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LETTER DATED 13 JUNE 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council the grave situation created by recent events in Cyprus. This situation and its international implications are endangering peace and security in the Eastern Mediterranean. A memorandum, containing a factual account based on authoritative and other reliable information, is attached to this letter.

In the light of the deplorable events occurring in Cyprus and of the policies and actions of the Turkish Government in the present instance, I wish to stress the following points:

1. The wanton attacks launched against the life, honour and property of the Greek population of the island by the Turkish minority constitute a premeditated and thoroughly planned aggression with a view to create a situation favourable to the promotion of the aims and ambitions of the Turkish Government in Cyprus. There has never been communal strife in Cyprus between the Greek population and the Turkish minority. For centuries Greeks and Turks lived together in peace and harmony.

In recent years the Cyprians though struggling for self-determination against British colonial rule, have carefully avoided to do any harm to the Turkish minority. In this sense it is also significant to note that, even in the present tragic instance, the Greek population refrained, so far, from retaliating against the Turks in spite of the tremendous losses in life and property it suffered. The sudden eruption of violence and hatred has been artificially created by the Turkish Government and its agents in order to serve nationalist Turkish political aims.

It is now evident that the Turkish Government, realizing that their aim to "partition" the island, lacking in legal and moral grounds, could not be achieved by lawful means and methods, decided to impose it by force both in Cyprus as well as on the international level. To this end Turkish violence in Cyprus was unleashed while Turkish Government officials of the highest level threatened on many occasions direct intervention by Turkish military forces.

This challenge, which has already cost the life of so many innocent victims in Cyprus, constitutes a direct threat to peace and freedom.

2. In this connexion, it would be appropriate for the members of the Council to bear in mind that while the Turks started attacking the Greek population in Cyprus, mass demonstrations were organized in Istanbul and a few days later in Ankara, attended by inflamed and fanatic crowds shouting threats against Greece and the Cyprians.

It is ominous and disquieting to recall that in September 1955 similar Turkish action led to the savage riots directed against the Greek minority in Istanbul. These riots, which gave rise to the indignation of the civilized world, brought Greco-Turkish relations under considerable strain.

It should be stressed that in Greece, neither at that time nor now, has any Turk in Thrace or the Dodecanese been killed or even molested.

3. It is regrettable that the British authorities in Cyprus have not been able to prevent the attacks nor protect the Greek population of the island against the Turkish aggressors. It has been reported that there was collusion between the British security forces and the Turkish attackers. We do not intend to formulate such accusations. It is, however, a fact that the British authorities by their belated intervention and their inadequate action made a very poor show of their ability to maintain order and to safeguard the life and property of the Greek Cyprians. This is abundantly proven by the number of the Greek victims, which is so high, and by the arson and looting, perpetrated by the Turkish mobs in a more or less undisturbed manner.

This sad situation may to a certain extent be attributed to the fact that the auxiliary police, composed of Turks, was used by the British Authorities. But whatever the true reasons are, the responsibility falls entirely upon the British Administration. Such a responsibility constitutes, under the Charter a sacred trust as well as an international obligation insuring the life and destiny of a people living in a non-self-governing territory.

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4. In conclusion, I must say that the situation created by these Turkish actions and threats and by the British omission and inefficiency is very grave. It constitutes a challenge to the democratic principles of our times and it is seriously endangering the maintenance of peace and of international security. It deserves the close attention of the Security Council. My Government in discharging its responsibility under the Charter reserves the right to take what further action the course of events may call for.

This induces me to ask you to circulate the text of this letter and of its attached Memorandum to the Members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

I avail myself of this opportunity, etc.

(Signed) Christian X. Palamas
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece to
the United Nations

MEMORANDUM

1. Mr. Raouf Dektas, one of the leaders of the Turkish minority in Cyprus, recently visited Istanbul upon the invitation of the Turkish Prime Minister. While in Turkey, he conferred with Turkish officials, including the Minister of Defense and the Assistant Chief of the General Staff.

On his return to Cyprus, he made a violent speech against the Greek Cyprians. Inter alia, he declared that the Turkish Cyprians will engage in an armed fight for "partition" and that no one would stop the Turkish Government from sending them assistance.

2. A few hours later, during the night of 7 to 8 June, thousands of Turkish Cyprians, shouting "partition or death", attacked the Greek Cyprians in Nicosia, capital of Cyprus, following information that a bomb had exploded outside the Turkish Information Office in that city.

The Turkish rioters killed three Greek Cyprians and injured seriously a considerable number of them. The rioters burnt down a Greek Cyprian athletic club, stoned cars and attacked motorists.

This campaign of killing and destruction carried out by thousands of rioters, broke out fifteen minutes only after the explosion.

3. In this connexion it is significant to note that the anti-Greek planned Turkish riots in Istanbul and Ismir, in September 1955, broke out upon the arrival of the news that a bomb had exploded outside the Turkish Consulate General in Salonica. At a trial that followed this incident it was established that the bomb had been placed at the Turkish Consulate General by one of its own clerks, a Turk.
4. Later during the day of 8 June, Turkish riots broke out in the town of Larnaca also. The Turkish Cyprians ripped into the Greek Cyprians equipped with guns and knives. Two Greek Cyprians were killed and two seriously wounded.

While the Turkish Cyprians were rioting in Cyprus a "Cyprus-is-Turkish" mass meeting of over 100,000 Turks took place in Istanbul, with violent anti-Greek speeches and criticism against British policy.

5. A spokesman for the British Administration in Cyprus states that there seemed to be no doubt that the rioting had been planned in advance by the Turkish Cyprians.

The same comment on the planning of the riots was also transmitted by the B.B.C.

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All the correspondents of British newspapers in Cyprus, including those of the London Times and the Daily Telegraph underlined the fact that the attack of the Turkish against the Greek Cyprians had been planned in advance.

The Yorkshire Post in its issue of 10 June wrote that there seemed to be no doubt that both the riots in Cyprus and the demonstrations in Istanbul had received official Turkish encouragement.

6. Crowds of Turkish rioters continued their attacks on 9 June when they gathered in the old section of Nicosia and tried to prevent Greek Cyprians from shopping.

With that day's rioting the number of the wounded rose to over ninety, over eighty of which were Greek Cyprians. Considerable Greek Cyprian property was destroyed.

7. On 10 June crowds of Turkish Cyprians continued their attacks on the municipal market of Nicosia in what has been described by correspondents on the spot as "an orgy of looting".

Attacks against Greek Cyprians continued in other parts of the island.

8. On 11 June one more Greek Cyprian was shot to death in Nicosia while more were wounded in riots in the town of Limassal. A crowd of Greek Cyprians who attempted to go to the rescue of their fellow-townsmen under attack were halted by the all-Turkish Auxiliary Police. This resulted in fighting.

The day was also one of arson. Turkish Cyprians set fire to stores of Greek Cyprians and then stoned the men of the fire-brigade. Among the buildings burned is also the ancient church of Agios Loukas.

9. On 12 June two more Greek Cyprians were killed and three wounded near Nicosia. A Turkish Cyprian on a motorcycle was reported to have opened fire on the Greek with a machine-gun.

During that day, entire families of Greek Cyprians living in predominantly Turkish quarters were forced by the Turkish Cyprians to leave within twenty-four hours. This went on in many communities, including Famagusta, Lefra, Mavrovoumi, Apilki and Nicosia itself.

At noon an alarm of a new attack by the Turkish Cyprians brought hundreds of Greek Cyprians into Nicosia into the streets in a defensive move. Dozens were later taken to hospitals after the Turkish Auxiliary Police repeatedly charged with clubs.

10. The leader of the "Cyprus-is-Turkish" movement, Dr. Fazil Kutchuk was still in Ankara on 12 June. On that date he broadcast over the Turkish radio a fiery speech to his listeners in Cyprus.

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On that same day a mass meeting of 100,000 people took place in the Turkish capital, during which more violent demonstrations were made.

11. When, during the night of 7 June, the first Turkish anti-Greek riots occurred, the British Forces took three hours to appear on the spot. In other towns and villages security measures were often taken only after the harm had been done by the Turkish aggressors.

It has also been noted that the majority of the people arrested by the security forces were not Turkish Cyprians but Greek Cyprians.

This attitude of the British Forces in Cyprus made Greek Cyprian officials of the island's administration declare that they would protest to the Governor for what they termed as the "scandalous apathy" of the British Authorities.

Referring to this a British newspaper in Cyprus, the Cyprus Mail, which has always stood by the British Authorities, pointed out the responsibility of the Administration for the way in which it handled the situation.

12. A Member of the Australian Parliament, Mr. Clive Evatt, who was present in Cyprus when the Turkish riots began, stated that he had "overwhelming" evidence of collusion between the Cyprus security forces and the Turkish minority.
13. It must be noted that when the Governor of Cyprus appealed to the leaders of the Turkish minority to exercise restraint, his appeal proved of no avail, while the Bishop of Kitium, locum tenens of the See of Cyprus, on his own initiative, called on the Greek Cyprians to keep cool over the attacks to which they are submitted.

The Daily Telegraph points out that the attacks of the Turkish Cyprians took place in spite of the fact that E.O.K.A. had been "studiously careful to avoid any incident involving Turks".

14. On many occasions Turkish high officials preferred threats of direct intervention in Cyprus.

Early in April 1958 the President of the Turkish National Assembly, Mr. Rafik Koraltan, made the following statement in London:

"...We have until now exerted very great efforts to preserve world peace. If, however, the question of Cyprus should be solved in a manner contrary to partition, then we shall by all means occupy the island. After that let the other nations try to find means to preserve world peace".

New York, 13 June 1958

