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LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to the letter addressed to Your Excellency by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus on 27 July 1964, and circulated as document No. S/5835 of the same date, I have the honour to supply hereunder the text of a Note recently delivered by the Turkish Embassy in Nicosia to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus:

"The Turkish Embassy upon instructions from its Government brings the following to the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus:

"The Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 24 July 1964, by attempting to accuse Turkey of action against international law and the United Nations Security Council resolutions, constitutes another example of gross distortion of facts by trying to abuse certain statements of His Excellency Cemal Gürsel, President of the Republic of Turkey, out of their real contexts.

"The world public opinion is by now fully aware that in Cyprus those who have violated and outraged international law and Security Council resolutions together with all legal, humanitarian and moral principles down to most elementary ones are but the Greek Cypriot leaders themselves.

"In a short period of time, all the crimes described as 'crimes against humanity' and international agreements have been and are still being perpetrated systematically in Cyprus by one part of the island's population against the other.

"The Turks who constitute one of the peoples of the Republic of Cyprus have been subjected by the other component of the population, the Greeks, to mass murder without discrimination for women, children and old people. They have been kidnapped and slaughtered, their houses were burned down, their property destroyed and themselves expelled from their homelands. Those Turkish villages which could not be destroyed have been besieged and the Turkish population, through various means was condemned to starvation and misery. Furthermore indescribable difficulties have been created to obstruct the humanitarian help extended by the Red Crescent and by the international Red Cross to these unfortunate people.

"All international legal documents which gave birth to the Republic of Cyprus, first and foremost the very Constitution of the Republic, were grossly violated at the expense of Turks to deprive them of their rights, and thus an administration basing itself not on law but on brutal force has been introduced into the island.

"Only the Turks remain today an 'innocent civilian population' in Cyprus. The Greeks on the other hand have been illegally acting in utter disregard of international agreements and the Security Council resolutions. It should not be forgotten that those crimes committed against the Turkish community on the Island are international crimes punishable by the Convention of Genocide. If the responsables of these crimes can take refuge in the present loopholes of international law, this will neither change the nature and the consequences of their crimes nor alter the condemnation of international public conscience.

"All these facts are recorded by international authorities and observers and the Note of the Cyprus Government, containing unfounded accusations, is yet another attempt to divert from itself the condemnation of the civilized world elsewhere. The Government of the Republic of Turkey having found this document of distortion unacceptable returns it herewith."

In connexion with the exchange of Notes mentioned above, I would like to point out that the term "manifestations of a nineteenth century diplomacy of force" so unhappily employed by Ambassador Rossides in his letter could in no way depict the policy of the Government of the Republic of Turkey which has always conformed to international law and ethics, to international agreements and to the United Nations Charter.

The rights of the Turkish Community in Cyprus and of the Turkish Republic with respect to Cyprus do not emanate from the nineteenth century but from certain solemn international agreements concluded only four years ago, in compliance with a unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted in 1958 as a result of painstaking debate in four consecutive sessions. These agreements were peacefully negotiated for a year and a half among all parties concerned, were signed in 1960 without any reservations and were registered with the United Nations. The present forlorn efforts of Ambassador Rossides are clearly intended to confuse and misguide the membership of the United Nations which has already passed judgement on the issue in 1958.

It might be useful in this context to quote hereunder the statements made by Archbishop Makarios at London in 1959 in connexion with the initialling and signing of the Agreements in question:

"This is a great day, Mr. Chairman, in that positiveness of unity and co-operation has prevailed over the negativeness of division and strife. It marks the beginning of a new chapter for Cyprus, both in the relations of its people with the people of the United Kingdom as well as in those between the Greeks and Turks in Cyprus. Yesterday I had certain reservations. In overcoming these I have done so in a spirit of trust and goodwill towards the Turkish community and its leaders. It is my firm belief that with sincere understanding and mutual confidence we can work together in a way that will leave no room for dissension about any written provisions and guarantees. It is the spirit in the heart of men that counts most. I am sure that all past differences will be completely forgotten. They are already a thing of the past. At this closing meeting of the Conference I wish to express my cordial thanks to Her Majesty's Government and to the Governments of Greece and Turkey for the spirit of co-operation that animated their work for the settlement of this problem. I can assure this Conference that the same spirit will animate our thoughts and actions. I do not under-rate the great difficulties that had to be overcome. The essential outcome of the Conference is the new spirit of unity and co-operation that had so effectively replaced that of division and strife. A new era, I firmly believe, opens up today for the people of Cyprus, an era of peace, freedom and prosperity. The two communities working closely together with God's guidance will, I have no doubt, be able to develop the welfare of the Island to their common benefit.

"Archbishop Makarios representing the Greek Cypriot community, having examined the documents concerning the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus drawn up and approved by the Heads of the Governments of Greece and Turkey in Zurich on 11 February 1959, and the declarations made by the Government of the United Kingdom and by the Foreign Ministers of Greece and Turkey on 17 February 1959, declares that he accepts the documents and declarations as the agreed foundation for the final settlement of the problem of Cyprus."

If there were no mental reserves hidden in these statements, one would wonder: The diplomacy of which century is being pursued in the unwarranted and unlawful attempt to denounce and to disavow those Agreements?

The Greeks of Cyprus have not only trampled upon solemn international undertaking but have also violated and continue to violate the most elementary principles of humane and charitable behaviour. The most recent instance of this was their refusal, in the face of repeated demands by the International Red Cross and the United Nations authorities, to release to the 30,000 needy Turkish Cypriot refugees in Cyprus, including women, children and aged persons, the relief supplies sent by the Turkish Red Crescent to meet their daily needs, thus attempting to destroy these innocent people through starvation.

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It seems hardly proper that the Representative of an Administration which plays havoc with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the resolutions of the Security Council should exploit the organs of the United Nations in order to serve unwarranted indictments on a Member country. The Members of the United Nations will doubtless draw their own conclusions as to the good faith of such allegations.

I shall be obliged if you would be so kind as to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

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

