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LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to a letter of this Mission dated 13 May, 1965 (S/6557), enclosing the text of a message addressed to Your Excellency by Dr. F. Kuchuk, Vice-President of Cyprus, in connexion with the unconstitutional measure of dismissal taken by the illegal Greek Cypriot Administration in the case of Mr. Irfan Suleiman, Turkish-Cypriot Director General of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance of Cyprus.

In response to the notification served upon Mr. Suleiman about this illegal measure, he has submitted a petition to the Public Service Commission, copies of which, I understand, were also sent by him to Your Excellency, to the Foreign Ministers of the three Guarantor Powers - the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey -, to the Council of Europe and to the Director General of the International Labour Organisation.

In view of the revealing nature of Mr. Suleiman's submission, I find it useful to reproduce below its full text for the benefit of the members of the Security Council:

"Chairman, Public Service Commission  
Nicosia, Cyprus

12 May 1965

"Dear Sir,

"1. Received your letter on 3 May 1965, in which you inform me that your Commission has decided to dismiss me from the service (from the post of Director-General, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance of Cyprus) as from 1 January 1964, for being absent from duty without leave or justification. As you well know thousands of Turkish Civil Service employees, including myself, have not been able to attend their duties in the Greek sectors of the island since the outbreak of the troubles in December 1963, for reasons of lack of security. Now, after sixteen months, to single me out and take the decision which you have taken for the reason that I have not been able to attend my office, is only a pretext to disguise your actual reasons. I put to you that the actual reasons which prompted your action are the following:

"(a) On or about 16 March, when the Cyprus question was being discussed at the Security Council of the United Nations, your Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kyprianou, in the zeal of defaming the Turkish leadership, made certain unfounded allegations mixing my name. When I learned about it next morning, for the sake of truth and in order to put your Minister right, I sent a telegram to U Thant, the Secretary-General, with copies to all members of the Security Council, refuting the Greek Cypriot delegation's allegations. On 17 or 18 March, when my telegram was read out at the Security Council meeting, the Greek Cypriot delegation must have felt a great embarrassment.

"(b) On 23 March 1965, at about 7.30 p.m., Mr. Constantinides, the Assistant Secretary of the Cyprus Ministry of Labour, now on leave in London, visited me for the first time at my London address and stayed with me for about two hours. He spoke to me about the discussion on Cyprus at the Security Council during the previous week and the telegram which I had sent. He suggested to me that I should assist the Greek cause for Cyprus and that the Greek leadership in turn would be prepared to grant me pension and other benefits for my twenty-seven years' government service in Cyprus. I rejected his proposal. Before he left me that evening he repeated twice his proposal without success.

"I have no doubt that Mr. Constantinides had approached me on instructions from above. I presume that when my refusal was conveyed to the Greek Cypriot leadership they did not like it.

"(c) On 23 April 1965, the Greek Cypriot High Commissioner in London, Mr. Soteriades, sent me a note asking me to meet him in order to discuss a personal matter. On 26 April, at 4 p.m. I called at his office and our meeting lasted for one hour and fifteen minutes. Mr. Soteriades told me that he contacted me as a result of a letter which he received from the Government of Cyprus. During the meeting he spoke to me about the present situation after the Plaza report, the refusal of the Turkish Cypriot leadership to start talks on the rights of the Turkish minority, the possibility of finding other Cypriot Turks who would be prepared to start talks on Greek conditions, the intention of the Greek Cypriot leadership to include a number of suitable Cypriot Turks in their list of candidates for the forthcoming elections for the House of Representatives in Cyprus. All his hints were in fact a sounding that the Greek leaders would like me to be one such person.

"In reply I told Mr. Soteriades that the Greek conditions do not provide a basis for the Turks to start talks with the Greek side. Furthermore, the Greek policy of trying to bypass the elected Turkish Cypriot leadership and search for individuals, is both ill-advised and ill-considered.

"Obviously Mr. Soteriades was not pleased with the outcome.

"2. It is crystal clear that after the above three events, the Greek Cypriot leadership wanted to penalize me. Under their directions your Commission (composed only of Greek members) met and, applying the principles of Greek democracy, justice and respect for human rights, took the manly decision of dismissing me from the service.

"3. In conclusion, I wish to inform you that I do not accept the decision taken by your Commission as the body of which you are the Chairman and the decisions are unconstitutional. The methods used are immoral.

Yours sincerely,

Irfan Suleiman"

As an epilogue to this petition, Mr. I. Suleiman has added the following to the copies he sent to Your Excellency and to the other authorities enumerated above:

"This is a most vivid proof of what the Turkish Cypriots may expect if, God forbid, they are ever left to the mercy of Greek domination."

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency would kindly have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

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

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