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LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL

I have the honour to invite Your Excellency's attention to the unwarranted and provocative statements in regard to Cyprus made recently in Ankara by high Turkish officials which are a matter of serious concern to my Government.

The Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Oldjaj in a statement on 23 May 1971 said that the "Cyprus issue is our national cause;" it is also important for our international relations". In addressing the Union of Foreign Writers and Correspondents in Ankara on 17 May 1971, he said that the state of the intercommunal talks was not satisfactory and added that it has now become very difficult to view these talks with hope. Mr. Oldjaj spoke of the "determination of our Government to protect the rights based on the agreements and the interests of the Turkish community and Turkey. Every measure has been taken and is being taken in this respect. We are fully aware", - he said - "of the importance of the problem and the unlimited extent of our responsibility. We must be sure that, thanks to the sensitivity shown by our nation towards its cause" and the heroic resistance and super-human patience and self-sacrifice of the Turkish Cypriot community in the Island, we shall fulfill our cause" in this issue which is of concern to our foreign policy in every respect". In an interview to the "Voice of Germany" on 11 June 1971 he stated: "The Cyprus problem is a new factor that could considerably upset the balance established between the Turkish and Greek nations by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, and it has vital importance for Turkey's security needs. A look at Turkey's map is sufficient to understand this fact. Therefore, the Cyprus Question is a dispute between the Turkish and Greek nations, to which the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities are tied."

* My underlining.

According to Turkish Cypriot press reports, ("Halkin Sessi" and "Bozkourt") Mr. Oldjay, speaking at the NATO Ministerial Council meeting in Lisbon on 4 June 1971, said that the inter-communal talks, which were going on for a long time now, had not yielded the expected outcome. He added that, unless a favourable result was obtained within a reasonable period of time Turkey and Greece would confront each other.

The President of Turkey, Mr. Sunay, speaking at a dinner on 7 June 1971 in honour of the Finnish President reiterated that "the Cyprus issue constitutes a national cause* for our country".

Such aggressive and provocative statements could hardly be intended to contribute to the improvement of the climate or the progress of the talks, in favour of which all members of the Security Council spoke at its last meeting. These statements are, instead, calculated to create apprehensions and tension in the Island, leading the talks to a deadlock. And it is perhaps no secret that it is the escalating intransigence of the Turkish Cypriot side, presumably on Ankara's instructions, that has been the stumbling block in these talks.

What, however, is particularly ominous in those statements is the reference to Cyprus as the "national cause" of Turkey, to which my Government takes strong objection. It is in itself a threat to the independence and sovereignty of Cyprus, and constitutes an open indication of Turkey's imperialist designs for territorial expansion over the Island, through the use of the Turkish Cypriot community, in a policy of partition. The national cause of every State - and Cyprus is no exception - is the prerogative of its own people and of no other nation or people.

It may be observed that declarations by a State that the internal affairs of another State are its "national cause", were heard in the past as a prelude to aggression, particularly in the period preceding to, and culminating in, the Second World War. If they are heard again in a resurgent imperialism, they are but the lingering concepts of a past age and cannot survive for long. For we are now in a new, a United Nations, era characterized by a growing world opinion for peace and freedom. And this is the important change through the Charter that has brought

* My underlining.

into being a new concept of rights and obligations of States. The right of States to be free from such threats of force and the obligation of States to refrain from making them. And, more important still, such obligations are declared by the Charter as prevailing over those under any other international agreement, if in conflict with the Charter obligations.

Non-intervention in the internal affairs of Cyprus is the key to the solution of the present problem of the Island. As the President of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios, recently stated: "Cyprus belongs to its inhabitants, Greek and Turkish, and we recognize no right to Turkey to have a say in the future of the Island".

If the people of Cyprus are given the chance to look at their internal problems in their true perspective without the coercive influence of alien interests, the whole problem could in the resulting atmosphere of growing conciliation and mutual trust, find proper solution within the Charter of the United Nations.

Your Excellency is kindly requested to have this letter circulated to all States Members as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

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