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LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a cable message addressed to Your Excellency by Dr. F. Kiriş, Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus, in reply to the allegations of the Greek-Cypriot administration (S/8318) and the Government of Greece (S/8320) regarding the reorganization of the administration of the Turkish-Cypriot community.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will kindly have the text of the Vice-President's message circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.,

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations

Nicosia, 5 January, 1968

Excellency,

With reference to the allegations of the Greek-Cypriot administration (S/8318) and the Greek Government (S/8320), in relation to measures taken by the Turkish community regarding the "Reorganization of the Turkish-Cypriot administrative system", I feel compelled to reiterate the position of the Turkish community once again, so that any false misgivings which may unjustifiably be created as an excuse to prolong the restrictive measures taken against the Turkish community in Cyprus may be dispelled:

1. The measures taken are in no way aimed at undermining any of the resolutions of the Security Council,
2. The measures taken are aimed at eliminating confusion, overlapping or misunderstandings among the various organs of the Turkish community who have been functioning on an ad hoc basis since the beginning of 1964 (see S/6102 dated 12 December 1964, paragraph 143, and also paragraphs 145, 146, 193, 197, 212 thereof) when the community found itself forced to provide for its own public services in view of the all-out attacks waged against the Turkish community by the Greek-Cypriot régime. The ill effects of this situation in the Turkish community's relations with UNFICYP had been highlighted in some of Your Excellency's earlier reports (S/5750, paragraphs 23 and 205).
3. These measures are taken within the framework of the Constitution in view of the fact that the Greek-Cypriot administration have persistently been trying to abrogate and deny the substance of the rights of the Turkish community entrenched in that Constitution. Therefore, they cannot in any way be termed as illegal particularly by those who on 26 June 1967 have unilaterally passed a resolution in the House of Representatives purporting to bind the Republic of Cyprus to the effect that "they would not suspend the struggle which is being conducted with the support of all Greeks, 'until this struggle ends in success through the union of the whole and undivided Cyprus with the motherland, without any intermediary stage'". (S/8028).

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York, N.Y., 10017

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4. The timing of these measures is in no way connected with the welcome action on the part of the Security Council as well as on the part of the Secretary-General to use his good offices with all the parties concerned for the implementation of his appeal dated 3 December 1967.

In all frankness I can say that I am prepared to lend my unreserved attention to genuine concern about Cyprus expressed from any quarter. I must submit, however, that the concern expressed by the Permanent Representative of Greece does not stand the test of sincerity.

Ambassador Bitsios complains that the promulgation of the basic principles of the "provisional Turkish-Cypriot administration" constitutes a violation of paragraph 4 of the Council's resolution S/244 (1967). It will be recalled by Your Excellency and the distinguished members of the Security Council that the enjoinder contained in this paragraph calling upon all the parties concerned to show restraint and to refrain from any act which might aggravate the situation was one of the cardinal considerations on which the basic resolution of 4 March 1964 on the question of Cyprus was built. The provision of this paragraph has been repeated practically in all the subsequent resolutions of the Council. Notwithstanding this fact the Government of Greece, who purports to criticize us now, has infiltrated to the island a large army of occupation comprising more than 12,000 troops and furthermore provided the Greek-Cypriot administration with a mercenary officer corps of approximately 1,200 for the command cadres of the so-called "National Guard".

These two flagrantly illegal establishments are the principal instruments used by Greece and the Greek-Cypriot administration to neutralize and subsequently eliminate the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus with a view to paving the way to the annexation of the island to Greece.

It is my fervent hope that the Government of Greece will honour its commitments and will soon complete the withdrawal of its illegal forces and mercenaries from our homeland and will exercise its influence on the Greek-Cypriot community for the disarming and disbandment of all the illegal armed forces on the island. The Greek Government will have then assumed its true responsibilities as one of the guarantor Powers of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus. As such it will find the Turkish community a party willing to extend to it its unreserved co-operation.

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Until then expressions of spurious concern professed by the Government of Greece can obviously impress neither me nor the provisional Turkish-Cypriot administration.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency that the Turkish community has, as stated earlier (S/8294) gladly accepted Your Excellency's good offices for the adoption and implementation of measures of pacification and to inform you that our representatives Messrs. R. Denktash and O. Orek have been asked to prolong their stay in New York so as to be available for consultations as and when required.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations.

Dr. F. Küçük
Vice-President of the Republic of
Cyprus
