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LETTER DATED 14 MARCH 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to refer to the letter dated 13 March 1964 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Representative of Turkey, and the annex thereto, which was circulated as a Security Council document (S/5596).

In this connexion, I have the honour to state that the unfounded allegations and assertions contained in that letter have been fully dealt with and disposed of both as regards the facts and as regards the legal aspects thereof, on a number of occasions and most recently during the Security Council emergency meeting of 13 March (S/PV.1103). Consequently it would be unnecessary to burden the Security Council with any further refutations of what has already been amply refuted.

I would simply wish to give the text of the note of my Government in reply to the Turkish note of 12 March 1964.

"The note which the Turkish Government delivered today, 13 March 1964, is unacceptable on the grounds that it constitutes a further untenable interference in the internal affairs of Cyprus and that its tone and contents are objectionable and the mode of its delivery discourteous. With regard to the manner of delivery and mode of addressing the note, it should be observed, that, though the Ambassador of Turkey is accredited to the Head of State, nevertheless the note, contrary to the well-established practice, is addressed neither to the Head of State nor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The note contains totally unfounded allegations regarding the intentions and acts of the Government of the Republic and regarding the true facts of the situation and events in Cyprus.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has never had as one of its objects the use of violence against any of its citizens irrespective of race,

creed or religion. It, therefore, had no intention of employing such methods at any time, nor did it misconstrue the purpose which is very clearly stated in the resolution of the United Nations. The main concern of the Government of the Republic is to maintain law and order and, being a responsible Government, it realizes that this responsibility must be carried out with the maximum restraint and, where force is necessary, by the use of the minimum possible force. The loss of lives which has resulted from fighting is very much regretted. These losses are fortunately not as heavy as have been reported in the Press from time to time.

The regrettable truth is that the Turkish leadership in Cyprus, in an effort to provide for armed intervention by Turkey before the arrival of the United Nations force and to create a fait accompli which would serve its political aims of partition or federation, has been creating incidents in various parts of Cyprus. The most flagrant example recently has been the firing on unarmed and innocent Greeks, mostly women and six children, who were unsuspectingly shopping in the market place at Ktima on Saturday, 7 March, causing the death and wounding of many Greek civilians and the taking of over 200 Greek civilians as hostages, whilst Greek property was under continuous fire from Turkish strongholds including minarets. Another similar recent incident was that which occurred at Mallia.

The Turks have resorted to such acts of violence, apparently encouraged by repeated threats of armed intervention by the Turkish Government. Such repeated threats, and especially the note delivered today, result in a marked heightening of tension and in bringing about a serious deterioration of the situation.

The actions of the Government of Cyprus which, as the Security Council resolution has clearly reaffirmed, has the responsibility of restoring and maintaining law and order, have been in discharge of this primary responsibility of protecting life and property by repulsing such sudden and unprovoked armed attacks of the Turks against law-abiding and peaceful citizens and their property.

It has never been, nor is it, the intention of the Government of the Republic to attack or encourage or suffer any attack against the Turks of Cyprus, but, on the other hand, the Government cannot shirk its duty to protect the life and property of the people of Cyprus as a whole against any wanton attack. No assaults or other acts such as those alleged in the note are being committed, no sieges exist, no hostages are kept, nothing is known about the fate of persons alleged to be missing though endeavours for their tracing are still continuing and no question of cease-fire arises as no firing is taking place anywhere in Cyprus at present. In the places where firing has taken place the cease-fire is now being preserved and the Government will do its utmost to see that it continues to be preserved. If the Turks break the cease-fire the responsibility will lie with them. Every effort is being made to secure the freedom of communications.

No right to take unilateral action, as suggested in the note, is conferred upon Turkey by the Treaty of Guarantee of 16 August 1960, and the threat of such action is not only unwarranted and baseless but is made in disregard of the resolution of the Security Council and constitutes an action or a threat of action likely to worsen the situation in the sovereign Republic of Cyprus and endanger international peace.

It would be much more constructive and would better serve the cause of peace in Cyprus and internationally, if the Turkish Government, instead of resorting to threats of intervention, were to appeal to the Turkish leadership in Cyprus to refrain from any further acts of violence, from obstructing freedom of movement and restoration of communications and from hampering the return to normality. Such an appeal has never been made by the Turkish Government."

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

