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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
820 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

Ref: 74/71

7 September 1974

Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your attention
the following:

On 22 August 1974, during the occupation of the
village of Assia by the Turkish invasion forces, Mr. Michael
Kasialos, popular artist (painter), did not want to abandon
his poor house near the small church which he himself
erected and painted at his village where he had his workshop
and kept some of his best paintings. The Turkish soldiers
visited him and took away ten Cyprus pounds, all the money
he had with him. At the beginning they told him to stay in
the village and that he had nothing to fear about. On their
second visit, however, because they asked him for more money
but he did not have any to give, they ill-treated him
by hitting him with their weapons and throwing him into the
ground. He suffered serious injuries from which he died after
a week (on 29 August 1974) while he was in a philanthropic

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His Excellency Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

institution in Larnaca. Mr. Kasialos, who was born in 1885, was awarded various international distinctions among which the Triennale of Bratislava (1968) and his participation at special invitation in the international exhibition in Munich of the best popular artists of the world.

A review of the artistic work of Mr. Kasialos was made by Polish Ignacy Witz (Bulletin Insita) on these lines:

"At the second Triennale of in site art in Bratislava in 1969 not the classic works became the highlight of this event but the pictures of Michael Kasialos from Cyprus, which surprised visitors with freshness and immediateness of his vision that sprung out from domestic soil".

In another review, it was stated:

"He paints scenes from every-day life and festivities and he expresses the spirit of those remote times. The figures of his pictures, archaic in some cases, Byzantine in others, help in the release of his message, a message of serenity and propaganda of the peaceful and happy life of the past devoid of any signs of tensions of our technological age. Kasialos depicts the reality of the past. He glorifies nothing, he falsifies nothing. With his childish intensity of feeling he paints what he knows rather than what he sees now. He selects from the past that which is a dream for the frustrated by the machine-spoiled environment of today.

A genuine child of the country-side, he expresses the message of the village life in the plains, a message that reflects the peacefulness and innocence of the peasant-folk.

He is deeply rooted in the long tradition of Cyprus and some of his paintings remind us of the wall paintings of the Byzantine churches in the island".

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

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.



Zenon Rossides
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations