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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 18 October 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to the grave situation that has been created in the island as a result of the most recent Turkish attacks of 13 and 14 October against Maronite-Cypriot inhabitants of the village of Kormakitis, situated in the area of the Republic under Turkish military occupation. These attacks culminated, as in the earlier cases of the Maronite villages of Karpasha, Asomatos and Ayia Marina - also located in the occupied area - in the violent taking and usurpation of lands belonging to Maronite-Cypriots. An account of this despicable incident is being given in a memorandum submitted by Mr. Ioannis Mavrides, Representative of the Maronite community in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, which is hereto annexed.

The renewed campaign of land-snatching with the colonist-settlers from Turkey as protagonists, which is carried out on orders from Ankara and is directed this time against the peace-loving Maronite community, serves but one sinister purpose, namely, that of complete Turkification of the occupied areas of Cyprus by way of forcibly expelling all indigenous Cypriot inhabitants of Greek, Maronite or Armenian origin and their replacement by more colonist-settlers massively imported from Turkey.

I need hardly emphasize the great unrest that prevails among the members of the Maronite community, who after hundreds of years of prosperous, peaceful and happy living in Cyprus are now being uprooted by the forces of the Turkish Attila and are condemned, like their Greek Cypriot compatriots, to a life of misery and deprivation, away from their ancestral homes and lands.

Undoubtedly, the situation created by the aforementioned unlawful and inhuman acts, coupled with the intensified tactics of oppression, through blackmail and terror, against those unfortunate people as a means for their elimination from the occupied area is in itself serious and acquires even more ominous dimensions when considered

in conjunction with verified evidence already placed before the United Nations of a series of recent arbitrary actions ordered by Ankara, which are clearly designed to further the sinister objective of the abolition of the Republic of Cyprus and the annexation of the occupied Cypriot territories to Turkey.

My Government strongly holds the view that it is the responsibility of the United Nations and in particular of the Security Council, which has an obvious special responsibility towards Cyprus and its people, to take immediate measures to arrest this abhorrent process of faits accomplis. This is, indeed, a matter that should be given serious consideration by the General Assembly and the Security Council, especially in view of the fact that whereas General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX) unanimously endorsed by Security Council resolution 365 (1974), calls for the return of all the refugees to their homes in safety, the very opposite process is carried out through still more people being uprooted from their homes and lands and rendered destitute refugees - victims of Turkey's chauvinistic and racist policies.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to lodge a most emphatic protest against the above manifestations of lawlessness and provocation directed against the members of the noble and peace-loving Maronite community in Cyprus and to express the earnest hope that Your Excellency will find it possible to effectively intervene for the purpose of restoring and protecting the fundamental rights of the Maronite citizens of the Republic of Cyprus against Turkey's expansionist schemes which, if remained unrestrained, can only have the most serious implications for the prospects of peace in the island and in the whole area.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph J. STEPHANIDES
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Cyprus to the United Nations
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Memorandum submitted by the Representative of the Maronite Community
in the House of Representatives of Cyprus

1. The following incident which has taken place at the purely Maronite village of Kormakiti, in the Turkish controlled area of Cyprus, has caused a most serious situation for the Maronite community.
2. Last Saturday, 13 October 1979, a number of Turkish Cypriots from surrounding villages, accompanied by Turks from Turkey, without any warning or notification, invaded the area of Kormakiti driving 15 to 20 tractors. They proceeded to land which is owned and cultivated by the inhabitants and started cultivating it indiscriminately. When asked by the Maronite villagers of the purpose of such an action they answered that they had rented the land from the Turkish authorities and that they were given permission to proceed with the cultivation. When the Maronites strongly protested at such a move they had to face threats and blackmail.
3. A delegation from the village tried in vain to contact any officials. The police at the village were in no position to intervene or offer any help whatsoever.
4. The same story happened on Sunday, 14 October 1979, again under strong protest by the villagers and again without any success. As a result of events over the two days fear, anxiety and deep concern prevails in the village, making the situation tragically serious.
5. Of course, there had been previous oral threats and attempts for such action. In the other Maronite villages of Karpasha, Asomatos and Ayia Marina land belonging to the villagers has been taken away and is being cultivated. It must be stressed that the cultivation of land is the one and only source of income of our people in the villages and, if lost, it will mean complete poverty and an eventual forced eviction.
6. All the above, coupled with statements that the Turkish authorities are planning to settle Turkish families in Kormakitis and other Maronite villages oblige us to state here below, once again, our position and ask for immediate help and relevant action.
7. As a community we have lived in this island for over 1,000 years. Our existence, especially in the last two centuries, has largely depended on us living in a compact area, comprising the four purely Maronite villages of Kormakiti, Karpasha, Asomatos and Ayia Marina. Until the tragic events of 1974 we have lived in harmony and co-operation with other communities in Cyprus, causing no problems to anyone. On the contrary, our help and co-operation for the benefit of all Cypriots has been acknowledged many times by both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. We are not to blame for the present situation in Cyprus and therefore we firmly believe that we have the right to ask for our fundamental human rights to be respected and observed.

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A/34/594
S/13572
English
Annex
Page 2

8. There have been assurances by the Turkish authorities that such rights be respected. The present action, however, contradicts all assurances and, if allowed to materialize, it will mean the end of our community in Cyprus. The thought of having to be evicted from our areas has never entered our minds. On the contrary, all our efforts have been and will be aimed not only at keeping our lands and villages but also, for all our people eventually returning to the land and villages their ancestors owned for so many centuries.

9. We believe that the contents of the present memorandum give a clear picture of the plight of our community and we kindly ask for all necessary representations to be made in order to clarify once and for all our position, thus ending the suspense, insecurity and anxiety under which we have been living in the past five years.
