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LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 1966 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. Kılıç, Vice-President of Cyprus in connexion with the publication by the Greek-Cypriot Administration in the Cyprus Gazette, of a so-called law purporting to amend unilaterally the articles of the Constitution of Cyprus relating to the Public Service Commission.

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

Please accept, etc.

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

Nicosia, 1 October 1966

Your Excellency,

In my telegram of 12 December 1965, I had made representations to Your Excellency concerning a law (The Public Service Commission "Temporary Provisions" Law, 1965) which was passed by the Greek members of the House of Representatives in violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus. That Law envisaged the establishment of a Public Service Commission consisting of five members to be

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

appointed by the President of the Republic in place of the existing Public Service Commission which consisted of seven Greek and three Turkish members appointed jointly by the President and Vice-President of the Republic under article 124 of the Constitution.

A bill has now been published by the Greek-Cypriot Administration in the official gazette of the Republic entitled: "A law to make provision for the functioning of the Public Service Commission, for the appointment, promotion and retirement of members of the public service and for the condition of service, disciplinary proceedings and other matters concerning the public service". This bill embodied all the temporary provisions introduced by the Public Service Commission (temporary provisions) Law, 1965, which formed the subject matter of my telegram referred to in paragraph 1 above. It also contains provisions which alter on a permanent footing all the provisions in articles 122-125 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus and removes all the safeguards therein contained for the protection of the rights and interests of the Turkish members of the Public Service. The bill violates, at the same time, article 179 of the Constitution which provides, inter alia, that the Constitution shall be the supreme Law of the Republic and that no law or decision of the House of Representatives etc. shall in any way be repugnant to, or inconsistent with, any of the provisions of the Constitution.

The object of my present telegram is to lay before Your Excellency this new attempt on the part of Greek-Cypriot Administration to violate the provisions of the Constitution as well as the resolutions of the Security Council calling upon all parties to refrain from any action which is likely to worsen the situation in the island, and to place on record the vehement objection of the Turkish-Cypriot community and its leadership to such unconstitutional acts, the main object of which is to divest Turks of all their vested rights and interests.

I shall be grateful if this communication may be treated as a Security Council document and circulated to all members of the Council.

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

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

