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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS

1. This report is based on the latest information received from my Special Representative and the Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus concerning the situation in the Famagusta area. Recent developments there and the actions taken by UNFICYP in relation to them are set forth in this report.
2. As indicated in previous reports to the Security Council (S/6228, paras. 71-76, and S/6426, para. 41), a difficult problem resulted from the building of a new harbour at Famagusta and the erection by the Government of defensive fortifications in the area. The new constructions extended from the walled city, which is a Turkish Cypriot stronghold, to near the Turkish Cypriot village of Karaolos. The Turkish Cypriots have been maintaining that the fortifications, ostensibly set up as coast defences, could be turned against their community and that the National Guard positions and patrols in the area could threaten their free movement between Karaolos and the walled city. In an effort to solve the problem, the Special Representative and the Force Commander submitted to the President of Cyprus, on 27 February 1965, an aide-memoire containing UNFICYP's suggestions for a possible solution to this question. An identical plan was transmitted to the Vice-President. These suggestions, however, could not be implemented. The text of the aide-memoire and the replies received were reproduced as annex I in my report of 11 March 1965 (S/6228).
3. On 22 September 1965, the National Guard started construction of two coastal defence positions on Karaolos beach north of Famagusta (map references S 562648 and S 561646). The Force Commander had inspected the site of these proposed positions and had found them to be not provocative. As from 30 September, however, although the Force Commander had advised otherwise, the National Guard commenced work on three depth positions which were very close to the Turkish Cypriot village of Karaolos.

4. The Turkish Cypriots regarded the new positions as a threat to their security and started to set up defensive positions on the outskirts of the Turkish Cypriot villages of Bycul, Sakharia and Karaolos. They also manned posts on the walls of the old city of Famagusta.

5. Some of the new Turkish Cypriot defence positions were close to the main Salamis-Famagusta road and the National Guard considered that these positions dominated the road and affected freedom of movement on it. UNFICYP officers were unable to dissuade the Turkish Cypriots from constructing these defensive positions. In recent weeks, tension heightened in the area, particularly in an orange grove near Sakharia. The National Guard considered it their right to patrol the grove as it was owned by a Greek Cypriot. The Turkish Cypriots maintained that ownership of this grove, now uncultivated, was in dispute and that National Guard patrols were unjustified and provocative because of their proximity to Turkish Cypriot positions on the edge of Sakharia. The UNFICYP local commander suggested that the United Nations Force take over control of the orange grove in order to ease tension and prevent incidents from occurring in the area. The Turkish Cypriots accepted the proposal, but the National Guard maintained that they had the right to patrol the orange grove which, they insisted, was undisputed Greek Cypriot property.

6. On 2 November 1965, at 1420 hours local time, a National Guard patrol entered the orange grove and was shot at by Turkish Cypriots from the edge of Sakharia. United Nations troops stationed at an observation post in the immediate vicinity, upon hearing the firing, investigated the incident and they reported that one member of the National Guard patrol had been slightly injured in the incident.

7. Following this incident, at approximately 1700 hours on 2 November, the National Guard moved troops into the area. They set up three new positions alongside established Turkish Cypriot posts, and started to patrol the Salamis-Famagusta road with armoured cars.

8. At 2100 hours on 2 November, firing broke out in the Sakharia area and by 2110 hours spread to the Karaolos area and the old city of Famagusta. During the firing, UNFICYP posts in the firing area were evacuated when they came under fire. A cease-fire was negotiated by UNFICYP and became effective at 2200 hours.

9. The cease-fire was maintained until approximately 0100 hours, on 3 November, when the National Guard stated that their troops in the area of the police station in Famagusta were fired upon by Turkish Cypriots located in a nearby school. Following sporadic firing, the National Guard occupied the school without much opposition. This new outbreak of firing ceased at 0400 hours. By 0800 hours, all UNFICYP posts which had been evacuated during the night had been reoccupied. Casualties resulting from the two firing periods were two National Guardsmen wounded and one wounded and one killed on the Turkish Cypriot side.

10. The Commander of the United Nations Force visited the area of the firing in the early afternoon of 3 November. He observed that the National Guard units were setting up and improving new positions acquired during the fighting on 2-3 November and that new National Guard positions commanded all approaches to the old city of Famagusta, Sakharia and Karaolos. He also observed that Turkish Cypriots had set up barricades at the gates to the old city. Tension in the area was high.

11. During the course of this visit, the Force Commander conferred with the local commander of the National Guard and the local Turkish Cypriot leader who gave him their respective accounts of the previous night's fighting. The Turkish Cypriot leader complained to the Force Commander that, because of the new National Guard roadblocks, they could not move essential food supplies such as bread and milk, through the old city gates. The National Guard local commander informed the Turkish Cypriot leader in the old city, through UNFICYP, that temporary restrictions on movement out of the old city had been imposed. Arrangements were subsequently made by UNFICYP for the supply of bread and milk from the old city to adjoining Turkish Cypriot villages.

12. On 3 November, before visiting Famagusta, the Force Commander and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Carlos A. Bernardes, met with the President of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios, and with high Government officials. In the evening of that day, the Force Commander met with the Vice-President, Dr. Fazil Kuchuk. The situation in Famagusta was discussed. The Force Commander urged restraint, while efforts to restore normalcy continued. In the course of the meeting with the President, he indicated that he would submit to UNFICYP by 4 November written proposals for the settlement of the situation in Famagusta. These proposals were received on 5 November and conveyed to the Turkish Cypriot leaders. They were as follows:

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(a) All military fortified positions in the area outside the walls of the old city of Famagusta to be abandoned and dismantled except defence positions already constructed for the defence of the island from external threat.

(b) The aforesaid area to be patrolled by the Police, the United Nations Force being of course, free to join the police patrols should it so wish.

(c) No person carrying arms or wearing uniform would be allowed in or out of the old town.

(d) The United Nations Force to undertake the responsibility of prohibiting access to the Turks on the walls. If at any time the above conditions was not observed the Government reserved its right to take steps to ensure observance of it.

(e) The Namik Kemal School might function as such provided the premises would be used for educational purposes only. The Police would check to see that this conditions was observed.

These proposals were presented to the Vice-President by my Special Representative and the Force Commander on 5 November and he stated that he would study them.

13. In the morning of 4 November, a few isolated shots were heard. No casualties were reported. At approximately 1130 hours, the National Guard delivered, through the UNFICYP local commander, a warning to the Turkish Cypriot leadership in Famagusta that:

(a) All Turkish Cypriots located in the apartment block located at GR. S. 56786299 were to be disarmed by 1600 hours;

(b) A fortified Turkish house located on the south-west corner of Larnaca-Salamis road junction to be turned over to the National Guard.

14. The Turkish Cypriot leadership ignored this warning, demanded that the National Guard evacuate immediately all property occupied since the fighting of 2 November, and warned that further National Guard aggressive action would be resisted by force.

15. The local UNFICYP Commander arranged for the deadline to be postponed for twenty-four hours, i.e., until 1600 hours on 5 November.

16. Meanwhile, on 4 November, the Force Commander, in the absence of the Minister of the Interior, was in touch with the Director-General of the Ministry of the Interior and drew his attention to the very serious situation developing in Famagusta, and in particular to the above-mentioned warning and to the absence of freedom of movement in and out of the old city. At 1509 hours on that day the

Director-General advised the Force Commander that he was unaware of any warning having been given and drew the Commander's attention to the fact that the Government had publicly stated that it was absolutely false that the Government authorities had banned the movement of Turkish Cypriots in or out of the old city of Famagusta, or that there was a blockage of this community by the National Guard. In this regard, UNFICYP had not observed any movement of persons in or out of the old city. The Director-General advised the Force Commander that the Government had issued instructions to the National Guard in Famagusta to refrain from taking further military action.

17. The UNFICYP Acting Chief of Staff, Col. J.L. Drewry, visited the area at 1600 hours on 4 November and reviewed the situation with the local commander of the National Guard and the Turkish Cypriot leader. The National Guard demanded that the Turkish Cypriots in the apartment block mentioned in paragraph 13, be disarmed. The Turkish Cypriot leader refused to meet this demand and also refused to evacuate the women and children.

18. At approximately 1945 hours on 4 November, considerable National Guard activity and movement was reported in the area surrounding the walls of the old city of Famagusta and in the area of Karaolos and Sakharia.

19. At approximately 2000 hours on 4 November, an exchange of fire, believed to have started from Turkish Cypriot positions, was observed in the area of Sakharia. Firing ceased approximately ten minutes later. One Turkish Cypriot was wounded in that exchange and was evacuated by UNFICYP.

20. At approximately 2040 hours on 4 November, the National Guard opened fire on the apartment block referred to above. According to the National Guard, fire was ordered in reply to shots which had been fired by Turkish Cypriots from the apartment block, directed against two National Guard fortifications located on the roof of National Guard installations inside a hospital area. This building and other buildings were later examined by UNFICYP Civilian Police and no evidence of firing having come from the apartment block was found. At approximately 2130 hours, upon UNFICYP intervention, firing ceased. UNFICYP personnel, who had continued to man their posts around the apartment block and had come under fire, evacuated three wounded Turkish Cypriots and, subsequently, all occupants of the building were escorted into the old city. The UNFICYP Civilian Police were occupying the apartment block since its evacuation.

21. No further firing took place in the general area until the early morning hours of 5 November, when there was exchange of fire in the Famagusta harbour area, Sakharia and Karaolos. At Karaolos two Turkish Cypriots were reported wounded. Sporadic firing continued until 0900 hours from the walled city against the harbour entrance and the police station in the harbour. It is reported that three ships were struck by bullets.

22. The above is the latest information received from UNFICYP, having been cabled from Nicosia at noon GMT on 5 November.

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