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LETTER DATED 23 SEPTEMBER 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The letter of the Permanent Representative of the Greek-Cypriot Administration to Your Excellency dated 20 September 1966 (S/7499) hits a new low in the well-established policy of that Administration in putting the blame for their own crimes on the shoulders of innocents. It is indeed a tragic fact that the island of Cyprus has recently been swept by a number of forest fires started by the Greek-Cypriots themselves. UNFICYP authorities have assured the Turkish-Cypriot leadership that no evidence has been found linking the fires with any Turkish person or persons, thus giving the lie to this monstrous accusation.

Could any reasonable person imagine that the Turks of Cyprus who for nearly three years now have, gun in hand, been defending their homeland against Greek-Cypriot attempts to oust them therefrom would willingly set fire to the forest lands, the fruits of which they are determined to enjoy for ever after?

There is not the shadow of a doubt that the forest fires have been and are being started by the rebellious usurpers of Government in Cyprus as another link in the chain of unspeakable atrocities directed against the law-abiding Turkish-Cypriots in order to break their will in upholding their rights. Ambassador Rossides rightly points out in his letter that all the forests which are set on fire are in the vicinity of Turkish villages. It does not require genius in military strategy to realize that the forests surrounding Turkish villages are being systematically destroyed by the Greek-Cypriot illegal armed bands, masquerading under the title of National Guard, in order that the Turks might be deprived of these natural obstacles to frontal assault and that they might be easily flushed out like pheasants when the rebellious Greek-Cypriots decided that the time is ripe for the renewal of their slaughter.

Ambassador Rossides carefully refrains from mentioning of course other links in that chain of atrocities which is currently being unleashed in the island

Republic against its Turkish citizens. He does not relate that recently the MARATAŞ dam at Lefka which serves exclusively the Turkish areas has been destroyed, for it would be too great a stretch of the imagination, even for the Greek-Cypriot Administration, to attribute to the Turkish-Cypriots the intention to destroy their own water supply. Nor, for the same reason, is there any mention of the fact that the water supply of the village of Ambelikou has recently been cut. Nor is there any reference to the inhuman blockade of Turkish villages and quarters which is again being applied. The only reason that the Turkish citizens of Cyprus are not reacting violently against these pressures is that they continue to pin their faith not in brute force but in peaceful negotiations which the rebellious Greeks of Cyprus are trying to undermine.

As for the incentives of these pressures and atrocities, including the recent forest fires, we do not have to look very far. It is the blind drive toward Enosis, annexation by Greece, which is the underlying motive in the whole tragedy of Cyprus. If the Greeks of Cyprus have been successful to a certain extent, through their colossal hoax in the United Nations, in throwing some doubt as to their ultimate objective, those doubts have recently been dispelled by the deeds and public statements of the Greek-Cypriot leadership.

At the meeting of the First Committee of the twentieth General Assembly on 14 December 1965, I quoted from an interview given by Archbishop Makarios to the Greek daily Apogevmatini on 8 September 1964 where he said:

"If I have any ambition, it is to link my name with the union of Cyprus with Greece. The expansion of Greece's boundaries to the shores of North Africa, through the union of Cyprus. This is my only ambition, for the realization of which I shall continue to struggle till death."

Now, the Greek-Cypriot daily, the MAKHI, commenting on the rumours that after Enosis, Archbishop Makarios is slated to be elected Patriarch of Alexandria, recalls the above-quoted vow of the Archbishop and says:

"Makarios, by surrendering Cyprus to Greece, will have extended the frontiers of Greater Greece to the shores of Africa, and have carried out his promise!"

I would be grateful if Your Excellency will kindly have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Turkey  
to the United Nations

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