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August 17, 1974


Text of Message

The President
The White House

On the 3rd of August 1974 I already informed you of the callous attack on the island Republic of Cyprus by Turkey with a force of two divisions, over two hundred tanks and complete control of the air by the Turkish Air Force. In three days of bitter fighting our small forces of about 10,000 young conscripts armed mainly with small arms fought valiantly and heroically against vastly superior military forces suffering heavy casualties in dead and wounded. Our hospitals and private clinics are full whilst there is a great shortage of hospital beds, medicine and drugs of all kinds. Civilian casualties exceed four thousand and their number is still mounting.

The Turkish invading force without any provocation and arrogantly refusing to even put forward any legal pretext for justifying its invasion has proceeded to expand its initial bridgehead around Kyrenia Town and now it seized and occupies 40-0/0 of the total area of Cyprus. The International Red Cross reports that already over 100,000 have become displaced persons having been forced to flee the areas overcome by the Turkish invading forces which were populated by 180,000 people 120,000 of which are Greek Cypriots. I wish to stress that though the Turkish minority of Cyprus forms only 17.8 per cent of the population owning only 12.8 per cent of the privately owned land of the island the invading forces from Turkey have now seized by military force 40 per cent of the land of Cyprus. Although the area seized by the invading Turkish forces comprise 40 per cent of the area of Cyprus it contributes about 70 per cent to the economic output of the whole country.

The political future of Cyprus looms very gloomy indeed but my most immediate and urgent problem is the survival of the wounded and displaced persons and to cope with the immense economic problems created by the invasion in order to save the country from economic collapse.



In this effort I urgently appeal to Your Excellency for such financial and other assistance of all kinds as your country may extend to us. I understand that the International Red Cross is also addressing an appeal to all countries giving details of the type of aid which is urgently needed.

The Republic of Cyprus, the people and government of Cyprus and myself shall be eternally grateful for any assistance that you may find it within your power to give in this, the darkest hour of our history.

Glaucos Clerides
President of the Republic of Cyprus



Dear Mr. President:

In reply to your message of August 17, I want you to know how deeply concerned and distressed I am at the calamity which has enveloped your country and created such deep hostility between two of our best friends and closest allies.

I deplore the use of force and, as you know, the United States has done its best in the efforts which have led to a halt in the fighting. You are aware that we have offered and stand ready to be of assistance in the negotiations.

You have rightly stressed in your message the need for immediate assistance to those Cypriots who have been injured and displaced by the hostilities. The United States has to date pledged \$3 million towards meeting such needs and has made available \$1.5 million in relief supplies. Because of the deep humanitarian concern of the American people, I have authorized an additional \$750,000 grant to the International Committee of the Red Cross. You will not find us wanting in efforts to help relieve the suffering of your countrymen.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Glafcos Clerides
Acting President of The Republic of Cyprus
Nicosia

RGates:nw:9/30/74

