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LETTER DATED 4 DECEMBER 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have recently witnessed further unmistakable evidence of Greek Cypriot endeavours to exploit the United Nations Organization to promote their nefarious scheme of doing away with the legal order established in Cyprus under the Constitution of the island Republic. My delegation, therefore, deemed it appropriate not to leave unanswered the letter addressed to Your Excellency by the representative of the Greek Government of Cyprus on 24 November 1964 and distributed under cover of your note No. PO 210 CYPR, dated 27 November 1964, in order to put Member States on guard against the specious assertions contained therein.

In this letter, the Permanent Representative of the Greek Cypriot Government attempts to represent measures taken by the authorities of his régime with the express purpose of dealing the final mortal blow to the last remaining vestiges of constitutional order in the island, as steps towards a return to normality and the eventual solution of the problem confronting Cyprus.

If the Greek Cypriots are genuinely interested in a return to normality they should, first of all, put an end to their insidious efforts of creating unacceptable faits accomplis through illegitimate methods such as the establishment of a novel judicial system in contravention of constitutional provisions for the administration of justice or offer to exercise prerogatives which they do not possess under the Constitution, in connexion with imaginary political crimes imputed to Turkish Cypriots while in reality the Greek Cypriot Community itself is the sole guilty party for crimes brazenly perpetrated against the Constitution.

The only road to normality is through the restoration of constitutional order and the Turkish Community has shown its good faith in this respect when Vice-President Dr. Fazil Küçük, the leader of the Turkish Community, officially proposed to Archbishop Makarios that the constitutional Government of Cyprus,

including its Turkish members, resume its regular meetings. This proposal, which was then spurned by Archbishop Makarios, naturally continues to be valid as far as the Turkish Community is concerned. Furthermore, Dr. Küçük has recently undertaken renewed efforts in this direction and in a letter addressed to Archbishop Makarios on 5 November 1964, asked him "to convene a meeting of the Council of Ministers, including its Turkish members, as provided under the Constitution" in order "to consider the whole matter (of displaced Turkish Cypriots) including especially security and financial requirements" and, "to determine the steps to be taken for solving the refugee problem".

The only reply to date from the Greek Cypriot side to these constructive proposals of the Turkish Cypriot Community has been the tendentious remarks contained in Ambassador Rossides' letter under reference, that the Cypriot Greeks have been co-operating with UNFICYP while the Turks have been showing intransigence. The hollowness of this contention can be readily determined by a quick glance at the contents of Chapter II of the Secretary-General's report (S/5950) dated 10 September 1964, dealing with activities regarding the return to normality. In paragraphs 108, 113, 120, 149, 154, 158 and 159, the Secretary-General cites at least seven important instances when the efforts of the UNFICYP have been frustrated by the persistent refusal of the Greek side in spite of the fact that the proposals of the United Nations had been accepted by the Turkish Community in each case.

The strongest objection must once again be registered to the totally fictitious allegation that the freedom of movement of the members of the Turkish Community is restricted by "the extremist Turco-Cypriot leadership" and that "Turkish Cypriots are still deliberately kept by it, against their will, in conditions of segregated captivity". As stated in our letter (S/5931) dated 3 September 1964, Mr. Rossides has been trying to work up this theme under the impression that continuous repetition of a false charge will eventually give it some degree of credence. I feel sure that impartial followers of the tragic events in Cyprus are fully aware where the truth lies in this respect. The unspeakable crimes perpetrated against the Turks by the Greek Community in Cyprus have been committed under the watching eyes of the whole world. The international Press has has duly and in great detail reported these base crimes which evoked profound

feelings for the victimized Cypriot Turks in the conscience of mankind, so that two of the officers of a highly civilized country such as Sweden could not resist the urge to overlook military discipline and tried, out of compassion and for no material benefit, to carry arms to besieged Turks on the island. The two Swedish officers in question are reported to have declared that "anybody who has a mind and a heart and possesses any feeling of charity would help the Turks in Cyprus", thus underlining the depth of the tragedy caused by the Greek Cypriots.

Ambassador Rossides' frantic efforts to obfuscate the facts by dramatizing an ordinary murder case, if it actually occurred at all, and by publicizing remarks attributed to a misguided Turkish Cypriot, who apparently is a captive in Greek Cypriot hands, cannot, therefore, mislead world public opinion. The Greek Cypriots have been doing their utmost to give the widest possible dissemination through their propaganda to letters purportedly addressed by Turkish Cypriots to a turncoat whom they try to present to the world as a so-called moderate Turkish leader. One has yet to hear something about this so-called leader's meeting or talking with members of the Turkish Community anywhere in the island.

The Greeks of Cyprus appear deliberately to ignore the facts of the recent history of Cyprus in their endeavour to push their propaganda of deception. While Ambassador Rossides contends that the Cypriot Turkish refugees, left destitute as a result of murderous Greek attacks, destruction and pillage, are ready and willing to return to their villages, he seems to be totally oblivious to the fact that the Cypriot Turks who had suffered the same misfortune at the hands of Greek EOKA terrorists in 1954-58 have refrained from returning to their villages even after the creation of the Republic in 1960 because of continued Greek threats to their lives. Peristerona, Lefkonuk, Pasakoy in the district of Famagusta and Selalani and Lithrodonda in the district of Nicosia were among such villages whose Turkish inhabitants dared not return to their homes, despite constitutional guarantees and the seeming calm of the initial years of independence. Those who had, with the encouragement and persuasion of the leaders of the Turkish Community, returned to certain mixed villages where Greeks were in dominant majority, have paid for this with their lives in a short period of two years when the Greeks launched their treacherous armed aggression against them on 21 December 1963.

The following quotation from the Greek daily newspaper "Phileleftheros" will shed ample light on the real reason for the reluctance of the Turkish Cypriots to return to their homes. Mr. Costas Hadjiargiris, the London correspondent of this paper, who recently visited the Turkish Refugee Camps outside Nicosia, wrote of his interview with the refugees: "Turkish refugees are looking with longing eyes to their homes situated at Kaymakli, hardly a mile away from the camp. But they dare not return there ... they had to run away for their lives, leaving behind their personal effects, their money and other belongings".

With regard to the freedom of movement of the members of the Turkish Community in Cyprus, it is clear from paragraph 103 of the report (S/5950) of the Secretary-General that this right "of the Turkish Cypriots has in practice been restricted in those areas" under Greek control "by reason of excessive checks and searches and of many unnecessary obstructions put in their way" by the Greek "police at check points, as well as by the feeling of insecurity and the fear of arrest or abduction". This assertion is in itself sufficient to refute the theme song of Greek Cypriot propaganda.

It will be recalled that the Nicosia-Kyrenia road, one of the main arteries in the island under Turkish Cypriot control, was opened to free traffic on 26 October 1964 in accordance with a special arrangement entered into with UNFICYP as a further gesture of co-operation of the Turkish Community towards a return to normality on the island under United Nations control. In spite of UNFICYP representations for the institution of a similar arrangement for the freedom of movement on other highways under Greek control, this United Nations effort also has met with frustration upon Greek insistence of maintaining the arbitrary restrictions imposed on Turkish traffic by them.

In view of the last paragraph of Ambassador Rossides' letter which places emphasis on the urgent need of concerted action for the purpose of protecting the freedom of movement for everybody on the roads in general, I venture to urge Your Excellency to consider initiating renewed negotiations with Greek authorities in Cyprus with a view to extending United Nations control over safety and freedom of movement to the roads at present under Greek control.

I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as a Security Council document.

Please accept, etc.

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