



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4026
13 June 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 JUNE 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency the following information concerning the tragic events which have recently taken place on Cyprus:

It is a matter of record that the Cyprus question, with all its regrettable developments, was first thrust upon the political scene by Greece. The Prime Minister of Greece, on 15 February 1951, demanded the annexation of this island to Greece and at a later date the question was brought by the Greek Government to the General Assembly with the hope of obtaining its approval for a plan which would achieve that end. These circumstances, naturally, compelled Turkey to make fully known her own point of view.

In parallel to these moves on the part of the Greek Government, the Greek community on Cyprus resorted to terrorist methods. EOKA's terrorist activities, at times directed at the British and at times at members of the Greek community who did not share its opinions, also began to endanger the security of the Turkish community through constant provocations and attacks on the life and property of the Turks in the rural areas, as well as in towns.

The purpose of all these activities was to secure the annexation of the island to Greece without taking into consideration the legitimate and historic rights and interests of Turkey and ignoring the existence of the Turkish population on Cyprus.

Using every means to achieve its purpose, EOKA tried to intimidate and terrorize the Turks in order to induce them to flee from their homes.

A glance at the news published by the world press would be sufficient to show the ruthless character of the violence resorted to by the members of EOKA and the plight in which the Turkish population has been placed.

The equally cruel psychological pressure exerted by the Greek terrorists against the Turkish Cypriots are best illustrated by the rumours systematically spread from time to time to the effect that the Turkish population are to be annihilated by a general attack at a given date. The last time that these cruel tactics were resorted to, the date set as zero hour was 1 June 1958.

While the Turkish community on Cyprus was labouring under these pressures, a new element of anxiety was introduced, when on 19 May 1958, the Colonial Secretary made a statement in the House of Commons to the effect that the British Government was to announce a new plan for Cyprus not later than 17 June.

This gave rise to uncertainties and new anxieties in the minds of the Turks of Cyprus. They were left in the dark on whether this plan would adequately take into consideration their just and legitimate aspirations. As it is known, the Turks of Cyprus have proclaimed and constantly reiterated that they too are entitled to the application of the principle of self-determination. They feel strongly that this natural right should allow them to choose to live under the protection of Turkey by the partition of the island in order to obtain the necessary guarantees for the preservation of their life, property and future welfare.

During this tense period of anxious expectation, the Greek terrorists launched a new series of attacks against the Turkish community.

On 3 June, the Turkish High School at Kyrenia was attacked and broken into; the picture of Ataturk, the symbol of union and patriotism among all Turks, was smashed and the terrorists left the building after writing the letters "EOKA" on the walls.

/...

A few days after this attack, on the 7th of June, a bomb was thrown at the Press Attaché's Office of the Turkish Consulate General in Nicosia, causing considerable damage to the building. A great number of Turks, hearing about this incident, gathered in front of the Press Attaché's Office to find out about the nature of the incident. In this excited atmosphere, news was received that Turkish Cypriots, passing through the Greek quarter in their cars, were attacked by the Greeks and that the Greeks were gathering to attack the Turkish quarter of Nicosia. To defend themselves, the Turks marched to the intersection line between the Turkish and Greek quarters of the town and took position against the assailants.

On June 8th, as a group of Turks were vacationing on the beaches of Larnaca, the tolling of church bells at an untimely hour indicated a gathering of the Greek community and soon it was heard that an attack was being prepared against the Turks. It is only through the intervention of the Turkish leaders, who urged members of their community to remain patient and calm, that graver consequences were averted.

After the lifting of the curfew, which was imposed for a few hours, new incidents were started by the murder of a Turkish woman and the wounding of her husband in the Greek section of Nicosia by Greek Cypriots who had penetrated into the house under the pretense of asking for a cup of water. Other Turkish families, living in the Greek quarters of the town, were obliged to flee from their homes and seek protection in the Turkish quarter.

As a consequence of these events, the British authorities reimposed curfew restrictions. However, another Turk was killed by the Greek Cypriots despite these measures. During these incidents in Nicosia, twenty trucks brought Greeks from adjoining villages, as reinforcements against the Turkish community. During the same period, other incidents disturbing the Turkish community occurred throughout the island.

A Turk was shot and killed in the village of Büyükkaymakli near Nicosia. Greek villagers were transported with trucks to the town of Lefka where they attacked the Turkish population. The same procedure of gathering forces from nearby villages in order to attack the Turks was also used in the villages of Piroyi and Silura where the Turkish community suffered many casualties.

/...

A bomb was thrown at a Turkish house in the village of Kiraci.

These are merely some of the most striking examples demonstrating the plight of the Turkish community in Cyprus.

The latest information received by my delegation from Cyprus mentions a leaflet of the Greek terrorist organization EOKA inviting the communist and anti-communist factions of the Greek community to unite their forces against the Turkish Cypriots. This is a grave indication that preparations are being made with a view of continuing and increasing violence in Cyprus.

These events do not only reflect the long history of the unbearable conditions under which the Turkish community in Cyprus has lived for a long time but also highlight the new hardships imposed upon them. Under these circumstances it is evident that the co-existence of the Turkish and Greek communities on Cyprus under the same rule has become impossible.

I have the honour to request Your Excellency to kindly circulate, for information, the contents of this letter to all Members of the United Nations.

Please accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Seyfullah Esin
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations

