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LETTER DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention and through you to the attention of the Security Council, the tragic discovery of yet another mass grave as witness of one more crime against humanity very recently committed by the Greek and Greek Cypriot gunmen.

The UNFICYP spokesman stated on 2 September 1974 that a mass grave had been discovered at the Turkish Cypriot village of Maratha (north-west of Famagusta) where to last evening 20 bodies had been found; two of these were children. He added that he had heard many more bodies were being dug this morning, United Nations Civil Police and UNFICYP patrol were also present yesterday afternoon and this morning. The spokesman recalled that it was reported earlier that many Turkish Cypriot people from the village of Maratha and adjacent areas were missing.

The scene of this barbaric act was first discovered by mere coincidence by some Turkish journalists visiting the area on 1 September 1974. An elderly Turkish Cypriot whose life has been spared, not by the Greeks, but by his own hiding and sheer luck gave the clue. Twenty-five bodies were found the first day including two children with their hands tied.

In connexion with this monstrous act of barbarism which will no doubt be condemned by the civilized consciences everywhere, let me quote once more my letter dated 22 August 1974 to Your Excellency which was circulated as document S/11466:

"When I wrote to you on 29 July 1974 about the conditions faced by Turkish Cypriots in Greek controlled areas of the Island, I quoted myself as having said during the 1783rd meeting of the Security Council:

'As opposed to what the media can see in the open war - and we deplore it, but after all, there is a war - what is happening in the hidden part of Cyprus is also a tragedy. I am afraid that in a few days, when mass graves are discovered, as has been the case in the past, when photographs are taken in the villages, world public opinion will once more shed tears, this time exclusively for Turks.'

I regretfully have to note once more that my worst fears based on my experience of the Greek Cypriot character are again being daily justified. The savage nature of their hatred of the Turks, vividly demonstrated for the last 11 years in Cyprus, is once more evidenced by events of the last few days. I do not dwell of course on other non-Turkish victims of this same savagery."

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One wonders now if the two Greek representatives speaking at the 1795th meeting of the Security Council on 30 August 1974 have admitted that the Greeks were not angels because they anticipated such discoveries. The Greek representative representing the party more directly responsible for this massacre has even tried to outweigh this guilt-feeling which is bound to exist on his part by reading out stories and shameless allegations in the Security Council based on biased accounts and lies fabricated by the Greeks and published by their sympathizers. All of these lies, although well in the Greek tradition of which we have had more than a decade of experience, this time of course cannot suffice to create confusion about the reality of the situation in Cyprus. The cynical claims and allegations in Greek statements, about the Turks wishing to leave the Turkish enclaves and the Turkish leaders' forcefully preventing them are now bound to be condemned for their hypocrisy.

Who can be proud of owing a large part of his civilization to Greece, anymore? The ancient Hellenic civilization has all too evidently been replaced by Greek barbarism. I fear that at the time when I am writing this letter to you still new evidence about other massacres committed by the Greeks may be coming to daylight.

I will be grateful to Your Excellency if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman OLCAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
