well as the economy of Cyprus as a whole, pending a final political settlement. It will be appreciated that if such measures are not taken for the maintenance and upkeep of the properties and they were left deserted and neglected, such properties would in time deteriorate and depreciate in value to the detriment of both the owners and of the Cyprus economy. It will be seen from the above that the measures which have been taken are temporary in nature, and have been dictated by necessity in view of the prevailing situation in Cyprus. They have nothing whatsoever to do with the refugee problem, although Mr. Rossides, in line with the Greek Cypriot policy of using the refugee problem as a political tool, has tried to distort the true purpose of the said Regulations.

Mr. Rossides' reference to Mr. Yuksel Kamil's letter of 19 February 1975 is totally out of context and irrelevant. There is nothing in that letter to suggest that Greek Cypriot property has been usurped by the Turkish authorities. On the contrary it evidences the exact opposite, for if the Turkish authorities had in fact acquired ownership, as alleged by Mr. Rossides, it would have been possible to transfer such ownership to prospective or actual buyers. However, in Mr. Kamil's said letter, a third party, who requested the Turkish authorities to transfer ownership of property registered in the name of a Greek Cypriot, was informed that this could not be done as the Turkish authorities were not in a position to effect this transfer in the absence of the Greek Cypriot vendor (under the relevant legislation the vendor is required to be present at the appropriate Land Registry Office before transfer of ownership can be effected and registered).

As regards the allegation in the sixth paragraph of Mr. Rossides' letter, I would like to point out that it is the policy of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus to recognize and respect foreign interests in movable and immovable property, provided of course valid evidence of such interests is furnished. This policy has been made known to all concerned and action has been taken in accordance with such policy. The very letter of Mr. Kamil of 19 February 1975 about which Mr. Rossides complains specifically stated that, although the foreign party had not acquired legal ownership of the property in question (for under the relevant legislation a contract of sale alone does not effect transfer of ownership in immovable property),

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the said foreign party was informed that his interest in the property as evidenced by the documents submitted (i.e., the contract of sale) was recognized and noted by the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Your Excellency of the activities of the Greek Cypriot Administration regarding Turkish-owned property in areas under Greek control during the recent past. Far from taking measures for the maintenance and upkeep of Turkish property left by their owners as a result of the Greek Cypriot attacks against the Turkish community since 1963, the Greek Cypriots resorted to vandalism and malicious damage. During the onslaught of 1963-64 no less than 103 Turkish villages were attacked and hundreds of Turkish homes destroyed and burnt (see United Nations "Ortega" report of July 1964) rendering over 24,000 Turks homeless refugees for more than 11 years. All efforts to rehabilitate these refugees were hindered by the Greek Cypriot Administration. Following the "coup d'état" of 15 July 1975 staged by the Greeks, once more Turkish enclaves within the Greek-controlled regions were attacked and Turkish properties and homes maliciously destroyed (Evdhimou, Episkopi and many other villages in the Paphos area are glaring examples of smash and grab policy of the self-styled Greek Cypriot pirate Government).

It would be very much appreciated, Your Excellency, if this communication could be circulated to all members as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAS
President
Turkish Federated State
of Cyprus
