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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 18 October 1965 I brought to the attention of the Security Council a statement of the then Turkish Premier of the kind which made by another person in another country might easily constitute incitement to riot (document S/6820). In reply, the Turkish Permanent Representative in document S/6837 says that his Government experienced "surprise and indignation at the deliberate manner in which Prime Minister Urguplu's statement has been quoted out of context". Thereupon, without denying the statement, Ambassador Eralp proceeds to put it in its proper context by embarking upon the Cyprus question.

By so doing, the Turkish representative proves our point: while his Government has argued that all the measures against the Greeks and the Orthodox Church of Istanbul were legally correct, my Government has insisted all along that these were persecutions resorted to as retaliation for developments in the Cyprus question, with which the Greeks of Istanbul have no connexion other than ethnic. Now that pogroms are recalled and their repetition hinted at, the legal argument is abandoned and a connexion is established which puts on the matter a truer complexion: that of retaliation and blackmail.

In fact, the President of the Turkish Republic has expressed his indignation, not at my quoting Premier Urguplu, but at the latter's statement. President Gürsel was reported by the Turkish Press to have declared:

"Such words could only have been uttered by a person labouring under stress. I cannot understand otherwise how the Prime Minister could have spoken in this way. Turkey is not a trike but a state: she honours her obligations and takes when necessary forcible action. The mere recollection of the events of 6/7 September 1955 is painful. I reject the Prime Minister's words."

We appreciate the fact that such an authoritative voice, echoed unfortunately by only a small section of the Turkish Press, was raised in condemnation. But it is difficult to undo harm of this kind, once it is done. It is to be feared that if any incident happened in Cyprus, such as could easily be staged or wilfully provoked, the Istanbul mob would remember the loud voice of hate rather than the soft words of moderation.

The Turkish reply dismisses without denying them concrete instances of persecution against the Orthodox Church of Turkey. Mere statistics of the numbers of Greek churches cannot cancel out the constant harassment of the Greeks and of the Orthodox Church reported in documents S/6718, S/6723, S/6734 and S/6783.

As to the numbers' game with regard to educational matters of the respective minorities I am glad to contribute the following figures.

Greek schools in Istanbul

	<u>1923</u>	<u>1964</u>
Students	15,000	5,000
High Schools	8	5
Elementary schools	65	42
Kindergartens	70	4

The decline in the number of schools and students over the last forty years speaks for itself.

In Western Thrace the number of Turkish schools and students increases steadily, reaching at present 282 elementary and two high schools for a predominantly rural population.

The contrast is not in numbers and trends alone. The Turkish minority schools in Greece are largely supported by the Government whereas the Turkish Government makes only a token contribution to the Greek schools (50-150 Turkish pounds, while levying a sign-board tax of 2,500, as if these schools were commercial enterprises). The high school in Komotini was built and endowed entirely at Government expense. All minority schools in Thrace have a Government-appointed Greek teacher. However, the children show little inclination to learn Greek and receive little encouragement from their parents. This and the availability of Turkish Government scholarships

account for the fact that those wishing to acquire a higher education enrol in Turkish colleges rather than taking entrance examinations in Greek universities.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Alexis S. LIATIS
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

