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LETTER DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In his letter dated 4 September 1974 (S/11489), the representative of Turkey raised a number of points which, in the interests of truth and objectivity, cannot be allowed to remain unanswered:

In the face of a rising tide of indignation on the part of world public opinion at Turkey's brutal invasion of Cyprus accompanied by the indiscriminate napalm bombings of defenceless towns and villages and other atrocities, it might be expected that the Turkish Government would be trying hard to create misleading impressions at the expense of the victims in the hope of bringing confusion and distracting attention from the main theme of naked aggression. The Turkish Government thus "discovered" mass graves purportedly of Turkish Cypriot victims in the villages of Aloa and Maratha.

On close examination, however, the unsubstantiated character of the charge clearly emerges because of the following:

1. Unlike the cases of atrocities by Turkish troops reported in my earlier letters (S/11461 of 20 August 1974, S/11464 of 22 August 1974 and S/11492 of 5 September 1974) - where identity and full particulars were given - no names and no particulars whatsoever indicating the identity of the victims or their ethnic origin were produced in the Turkish charges.

2. The United Nations Force declared that it was not ascertained whether the bodies found in the graves were those of Greek or Turkish Cypriots.

3. Bearing in mind that many hundreds of Greek Cypriots in neighbouring villages and in the occupied areas generally are missing - a very considerable number of them having been slaughtered by the Turkish forces as part of their systematic practice in the course of invading - it is not at all improbable that missing Greek Cypriots were placed in those graves. This probability is enhanced by the fact that a characteristic Christian medallion, found on the body of a woman in the mass grave of Maratha, was of a nature that admittedly could not have been worn by a Turk.

4. It is a matter of no little surprise that already on 23 July in his

statement in the Security Council, repeated in his letter of 29 July (S/11394), the representative of Turkey stated: "I am afraid that in a few days, when mass graves are discovered, as has been the case in the past ...". In light of the indisputable reality that there has been no question of mass graves in the past, is it not amazing and perhaps significant that the Turkish representative should have spoken with certainty of the coming "discovery of mass graves" a couple of weeks before the staged presentation of their "discovery"?

5. Independent investigation by the United Nations and the Red Cross asked for by our Government was refused by the Turkish side. Similarly refused by it was our Government's proposal for investigation on the basis of reciprocity regarding charges of ill-treatment of the population in the areas under Government control, as well as that under the control of the Turkish military.

6. It is pertinent to note that on 8 September 1974, the Turkish side alleged that a massacre of Turkish Cypriots took place in the villages of Timi and Ayia Varvara of the Paphos district. After relevant investigation by the UNFICYP, its spokesman stated the following:

"In connexion with the alleged massacre at Timi/Ayia Varvara, in Paphos district, UNFICYP conducted an extensive investigation, including head count in villages in the area. So far, no clue could be found that the massacre actually took place."

7. From documented evidence, gathered by the police, it emerges that up to 17 August, at least 130 Greek Cypriots had been murdered in cold blood by Turkish troops, including children, women and old men up to the age of 90. This figure does not include victims in the Karpass area, because this has been completely isolated by the Turkish invasion forces, or in respect of other crimes which still remain undetected.

It is clear from the above that my Government, far from wishing to conceal the facts, is anxious to have them established through an objective and impartial investigation and has consistently condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the murder and ill-treatment of all Cypriots, irrespective of their ethnic origin. On the contrary, it is the Turkish side which, being burdened by countless atrocities of the worst order, impedes any impartial investigation and callously attempts to make capital out of the sensational presentation of mass graves which on every indication had been staged.

In continuing the tendentious allegations, the Turkish representative, in a futile effort to shake off his Government's responsibility for the crimes described in my documented statement at the 1795th meeting of the Security Council (to which he found himself unable to reply), now tries to brush them aside by calling them "biased and fabricated" accounts, notwithstanding the undoubted authenticity of their source. Similarly, the self-isolation of Turkish Cypriots by their leaders in pursuit of political objectives, so clearly stated in a number of the Secretary-General's reports fully cited in my said statement, are dismissed as "cynical claims to be condemned for their hypocrisy". The Security Council record

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(S/PV.1795, pp. 122-123) speaks for itself, and the charge of hypocrisy in reference to the reports of the Secretary-General can only be ludicrous.

Considering the slippery path followed by the Turkish representative, who admittedly has an impossible task in defending the indefensible policies of his Government, not even this would be surprising. After all, the technique of "the big lie" goes hand in hand with the use of brute force, on the Nazi pattern, in contemptuous disregard of all moral values on which the very structure of the United Nations and of international society is based.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would kindly have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations

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