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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 dated 8 January 1968 addressed to you by Dr. Fazıl Küçük, Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus in connexion with Your Excellency's Special Report on Cyprus (S/8323) dated 3 January 1968.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will kindly have the text of this 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, 8 January 1968

Your Excellency,

In view of paragraph 10 of Your Excellency's special report which was circulated as a Security Council document (S/8323) on 3 January 1968, I am led to believe that the explanation given in my earlier communications about the decision of the Turkish-Cypriot leadership to set up a provisional administration have not, unfortunately, been duly evaluated. In order, therefore, to dispel any doubts that might still be entertained, I thought of reiterating here, once again, that the decision was taken:

(a) For the purpose of improving and reconstituting an already-existing system of administration which was per force set up in order to render essential public services to the Turkish-Cypriot community which was deprived of such services,

(b) For removing defects and overlapping of authority which had lately shown the tendency of wrecking the whole system,

(c) For ensuring more effective control over various organs which had begun to show signs of disunity,

(d) For uniting various organs under a central representative body so that any discussions for a permanent settlement to the Cyprus problem could be handled properly by a fully powered authority.

The situation was deteriorating so rapidly that it became imperative to adopt and introduce the new measures forthwith so that the affairs of the Turkish community could be more efficiently administered and the Turkish leadership might be in a better position to co-operate with Your Excellency in the use of your good offices. We felt it incumbent upon us to give publicity to the measures in order to ease the minds of members of the Turkish community and advise them that steps had been taken to provide them with a better service henceforth. For these reasons I find it difficult to understand the reasons which led Your Excellency to express concern over this decision.

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

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The reactions of the Greek Government and of the Greek-Cypriot administration can have no substance. Until the announcement of the decision there was no claim even on the part of the Greek side that Turkish-Cypriots were leading a chaotic life without any sort of administration or without any machinery rendering essential public services to them. No doubt the Greek side's reaction is artificial and has a sinister motive. The mere reorganization of a system which has been in existence since December 1963 and of which Greeks as well as the whole world were fully aware should not have bothered them so much, especially after all the explanations given as to the reasons which compelled us to make it and the assurance given that it had no scope of any political nature.

It is my belief that the Greek side is after exploiting the situation in order to prolong the existing conditions which do not certainly promise a suitable ground and atmosphere for Your Excellency's good offices. The suffering side in Cyprus is the Turkish-Cypriots. They are therefore anxiously and whole-heartedly waiting to see the positive results of Your Excellency's good offices which the Greek side is no doubt trying to undermine by their well-known tactics: creating pretexts and throwing the blame on the Turks.

On reconsideration of the position in the light of the above explanation I believe that Your Excellency will agree with me that the measures adopted by the Turkish-Cypriot leadership were taken in good faith and with a desire to facilitate Your Excellency's good offices and that the reactions shown by the Greek side lacked substance and sincerity and were made with the purpose of undermining your efforts.

I shall be grateful if this communication may be circulated to the honourable Members as a Security Council document.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Fazıl KÜÇÜK
Vice-President
of the Republic of Cyprus
