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LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a message addressed to you by Dr. Fazıl Küçük, Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus, in connexion with elections for the Presidency and the Vice-Presidency of the Republic.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations

Nicosia, 20 January 1968

Excellency,

At our meeting with your Special Representative in Cyprus on 16 January 1968, the question of the re-election of the President of the Republic was raised and it was pointed out that under article 39 (I) of the Constitution, it was mandatory that the election of the Vice-President should take place on the same day but separately, and that complications would arise over the appointment of new Ministers soon after the re-election of the President.

Since then we have given very careful consideration to the matter and we have come to the conclusion that by going to elections for the President only, the Greek side was infringing upon a constitutional right of the Turkish community (i.e. the right to elect a Vice-President). In our desire to abide by the provisions of the Constitution, we have decided to hold separate elections on the same day for the election of a Vice-President in accordance with article 39 (I) of the Constitution. We shall apply as far as possible the election laws of 1959 and 1963.

We are aware of the difficulties which we shall have to overcome in holding elections, but you will appreciate that is a position into which we have been forced by the arbitrary and unilateral action taken by the Greek side. UNFICYP's assistance is sought in such matters as safe transport of ballot boxes, free travelling of electors to and from polling stations, freedom of travelling of candidates to and from Turkish areas all over the island, and prevention of the Greeks from taking any action that may undermine free elections. I should be grateful, therefore, if Your Excellency will authorize UNFICYP to render this assistance to us. Needless to say that interference by Greeks to prevent Turks from exercising their constitutional rights in this respect may give rise to undesirable incidents for which Turkish Cypriots will accept no responsibility.

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

(Signed) Dr. Fazil KÜÇÜK
Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus
