

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/6193
19 February 1965

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the telegram addressed to Your Excellency by Archbishop Makarios on 12 February 1965 (S/6188), which purports to deny the existence of strong indications of clandestine Greek Cypriot military preparations and build-up for an eventual resumption of aggressive action against the Turkish people of Cyprus.

The allegation advanced by the Archbishop that our timely warnings of surreptitious Greek and Greek Cypriot military deployments are intended to create false impressions at the expense of Greek Cypriot Government is belied, in a most authoritative manner, by the incidents that have taken place on the island during the course of the last year and by your reports to the Security Council concerning them. The most glaring example of this repudiation is contained in paragraph 69 of the Secretary-General's report dated 10 September 1964 (S/5950) which states the following in respect of the Greek Cypriot aggressive action in the Tylliria region:

"At the beginning of August, the Force Commander had become most anxious about the build-up and had expressed several times his fears to the Government. On 4 August he received from the President the renewed assurance that the Government had no intention of attacking any Turkish Cypriot positions and that, should the Government find it necessary to do so it would give due warning to the Force Commander."

It will be recalled that notwithstanding this solemn assurance given by Archbishop Makarios, the treacherous attack on the Turks of this region did take place the next day.

In his message, Archbishop Makarios further states that the Greek Cypriot Government is doing its utmost to preserve and promote peace and normality in the island and seeks personally to assure Your Excellency that the Greek Cypriots do not harbour any intention of attacking the Turkish Cypriots.

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The Greek Cypriot preparations of the past few months, to which I have drawn your attention in previous communications, and the following most recent measures which they have adopted, throw some light on the sincerity of Archbishop Makarios' assurances.

The Greek military build-up in the various parts of the island were too momentous to go unobserved. For example, in the city of Famagusta, fortifications were set up in the vicinity of the Poor House and around the port. In the region of Boghaz, District of Famagusta, positions to the extent of some 600 yards have been built in the vicinity of the former explosives factory. Despite urgent representations by General Thimayya and Señor Bernardes for the dismantling of the newly erected fortifications in Famagusta, Archbishop Makarios refused to comply fully with the request of UNFICYP. In this connexion, an Associated Press dispatch, dated 16 February 1965, reported that General Thimayya communicated by telephone with the Archbishop on the morning of Monday, 15 February, and informed him that he had received information that Greek Cypriot soldiers were planning to attack Turkish Cypriot positions in Famagusta.

In addition to the above, important redeployment of Greek Cypriot armed personnel have been taking place since the beginning of the year. For example, on 16 January 1965, two military convoys consisting of ten and nineteen vehicles respectively, were observed to be heading toward Paphos from Limassol. Both convoys were equipped with radio cars and of the vehicles making up the second convoy, nine were seen to be towing artillery pieces while two others were mounted with four-barrelled anti-aircraft machine-guns, two were transporting fully armed soldiers and three were carrying tents and other equipment.

In the meantime, the dispatch of troops and armaments from Greece to Cyprus has continued unabated. Of recent arrivals of such shipments, I can mention that on 28 January 1965 a large Greek motor boat discharged military equipment, arms and ammunition at the port of Boghaz while, on the same date, a Greek landing craft unloaded military equipment at Famagusta. On 13 February 1965 another Greek ship named "Ayios Yiorgios" arrived at the port of Limassol and unloaded more military equipment.

On top of all these preparations, the Greek Cypriots have recently declared the area between the city of Famagusta and the port town of Boghaz and the area

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between the villages of Kantara - Akanthou - Rizokarpaso, all in the district of Famagusta where Greek Cypriot activity has been most intense, restricted zones in order to conceal their military movements more effectively.

In another ominous event, General Grivas, Commander-in-Chief of all the Greek and Greek Cypriot armies in Cyprus, declared without inhibition, in a speech he made on 18 January 1965, that the sole Greek objective is Enosis. In the course of this speech, General Grivas took a public oath that "he will not abandon the struggle until Cyprus was delivered to the arms of Greece". In another speech he made at the village of Dali on 15 February 1965, General Grivas repeated his words that the sole objective of Greeks in Cyprus was Enosis. These statements are irrefutable indications of the purpose of the Greek Cypriot military preparations.

It is clear from the above that the great concern felt by the Turkish Government about the recent developments in Cyprus, which was conveyed to Your Excellency in my previous letters, is based on information received from reliable sources. Such information has also caused great anxiety among impartial observers in Cyprus.

With regard to the allegation of Archbishop Makarios that Turkey has violated the air space and the territorial waters of Cyprus in contravention of the Security Council resolutions, I have been authorized by my Government to reject categorically such unfounded accusations which are undoubtedly adduced for the purpose of misleading world public opinion. Turkey has always taken great care to observe faithfully the resolutions of the Security Council. In contrast, the Government of Greece and the Greek Cypriot Government have been continuously and wantonly violating these resolutions with their calculated illegal activities, a few examples of which have been cited above.

I wish to confirm once again that the Turkish Government has full confidence in the fact that UNFICYP is doing everything within its power for the preservation of peace on the island, and to reiterate my Government's belief that a long-term solution to the problem of Cyprus can only be one to be attained through peaceful means.

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The Turkish Government takes note of the assurances of Archbishop Makarios to the effect that the Greek Cypriots will not attack the Turkish people of Cyprus, for the sole reason that they have been given to Your Excellency, whom my Government holds in great esteem.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency would kindly have this letter circulated as a Security Council document, and also have it distributed to the members of the General Assembly.

Pleasant accept, etc.

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