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LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1964 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit enclosed a letter addressed to Your Excellency
by Mr. Rauf Denktaş, President of the Turkish Communal Chamber of Cyprus.

I will appreciate if this letter is circulated as a document of the
Security Council.

Please accept, etc.,

(Signed) Vahap ASIRÇGLU
Acting Permanent Representative
of Turkey to the United Nations

New York, 5 March 1964

His Excellency
Mr. Liu Chieh
President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York

Excellency,

I have read the letters of Mr. Zenon Rossidis dated 27 February and 3 March 1964 contained in document Nos. S/5566 and S/5573 respectively and my views that the Greek Cypriot side is trying to use the United Nations and its principles as a means to achieving their illegal and unconstitutional ends have been fully confirmed. It is regrettable that Mr. Zenon Rossidis, whose attempts to twist the facts and distort the truth have been exposed again and again should be allowed to continue to mislead an august body like the Security Council without any fear of any consequences.

Mr. Rossidis says "The voice, the Council has heard from Mr. Denktas was not the voice of the Turkish Cypriots..." This, I take as an admission by Mr. Rossidis that there is a Turkish voice in Cyprus entitled to speak differently from the Greek voice which Mr. Kyprianou and he himself tried to represent before the Council. The validity of this Turkish voice can only be decided upon the Constitution of Cyprus. That voice is the voice of the Turkish Vice President, his Turkish Ministers and the Turkish Communal Chamber. I had a full mandate from the Vice President and his Ministers and I am the President of the Turkish Communal Chamber.

Under these circumstances Mr. Rossidis cannot by a stroke of the pen and a stretch of his imagination argue that I do not represent the Turkish point of view. It is because all Turks in Cyprus felt, thought and acted as one that the atrocious Greek plan to wipe us out with a single stroke failed.

Mr. Rossidis has tried hard to make capital out of my statement which was to the effect that in Cyprus lived Greeks and Turks and not Cypriots. Mr. Rossidis argued that this statement is an indication of my allegiance to

Turkey and he goes on to argue that "when his country of citizenship is threatened from Turkey with aggression and invasion he sides with the aggressor". This statement may have some value in the twisted mind of Mr. Rossidis but to the initiated observer of Cyprus question it helps to show the kind of mentality with which the Turks find themselves forced to deal in their daily lives.

To the Greeks of Cyprus Greece is their glorious motherland and for attaining the union of Cyprus with their motherland they are entitled to abuse the good offices of the United Nations, to deny the effect of treaties which they solemnly signed, to attack the very foundation of the independence for which they pretend to be concerned and to attack and kill all Turks who denounce Union of Cyprus with Greece. But for Turks of Cyprus to look upon Turkey as their Motherland is a sin. The Greek theme is that Turks must forget Turkey while the Greeks do their utmost to abrogate the agreements and proceed to ENOSIS (union with Greece).

Mr. Rossidis speaks loosely of "aggression and invasion by Turkey" and accuses the Turks of Cyprus for siding with the "aggressor". This childish argument cannot have any effect on the members of the Security Council but nevertheless, for the purpose of correcting the record I wish to state the following: But for the rights of Turkey under the treaty of guarantee to restore law and order and to uphold the Constitution the Greeks of Cyprus would have completely crushed the Turkish element in Cyprus under the false pretext of putting down rebellion by Turks.

I shall not elaborate on the question of majority minority thesis of Mr. Rossidis. The Republic of Cyprus was not brought about by the Greeks of Cyprus. It was brought about by the mutual agreement of Greeks and Turks of Cyprus as equals who agreed to live together according to the rule of Law, i.e. the agreed Constitution of the Republic. The attempt now by Greek Cypriot side to forget all these relevant considerations and to reduce the Turks to the position of a minority under Greek rule is not compatible with human honour and dignity. The attempt to do so by mass killings and the destruction of

property is contrary to all concepts of municipal or international law. However, hard Mr. Rossidis tries to obliterate this dark stain from his community he will not succeed, because the truth is on our side. His allegation that the root of the trouble is the partition policy of the Turks is as false as his allegation that Turks rebelled and took up arms in reply to the proposals of Archbishop Makarios to change the constitution. The assertion that Turkey replied to those proposals before the Turks of Cyprus is equally untrue as the Vice President stated to Mr. Kyprianou, as soon as the proposals were explained to the Vice President that the acceptance of these proposals by the Turks was out of question.

I quoted to the Council lengthy passages from Archbishop Makarios' statement proving that he had never abandoned the idea of Union of Cyprus with Greece. Mr. Rossidis had no reply to these. So he chose to say that these passages "clearly show the President's concern to strengthen and stabilize the Republic of Cyprus". This is another proof of Greek Cypriot ability to twist the truth and to resort to all deceits in order to get their way. The passages I cited are clear indications of what the Archbishop meant and three years experience of the way he treated the Turkish rights is sufficient proof to us of what he intended to do if we did not submit to his rule and if we refuse to abandon our Constitutional rights.

Turks of Cyprus today live a life of siege, of terror and violence. What they have suffered since 21 December 1963 has been aptly reported in the world press. A few quotations will suffice to show the position:

DAILY MAIL 10.1.1964

"... Dr. Lysnarides, a Greek Cypriot M.P. and personal physician to President Makarios, told me tonight that he leads one of the organizations which have been fighting the Turks. This was the first confirmation of reports that about four private armies on the Greek side were engaged in the clash".

NEWS OF THE WORLD 5.1.1964

"...I found other police forces completely taken over by civilian gunmen owing allegiance only to one faction or another of EOKA the Greek Cypriot Terrorist group."

DAILY TELEGRAPH 1.1.1964

"These private armies and irregulars about whose deeds of massacre and shameful violence Mr. Rossidis tried to shift the responsibility, attacked defenceless Turkish women and children under the war cry ENOSIS (Union with Greece) and Archbishop Makarios and his Ministers condoned all these acts by declaring to the world that 'The Security Forces of the Government were dealing with Turkish rebels'."

Another extract from the DAILY TELEGRAPH of 3.1.1964 indicates the position of the country then and now.

"...EOKA the para-military organisation created during the rebellion against British rule is obviously in control of much of the island. Areas through we drove swarm with armed young men who wear no uniforms or carry no badges. They man scores of road blocks and fortified positions. They have at rifle point power of arrest and, presumably, of life and death. They have their own command posts and arms depots. Besides ample supplies of rifles, shotguns and revolvers they have many sub-machine guns. Some have machine guns and two inch mortars. They possess plentiful reserves of hand grenades..."

THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE of 13.1.1964 reported:

"...Greek officials have admitted that irregulars joined police in the fighting, and the activities of former EOKA terrorists with long-standing grudges against Turks are open secret here."

As to Greek intentions THE TIMES OF LONDON on 4.1.1964

"...The Constitution gives Turks numerous political guarantees. These have not prevented bloodshed. They need to be transformed into something more effective, particularly if the President is going to persist in his idea of abrogating the treaties. So far he has given no indication of what greater security he could offer to Turks. Indeed talk of scrapping the treaties has made them more than ever look over their shoulders to Ankara for protection."

THE WASHINGTON POST of 3.1.1964 reports:

"...American sources, however, believe that Makarios has not done all he could to prevent outrages and insure respect for minority rights."

THE SUNDAY TIMES 5.1.1964 reported:

"...ENOSIS though it has been played down in the last few years for the sake of peace and quiet, is far from whether those in power would like to die or not, and the Church has been behind it since Greece herself became independent in 1821.

It was ENOSIS and only ENOSIS that EOKA men fought for. Many of the former EOKA men who have been slugging it out with the Turks during the last two terrible weeks are of the far Cypriot right, looking for Grivas, the former EOKA chief rather than to Makarios as their leader, and with eventual Enosis forefront in their minds. Behind the Turkish fear of Constitutional change, which sparked off the bloody Christmas war, lay the deeper fear of complete Greek domination leading to Enosis. Republic or no republic schools still teach Enosis."

As to the atrocities committed by Greeks against the Turks may I quote DAILY MAIL of 28.12.1963

"...I was allowed to move in the besieged Turkish sector, I was taken to the Kumsal district and trod over shattered glass into a green and white house with orange trees in the garden, and an ownerless black and white cat wandering around. The bathroom of this house was a bloodsoaked shambles with a woman and three small boys lying dead huddled together in the bath, and in an adjoining room another dead woman. My guide said this second woman and her children were the family of a Turkish major and were all shot by Greek Cypriots."

And the terror went on even after the truce:

DAILY MAIL of 3.1.1964

"...The Imam of Cmorphita and his paralysed blind son were found today murdered in their beds in Nicosia. Turks returning to Cmorphita suburb under British escort found 75 year old priest Illseyin Igneci riddled with machine gun bullets."

DAILY HERALD of 1.1.1964

"...And when I came across the Turkish homes they were an appalling sight. Apart from the walls, they just did not exist. I doubt if a napalm bomb attack could have created more devastation. I counted 40 blackened brick and concrete shells that had once been homes. Each house had been deliberately fired by petrol. Under red tile roofs which had caved in, I found a twisted mass of bed springs, children's cots and cribs, and ankle deep gray ashes of what had been chairs, tables, wardrobes.

In the neighboring village of Ayios Vassilios, a mile away I counted 16 wrooked and burned out homes. They were all Turkish. From this village more than 100 turks had also vanished. In neither village did I find a scrap of damage in any Greek house."

NEWS OF THE WORLD 5.1.1964

"...Once there had been Turks there too but I could not discover what had become of them. A couple of hours later I got through more road block to reach the village of Aghios Vassillios and stumbled on a ghastly scene. Apparently 13 Turks of the predominantly Greek community had gathered for safety, as they thought, in a fine modern villa. At once they came under attack. Fire from shotguns, rifles and sub-machine guns and revolvers raked the walls. Finally one of the attackers climbed to the roof, tore away the big red tiles and began pitching hand grenades onto helpless people below. Eleven were instantly killed. The other two, one deaf mute, feigned death managed to crawl away to safety in darkness."

DAILY TELEGRAPH 13.1.1964

"...Two British women with their children were among 20 refugees flown from Nicosia to London today. One, aged 26, was afraid to identify herself because her Turkish husband has stayed behind. She claimed to have seen Greek Police officers shoot at five Turks outside her flat. She said she saw one of the Turks machine gunned as he walked towards the police with his arms raised."

I can quote 150 other passages all supporting the view that the Turks had been attacked mercilessly for the sole purpose of cowing them down and forcing them to accept the position of minority in Cyprus.

Mr. Rossides will never see the light of truth because if he does he will have to resign his post, which he is holding unconstitutionally anyway, and refuse to serve an Archbishop who has used murder and violence as a means of political expedience.

The New York Herald Tribune of today gives a grim story of the way Turks live under Greek siege in Cyprus. Not a single Greek has been arrested by the so-called Security forces of the Republic for these atrocities.

These gentlemen now interpret the resolution of the Security Council as giving them the right to use the International Peace-keeping Force to help the Greek terrorists, who have now been put under uniform illegally and unconstitutionally, to finish the Turks as rebels against the State. Our

sincere hope and belief is that the Secretary-General will not issue instructions to these forces which will help Greeks to continue in their atrocities against the Turks under the umbrella of the United Nations.

Rauf Denktaş
President
Turkish Communal Chamber
Nicosia, Cyprus

