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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1975 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

1. By the Peace Treaty signed in Paris on 10 February 1947 between the Allied Governments and Italy, the islands commonly referred to as the "Dodecanese" were turned over to Greece on the condition that they be kept demilitarized. Article 14 of the said Treaty is as follows:

"Italy cedes to Greece the Dodecanese islands, viz. - Stampalia (Astropalia), Rhodes (Rhodos), Calki (Khalki), Scarpanto, Casos (Casso), Piscopis (Tilos), Misiros (Nisyros), Calimnos (Kalymnos), Leros, Patmos, Lipsos (Lipso), Simi (Symi), Cos (Kos) and Castellorizo. The islands shall remain demilitarized, and all foreign troops shall be withdrawn from them by agreement between Greece and Great Britain within 90 days of the coming into force of the treaty."

2. The Government of Greece, acting unilaterally and in clear contravention to the above-mentioned article of the 1947 Paris Treaty, has militarized these islands by troop concentrations and by establishing permanent military installations.

Even an internationally known tourist resort like the island of Rhodes was not kept immune of this unlawful act. Rhodes, a small island of 540 square miles with a population of 66,606 (1971) is at the moment turned into a garrison of 25,000 troops and more than 50 tanks.

The airports of most of these islands are now being modified for a possible military use.

3. This militarization campaign of the Aegean islands also includes Chios, Samos, Lesbos and Nikaria which were demilitarized under article 13 of Lausanne Treaty of 1924.

4. These acts by the Greek Government which openly defy the provisions of the relevant international treaties are no longer military secrets that are kept behind closed doors. Indeed the London Times of 18 March 1975 wrote:

"The islands, which under the existing rules should be demilitarized, have been fortified and armed to the teeth."

5. The Government of Turkey considers these unlawful and unilateral actions by Greece as tending to compromise the balance in the Aegean, constituting thus a threat to the security of Turkey and increasing the tension in the region.

6. It is the earnest hope of the Turkish Government that the Greek Government will realize her obligations under international treaties and recognize her duties to return the islands to their demilitarized status.

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

(Signed) Osman OLCAY
Permanent Representative
