



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/5688
7 May 1964

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 MAY 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

..... I have the honour to enclose herewith, for the information of the
members of the Security Council, a copy of my letter addressed to
His Excellency U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Your Excellency is kindly requested to have this letter circulated as a
document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, etc.,

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES
Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the
United Nations

Ref. 108.3

7 May 1964

Excellency,

The letter of the Turkish representative, dated 29 April 1964 and addressed to the Secretary-General (document S/5672), demonstrates the unfair advantage that the Turkish Government takes of misapprehensions created by misleading information. Thus Mr. Eralp, in his letter, referring to the operation in the Kyrenia Mountains, speaks also of firing by Greek Cypriot forces on "innocent inhabitants of the villages" in that area. This statement is wholly untrue. No attack upon other than combatant rebels and terrorists was involved. An official statement by the UNFICYP information service makes clear that the United Nations had received no report of any firing against the villagers, and that no United Nations spokesman issued such report. This statement proved that a news dispatch alleging such shooting was unfounded.

The above is one of many examples of inaccurate or incomplete information transmitted here and then taken as basis for anti-Cypriot propaganda.

Once cleared of this deliberate misrepresentation, the military action by the Security Forces against Turkish rebels and terrorists at St. Hilarion should be seen in its true light, that of an essentially legitimate and proper operation to restore normality, since peaceful efforts toward that end had failed, owing to Turkish intransigence.

In this connexion, one should not lose sight of the fact that the present situation in Cyprus is in essence an armed rebellion against the Republic and the Government. Intercommunal fighting came as an inevitable sequel of such rebellion. From the very start, the rebellion was supported by the Turkish Cypriot Ministers, headed by Dr. Kutchuk (who declared that he was no longer Vice-President), all of whom immediately, i.e. on 23 December 1963, withdrew from the Government and refused to attend all meetings of the Council of Ministers although duly summoned thereto, in a vain effort to prevent the Government from functioning and cause the disruption of the State. The fact that they have

His Excellency
U Thant
Secretary-General
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New York N.Y.

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deliberately placed themselves outside the Government is also evidenced by their statements at the time as well as by an article appearing in a recent issue of the Turkish political journal Akis, whose editor is Mr. Toker, son-in-law of the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Incnu. The article says: "The present leaders of the Turkish element of Cyprus have made a big mistake by withdrawing from the Government of the Island".

In the course of the Turkish Cypriot rebellion, rebels proceeded unlawfully to occupy the castle of St. Hilarion and its vicinity and to set up firing posts and gun emplacements. For a considerable period, these rebels, in addition to their armed defiance of the legal forces of the Government, have been committing acts of murder and terrorism against the civilian population of the region.

Specifically they had:

- (a) Fired intermittently upon the main Nicosia-Kyrenia road, thus blocking traffic and seriously impeding trade, with adverse economic effects.
- (b) Moved to positions from which, should they have been allowed to advance any further, they would be able to cut off the roundabout but indispensable Nicosia-Myrtou-Kyrenia road, thus controlling the only other remaining communications artery between the capital and Kyrenia.
- (c) Terrorized the inhabitants of neighbouring villages, such as Dhikomo and Karmi (AP dispatch dated 15 April 1964). In this latter village, the pupils of the primary school were fired upon in the afternoon of 14 April and on other dates, by the Turkish terrorists while returning to their homes. In general, the villagers were prevented from cultivating their fields, grazing their livestock, and engaging in their other normal pursuits - acts of constant harassment which threatened to bring about complete economic paralysis.
- (d) Maintained military strongposts and proceeded with the construction of an illegal airstrip in order to facilitate aggression and invasion of Cyprus from the north, as well as the illicit importation and delivery of arms.

The above activities constitute an attack against law and order and a serious threat to the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. They were, furthermore, a direct violation of the spirit and letter of the resolution of the Security Council (S/5575) and of the purpose of the UNFICYP

whose main function, according to paragraph 5 of the resolution, should be "to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions".

In its efforts to attain the above purpose, the UNFICYP envisaged the removal of fortifications held by both the Security Forces and the Turkish rebels in order to ensure the prevalence of law and to normalize the situation as much as possible without fighting. To achieve this end, the United Nations Commander, General Gyani, made a start by proposing the elimination by both sides of all fortifications in an area of one square mile in Nicosia. On 19 April 1964, an agreement to this effect was reached among President Makarios, General Gyani and Dr. Kutchuk, fixing 21 April 1964 as the date of implementation thereof. However, on 20 April 1964, Dr. Kutchuk, reneging, rejected the formal letter of confirmation of the agreement sent by General Gyani.

In an endeavour to facilitate the pacification task of the UNFICYP, President Makarios subsequently offered general amnesty for all, so that there would be no fear of anyone being subjected to prosecution for past criminal or subversive acts, and declared his readiness to dismantle all fortifications made necessary by the rebellion of the Turkish Cypriots, on condition that the latter do the same. Regrettably, the President's proposals were summarily and unreasonably rejected by the Turkish side. This second rejection made it abundantly clear that the Turkish Cypriot extremists do not wish pacification and that their purpose is to keep up the strife in Cyprus, so that the sinister and hopeless idea of partition, springing from division and conflict, might be kept alive.

It is evident from the preceding that the UNFICYP Commander and the President had done all they could in the direction of trying to bring about the return of peace without resort to force. Their efforts however were met all along with the persistent and stubborn opposition of the Turkish terrorists and their uncompromising leadership.

In this situation, the Security Forces felt it incumbent upon them to undertake a limited operation against the rebels and terrorists at the castle of St. Hilarion and its environs, in order to relieve communications and the people of the area from the danger that they posed. It should be noted that the castle

is an ancient monument, and as such, together with the surrounding territory State property. It is uninhabited, apart from the presence of the terrorists and rebels, and therefore no question of endangering the lives of any civilians was involved. The legitimate objectives of the operation conducted by the Security Forces were the following:

- (a) To protect communication between Nicosia and Kyrenia through the Myrtou road which, though longer and secondary, is now vital in consequence of its being the only open one.
- (b) To enable the villagers of the area, be they children or adults, to resume their daily work and activities without fear of becoming the targets of sniping emanating from terrorist posts.
- (c) To contribute to freedom of communication and transportation (a goal strongly upheld by the United Nations) by removing the threat of shooting at people and vehicles using the Nicosia-Kyrenia road.

It should therefore be emphasized that it is the existence of the terrorists in the Kyrenia mountain range which constitutes a "brutal challenge" against the United Nations and peace, and not the effort to neutralize that challenge. The objective of the removal of a menace to freedom of communications and of a hinderance to normality, is one of the responsibilities of the Government of Cyprus, as well as one of the main functions of the UNFICYP, so that its mission may succeed.

Your Excellency is kindly requested to have this letter circulated to all Member States.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES
Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the
United Nations

