



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/10564  
16 March 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON RECENT  
DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS

1. This special report, which is based on information received from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Mr. B.F. Osorio-Tafall, deals with the importation by the Government of Cyprus in January 1972 of a substantial quantity of arms and ammunition and with the efforts made by the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to minimize the resultant increase of tension in the island. As my predecessor has stated in his reports to the Council, notably in connexion with a previous importation of weapons by the Cyprus Government, "any influx of arms and other military type equipment into Cyprus is a cause for concern to the United Nations Force with regard to the discharge of its mandate" (S/7611/Add.1, paragraph 3; see also S/5764, paragraph 120, and S/5950, paragraphs 37-39). It should be mentioned that UNFICYP received no notification of the arrival of the recent arms shipment.
2. During the second week of February 1972, representations in connexion with the arms shipment were made to me by the Permanent Representatives of Greece and of Turkey to the United Nations. Representations were also made by Vice President Kuchuk in a letter to me dated 12 February. On 14 February, through the Permanent Representative of Cyprus, I addressed a message to President Makarios conveying to him my concern at the situation created by the importation of arms and offering United Nations assistance to solve the difficulties caused by that development. At the same time, I instructed my Special Representative to bring to the attention of the Government of Cyprus the difficulties that a considerable importation of weapons had created for UNFICYP, especially in view of the efforts then under way to bring about a reactivation of the intercommunal talks.
3. Following conversations in Nicosia between Foreign Minister Kyprianou and my Special Representative, the Government of Cyprus expressed its readiness to make available the recently imported arms and ammunition for inspection, at any time, by the Force Commander of UNFICYP. The Foreign Minister also handed to the Special Representative a list of the recently imported arms and ammunition with their detailed specifications. I considered that this was a helpful step toward reducing the tension in the island.
4. Through an exchange of letters dated 10 March 1972 between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus and my Special Representative, an arrangement concerning the safe storage and inspection of the imported weapons was agreed upon. Under this arrangement, the Cyprus Government undertook not to distribute these or any other imported weapons, and agreed to place them in safe-keeping, under lock and key, in

one single place that would be known at all times to the Force Commander. The Commander would be permitted to inspect these weapons at any time and without advance notice. The Cyprus Government assured the Secretary-General that the list of arms and ammunition handed to his Special Representative represented the total amount received by it as a result of the recent purchase. It was further made clear that this arrangement would be regarded as provisional and would not preclude a subsequent improved arrangement. Subject to these understandings, I agreed to instruct the Force Commander to carry out the inspection of the imported military stores.

5. The Foreign Minister thereupon informed my Special Representative that the arms and ammunition had been stored at the Cyprus Police Headquarters at Athalassa, and that appropriate arrangements had been made for their inspection by UNFICYP at any time.

6. The first inspection of the military stores took place on 15 March 1972. The officiating Force Commander verified that the amount and types of arms and ammunition were in conformity with those listed in the original documents.

7. On this occasion, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and to the Governments of Greece and Turkey for their co-operation and assistance, and to the Turkish Cypriot community for the very helpful restraint it has exercised. It is my hope that the measures taken by UNFICYP will result in a reduction of tension in the island and that all concerned will now find it possible to resume the search for a solution of the underlying problem of Cyprus through the reactivation of the intercommunal talks on the basis of the aide-memoire of 18 October 1971 (S/10401, paragraph 79).

-----