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LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

... I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which I have today addressed to His Excellency U Thant, Secretary-General.

Your Excellency is kindly requested to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations

The significance now attached to the rotation of the Turkish Contingent in Cyprus and its potential as a threat to peace in the Island and in the area, makes it necessary to draw the attention of the Security Council to the merits of this issue.

It is not possible for the Government of Cyprus to permit this rotation because the Treaty of Alliance, under which the rotation is claimed, has been terminated vis-à-vis Turkey in consequence of the latter's material breach of it. What constitutes the breach is the fact that the Turkish Government, instead of having the said contingent stationed in its barracks as provided by the Treaty, has arbitrarily and illegally deployed it in hostile occupation of a part of Cyprus territory and of the Nicosia-Kyrenia road, thereby blocking a main communication artery of the Republic. (The preceding have been fully substantiated in the reports of the Secretary-General issued on 15 June 1964, document S/5764, 29 August 1964, document S/5920, and 11 September 1964, document S/5950. Details of this matter have been furnished by my letters of 6 and 20 April 1964, documents S/5647 and S/5670.)

The said strategic deployment of the Turkish contingent in violation of the Treaty has, furthermore, been a major obstacle to the peace-keeping functions of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. All the efforts of its Commander and of the Secretary-General to overcome that obstacle met with a negative attitude and a stubborn resistance from the Turkish Government.

A particularly aggravating aspect of the situation is that the essential breach of the Treaty by Turkey, has not been an isolated act committed in the past, but is of a continuing nature. Therefore, the substantial ground for the termination of the Treaty arises every day and is continuous. This is so, aside from the fact that Turkey's recent aggression from the air against Cyprus - by waves of airplanes dropping napalm bombs and indiscriminately killing and maiming hundreds of men, women and children in undefended towns and villages - would make nonsense of any concept of alliance treaty.

In view of the above, the claim by the Turkey Government that it has a right to rotate its contingent by virtue of a treaty rendered defunct by its own flagrant violation of it, is as hollow as it is illogical. Turkey's announced intention, moreover, to do so by force, amounts to additional evidence of disregard for international norms and is another and no less perilous form of aggression.

The issue should, therefore, be approached in the light of the above considerations.

Your Excellency is kindly requested to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
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