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LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In his letter dated 10 February 1965, and addressed to Your Excellency (document S/6183), the representative of Turkey supplies a list of alleged "continuous harassments, humiliation, excessive searches and arbitrary arrests" of Turkish Cypriots by the Government of Cyprus. The Turkish Government having for some time now been practising distortion of the truth as a matter of custom (not to say anything of its vested interest in promoting tension and strife), few will be surprised to learn that each and every one of the instances offered by Ambassador Eralp in support of his accusations has no basis in fact.

Consequently, in order to set the record straight, I wish to furnish here below a juxtaposition of Turkish false allegations and what did indeed happen:

Turkish Allegations

True Facts

2 February 1965 -

Greek Cypriots cut off pipes supplying drinking water to Turkish village of Kurutepe.

Drinking water pipe of Kurutepe village was damaged by sliding rock accidentally moved by work carried out by Forest Service for the opening of a new road; repair team dispatched by the Water Department undertook to reinstate supply.

Week of 1 February -

Faik Salih, Secretary of Co-operative of Timi village, arbitrarily arrested on his way to Paphos; valuable documents in his possession confiscated.

Faik Salih was never arrested. He was simply summoned to the police station to make a deposition on his having illegally used Turkish Community Chamber fee stamps on a promissory note. Following the making of his deposition he was allowed to leave the police station, never having been held in custody.

Turkish Allegations

True Facts

Mixed village of Peristerona -

Minaret of mosque was destroyed and windows of all Turkish houses were removed.

Minaret of mosque in Peristerona village has suffered no damage whatsoever. Turkish properties in village are intact and in the state in which they were abandoned by their owners several months ago.

Moreover, in his letter of 10 February 1965, addressed to Your Excellency (document S/6182), Mr. Eralp reproduces a cable allegedly sent by Mr. Shemsi Kiazim, a Turkish Cypriot spokesman, in which, inter alia, it is contended that the Government of Cyprus refused to allow clearance of 5,503 pairs of boots and ten tons of soap from Turkey ostensibly destined for use by the Turkish Cypriots. What the cable does not reveal is that the footwear in question was suited and intended for military use by rebel fighters. The authorities could not, therefore, permit its delivery. In respect of the soap, my delegation has been officially informed that the quantities mentioned in Mr. Kiazim's communication are far in excess of what the Turkish Cypriots had applied for in the unloading permit and manifest approved by the Government for duty-free importation. To insist now on taking delivery of a tonnage of soap going far beyond that which was originally requested actually amounts to a clumsy attempt to evade the customs laws and to avoid the payment of the prescribed duty.

As to the "argument" that distribution of the boots to Turkish Cypriot civilians by the UNFICYP would "dispel the fears" that the footwear would be used by the rebels, one is impelled to remark that the Turkish Cypriot rebels are not known to shirk from commandeering or confiscating anything they feel they need from their unhappy victims, whom they keep in conditions of virtual imprisonment and abject misery.

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
