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LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1974 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 bring to your attention and strongly to protest the following:

The invading Turkish army, after having forced the indigenous Greek Cypriots out of their homes and properties in violation of international law and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, proceeded to acts of pillage, unlawfully and arbitrarily appropriating the produce of their lands. Part of such produce was sent to Turkey, from whence it was exported by Turkish exporting organizations to several European and other countries.

In relation to these unlawful actions, it is to be noted that a cargo ship coming from Mersin, Turkey, the SS Uckermark unloaded in Hamburg on 4 November 1974, 42,231 cases of lemons described as Turkish lemons. Upon the request of the Cyprus Embassy in the Federal Republic of Germany, the country court of Hamburg issued a decree allowing the inspection of the citrus fruit loaded on the above vessel. On examination, it transpired that a high percentage of the lemons under the variety described by the Turkish exporters as "lamas" had the definite characteristics of the well-known Cyprus lemons of the "lisbon" variety of Cypriot origin. These lemons were mixed in the same wooden cases with the Turkish lemons of the "lamas" variety.

In another case at the Covent Garden Market in London, it was ascertained that of the lemons offered for sale as Turkish, 30-50 percent were lemons of the variety cultivated in Cyprus, with a much higher juice content and completely different characteristics from the varieties grown and exported by Turkey. Again, these "lisbon" type Cypriot lemons were mixed in the same cases with Turkish lemons of the "interdonato" variety. As is known, mixture of different varieties in one case is against the European Economic Community agricultural regulations. The fact that the Turkish authorities have mixed these lemons is a strong indication of their effort to conceal from the authorities of importing countries the fact that such lemons originate from Cyprus and not Turkey.

Relevant to the matter of the usurpation by Turkey of the agricultural products of Cypriot citizens who have been forced to abandon their homes by the Turkish invading forces is an article in the Turkish newspaper Gun Aydin of 2 November 1974, which runs as follows:

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"Efforts for exporting citrus fruit production of occupied areas in Cyprus are delayed. In case of any further delay these products will perish. Foreign exchange of the rate of 350 millions of Turkish pounds will be secured if exportation of the Cyprus citrus fruit is attained. Interest is shown by British, German, Swiss and Yugoslavian importers.

"Citrus fruit plantations belonging mostly to Greek Cypriots are situated in Turkish-occupied areas, and European firms applied to Turkish exporters for the purchase of these products. But the Government formed a ten-member committee and decided that the exportswill be made by 'Iibobirlik' union. Up to this moment this decision has not been applied, and exporters underline the danger of the products being lost in case of any further delay."

Another proof of the intentions of Turkey to usurp the Cyprus citrus fruit is an extract from the "Reuter Fruit Report" No. 9008 of 18 October 1974, in which it is stated that the Turkish exports of citrus fruit, and especially lemons, for 1974-1975, as have been officially estimated and declared by Turkey, are increased from 30,000 tons in 1973-1974 to 89,000 tons in 1974-1975. As it can well be appreciated, such an increase in production within a year is impossible. The difference between the usual exports by Turkey and those declared represent approximately the production of Cyprus.

I would be glad if Your Excellency were to circulate this letter as a Security Council document.

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