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LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Turkey dated 29 September 1965 (document S/6728), I wish to submit the following considerations:

1. The Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation concluded between Turkey and Greece on 30 October 1930, which Ambassador Eralp calls "now defunct" was actually denounced by Turkey under the pretext that it was obsolete, notwithstanding the fact that identical treaties concluded at the same time by Turkey with other countries remain in force. How spurious this reason was is proved by the fact that Turkey evaded all offers to have the Treaty renegotiated in order to bring it up to date.

2. Expulsions of Greeks from Istanbul started even before the termination of the Treaty. At that time reasons of national security were arbitrarily invoked. After the termination, non-renewal of residence permits was found more expeditious. In the recent instance, both devices were combined.

3. During the relevant debate in the Security Council, the deportation of Greeks was generally recognized for what it is: retaliation against Greek citizens, most of whom, as well as their ancestors, were born in Turkey.

4. Turkey tried to reduce the painful impression thus created by making much of some alleged exceptions to the mass expulsions, but on closer scrutiny these are revealed as meaningless:

(a) Persons over sixty-five or sick. Obviously sufficient reliance is put in the laws of nature to remove these persons from the scene. Most such persons have to leave any way, when the younger relatives who support them are forced to go. Even so there have been many exceptions to this "exception".

(b) Greek women married to foreigners. This is no exception as these women have acquired the citizenship of their husbands and are no longer Greek citizens.

(c) Greek citizens employed by foreign missions. The number of such persons, if any, is negligible and the gesture is made not so much in their favour as to avoid the protests of the foreign missions.

(d) Priests who are Greek citizens may be spared expulsion. But they are prohibited to officiate.

(e) Teachers. The few Greek citizens who teach in Istanbul are there under a bilateral agreement whereby an equal number of Turkish citizens teach in Greece. Reciprocity and not exception also apply to students and correspondents.

What, then, remains of the "gesture of goodwill" vaunted by the Representative of Turkey?

5. As for the religious affiliation of the thirty odd persons recently expelled, I mentioned it only because it had been observed that, earlier, Greek citizens, other than Christian Orthodox were not included in the mass expulsions.

6. Finally, it is a matter of interest that, while the Turkish Representative asserts that the persons expelled are "those whose subversive activities have been established beyond any doubt", the Turkish authorities, instead of bringing formal charges against them, prefer ruthless deportation, without even informing the victims of what the concrete charges might have been.

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

Please, accept, etc.

(Signed) Alexis S. LIATIS  
Permanent Representative of Greece  
to the United Nations

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