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LETTER DATED 8 JULY 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is hardly possible not to express indignation and amazement at the cynicism with which the Greek Cypriot Representative to the United Nations endeavours, in his letter dated 1 July 1965 (S/6493), to gloss over a new and very serious breach perpetrated by his administration against the human and constitutional rights of the Turkish Cypriots.

Ambassador Rossides' letter under reference purports to reply to a communication addressed to the Secretary-General by Dr. Kucuk, Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus (S/6486), regarding the latest "inhuman, arbitrary and unlawful act of the Greek Cypriot leadership" under which Turkish Cypriot students over the age of fifteen have been prohibited to return to Cyprus in order to spend their summer vacations with their families. The leader of the Turkish Cypriot community has appealed to Your Excellency to use your good offices in order "to prevent this human suffering caused out of sheer spite by the Greek Cypriot leadership" against their Turkish compatriots.

This arbitrary restriction imposed on those citizens of the Republic of Cyprus who are of Turkish origin by the present Greek Cypriot usurper administration is not only in direct contravention of article 14 of the Constitution of Cyprus which stipulates that "no citizen shall be banished or excluded from the Republic under any circumstances", but it also contemptuously disregards article 13 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which sets forth that "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country".

Ambassador Rossides states in his letter that the Greek Cypriot administration cannot permit the return to the island of "male persons" from Turkey. People included in this category are of course bona fide citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, holding valid Cypriot passports who have gone to Turkey, before the treacherous Greek Cypriot offensive of December 1963 against the Turkish community,

for higher education which is not available to them in the island. The student status of these people can easily be ascertained from the documents in their possession. So could their departure from the island at the end of the school holidays. In addition, the supervision of UNFICYP could have readily been secured in making sure that the students did not indulge in alleged harmful activities. However, these are things that one would expect of people imbued with a sense of responsibility, justice and goodwill. The Greek Cypriot leadership whose avowed aim is to eliminate the Turkish Cypriot community, which is the principal obstacle in the way of annexing the island to Greece, would not, as has been witnessed on several occasions in the past, feel any compunction in exploiting every opportunity in order to press their policy of attrition against the Turks of the island. This negative attitude of the Greek Cypriots, this obdurate refusal on their part to make use of the facilities and services of the UNFICYP whenever it does not serve their political purposes, this indiscriminate resort to unilateral and arbitrary measures, is the main reason for the continuation and periodic intensification of tension on the island.

It is our earnest hope that the conscience of the civilized world will not fail to condemn this inhuman Greek Cypriot mentality which seeks to deny the most elementary human need of uniting the son with his family and that the Greek Cypriot leadership who chose to perpetrate this nefarious crime under the guise of an administrative measure will be ultimately foiled in their unspeakable attempts.

Originally, the Greek Cypriot administration had unilaterally forbidden the return of all Turkish Cypriot students over fifteen years of age to the island, irrespective of their sex and the country in which they were pursuing their studies. Thanks to UNFICYP intervention and other factors, part of this illegal restriction has now been lifted in respect of girl students and of those travelling from countries other than Turkey. Nevertheless, this relative relaxation of an illegal measure cannot give the remainder any validity. The Greek Cypriot administration cannot relieve itself of responsibility by taking one step backward while it had earlier taken two steps into illegality. We feel justified to expect that UNFICYP will not refrain from exerting its full authority for the abolishment of this inhuman and illegal banishment of Turkish Cypriot students from their homeland.

The Greek Cypriots have been alleging that the return to the island of Turkish Cypriot students, whose number is in the neighbourhood of 150, for summer

vacations, might endanger the security of Cyprus. Ambassador Rossides has even gone to the extent of taking the opportunity to vilify the Turkish Government by contending that these students have been indoctrinated and trained in Turkey. This, of course, is sheer nonsense. It is, at the same time, difficult to understand how 150 students, even if it were assumed that they were trained in military methods which they are not, can possibly affect the infinitely superior military position of the Greek Cypriots. As exposed in paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report dated 10 June 1965 (S/6426), the Greek Cypriots have built up an army of at least 16,000 men with a substantial striking power of armour and heavy weapons, excluding their so-called armed police force and militia and the more than 5,000 Greek mainland troops surreptitiously imported into the island in open defiance of the 4 March resolution of the Security Council. Considered in the light of this information, the absurdity of this Greek Cypriot allegation becomes self-evident. It should not, therefore, mislead anybody, least of all the UNFICYP on whom the function of putting an end to this illegal Greek Cypriot measure devolves first and foremost.

It would be appropriate to observe here that while the Greek Cypriot administration is trying, inhumanely and unconstitutionally, to keep the Turkish Cypriot students forcibly apart from their families, 280 Greek Cypriot students studying in Greece, who are exactly in the same status as the Turkish Cypriot students, have returned to Cyprus on 30 June 1965.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

Please accept, etc.

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