

no doubt that, in terms both of the present and of the future, the effort is worth it and the results will be enduring.

What is more, I believe that the soldiers of the United Nations Force, whatever their dangers and discomforts, understand and believe in what they are trying to do, as do the governments that sent them. For my part, I am acutely aware that their situation is a very difficult and, at times, a dangerous one. I, the Commander of the Force, General Gyani, and my Special Representative, Mr. Galo Plaza, will continue to do everything within our power both to enable them to carry out their tasks effectively and to ensure that they are not exposed to unnecessary risks and tribulations. I assure you of my very deep concern for both the security and the dignity of the United Nations personnel in Cyprus, military and civilian alike. It follows that I find no place in a United Nations peace-keeping operation for either weakness or bravado. In this endeavour we shall need the understanding and the support of the people at home, as well as of the soldiers in the field. I take this opportunity to salute them and their civilian colleagues in Cyprus for their courage and patience, for their discipline and their humanity. I believe that their example will be not the least of the factors that will lead to an improvement in Cyprus.

I hope that the leaders and peoples concerned will also make an effort to understand the United Nations operation in this light. The old people and the children, who perhaps suffer most from the disorders in Cyprus, do not need to be exhorted to be peaceful. There are many others, however, to whom I would appeal. The leaders of armed bands on both sides, whatever their official status, serve no interest, except perhaps their own self-esteem, by random shooting, abductions, terrorism, harassment and martial demonstrations. The world is long past being impressed by such performances. I have noticed with regret that the local newspapers and information media of both communities in Cyprus also do little to lessen the hatred or to calm the fears of their readers and listeners. Rather, they tend to fan the flames of violence and suspicion by sensational reporting and propaganda, and thus aggravate the very conflicts and disasters which have brought death and suffering to so many of the people of Cyprus.

There are great issues at stake in Cyprus for Greece and Turkey, and their preoccupation with the situation is understandable and understood. The press and public opinion of these countries inevitably exercise a strong, if indirect, influence on events in Cyprus, and, here again, too often the voices that should be urging moderation and humanity tend to be, wittingly or unwittingly, the instigators of suspicion and hatred. The leaders, in Cyprus and outside it, have given assurances of their earnest desire to find a peaceful solution and to co-operate with the United Nations. I hope they will also increasingly exercise a restraining influence on violence and extremism.

In the Cyprus situation there has been a tendency for both sides to engage in highly vituperative exchanges of accusations and threats, often issued in the heat of some particular incident. A vicious circle of accusation and counter-accusation, of incident and reprisal, has been created which, far from easing the tension, tends to increase it and to harden the positions and build up the resentments of both parties. This is a process which only the leaders concerned can arrest and reverse, and I most earnestly urge them to do so. The United Nations Force is doing, and will do, its utmost to ensure that moderation on both sides brings benefits to all and disadvantages to none.

I make these comments because there is so very much at stake in Cyprus. It is often said, in this as in other crises, that the prestige of the United Nations is at stake. No doubt it is, but our concentration must always be on doing our very best to resolve the conflict. If we do that steadfastly, the prestige issue is likely to take care of itself. I believe that the United Nations is strong enough, and solidly enough founded in the principles of the Charter and in the loyalty and support of its members, to stand the strains put upon it. What concerns me is that at stake are the lives, happiness and