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LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to lodge a most emphatic protest against the holding on 8 June 1975 of a "referendum" purporting to ratify the "Constitution" of the pseudo "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus".

As I had occasion to stress in the past (my letters S/11691 and Corr.1, S/11703 and S/11719 dated 15 and 28 May, and 9 June 1975 respectively), this so-called "state" is a non-existent, non-recognized entity of which the Security Council, by its resolution 367 (1975), expressed its disapproval.

What validity can there, therefore, be in a "referendum" purporting to ratify a "constitution" - in itself invalid and, more particularly, conducted over a territorial area from which, shortly before, four-fifths of the inhabitants (over 200,000) had been forcibly expelled by the invading Power, which is engaged in transporting Turkish population from its own mainland, and other parts, in order to have them take the place of the so expelled inhabitants and usurp their homes and properties?

The very act of holding such a "referendum" is a provocative demonstration of defiance of all tenets of international legal order, of relevant United Nations resolutions, and more especially of Security Council resolution 367 (1975), which unanimously expressed disapproval of unilateral actions by the parties that "have compromised or may compromise the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions" (para. 2 thereof).

Furthermore, such action, taken at the very time when talks were being held in Vienna towards peaceful solution under the aforesaid Security Council resolution, is an added manifestation of intransigence and bad faith in the talks by the Turkish side. Through seeking to impose faits accomplis intended to prejudice the outcome of the negotiations, Ankara further ignores and disregards the aforesaid Security Council resolution which "calls on all parties concerned to refrain from any action might jeopardize the negotiations and take steps which will facilitate the creation of the climate necessary for the success of these negotiations" (para. 8 thereof).

While, on the one hand, Ankara has been evading its obligation to implement

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General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX), for the "speedy" withdrawal of its troops from Cyprus and the "urgent" return of the refugees to their homes in safety, by alleging that such implementation could be reached through the negotiation procedure, on the other hand, it does everything to frustrate the relevant talks and negotiations in Vienna.

Needless to say, any such illegal "referendum" is null and void ab initio and cannot alter the legal situation under both international and domestic Cyprus law.

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
