

No chance of "TRNC" being recognized, it seems. .

Twenty one years ago, the T/C leadership declared the so-called independent "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," which was immediately condemned by the international community as a secessionist act on the part of the Turkish occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus.

Indeed, the Resolution 541 (1983) of the Security Council of the UN, considered this declaration as "legally invalid, . . . called for its withdrawal . . . and called upon all states to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus" and most importantly, "called upon all states not to recognize any Cypriot State other than the Republic of Cyprus."

We would also wish to recall that in the recent past, on many occasions the European Parliament stressed that the "TRNC" should not be recognized, nor any constitutional developments in the northern part of Cyprus. At the same time the European Court of Human Rights defined "TRNC" as "a subordinate administration to Turkey." More recently, on the occasion of the Islamic Conference in Istanbul, once more the European Union rejected the political upgrading of the regime in the North, thus forcing Turkey to cancel the conference.

Nonetheless, these decisions did not dissuade Turkey from maintaining 35,000 troops on the island or from continuing to change demography in the North, thus flagrantly violating the relevant Geneva Convention. At the same time the continuation of the occupation infringes on the fundamental human rights of both G/Cs and T/Cs, who through their numerous visits on either side have proven to be wrong, the myth of the T/C chauvinistic leadership, namely of not being able to live together.

It is pointed out that neither the vast majority of T/Cs, nor the present Gt. of Turkey, nor the EU, nor the Americans believe that the recognition of "TRNC" is any longer feasible. With sole exceptions Mssrs Denktash's and Eroglu's deplorable visions, the recognition of "TRNC" has been buried for good.

The result of the referenda on the Annan plan produced no positive results towards solving the Cyprus problem and reunifying the country. At the same time none of the international decision makers seems to be inclined to act in a way which could put again the Cyprus question in motion. Nonetheless, provided that the G/C side will reveal what it is aiming at, the Association strongly believes that concerted action on the part of political parties on both sides, - the parties which really believe in a realistic and feasible solution of the Cyprus problem - could convince, the international community that a new effort on their part, could be worthwhile.

The fear of the Government of Cyprus that the regime in the North could eventually be recognized, are in our view unfounded, due regard being had to present circumstances. It merely achieves to stop some gestures on the part of the Cyprus Government towards the T/Cs. Moreover, the impression of bad faith and lack of will for a solution is created vis-à-vis the international community. . .

As for the progressive T/C leadership it should put aside its frustration created by the non solution of the Cyprus problem and not allow it to turn into hostility for the other side. Moreover, an effort should be made on the part of progressive T/C leadership, to understand the legitimate concerns of G/Cs .

In our view the great majority of the people on both sides looks forward to an imminent solution and it would be a pity whatever misconceptions, wrong tactics or unrealistic visions, to lead into a shifting of the solution into the uncertainty of the distant future.

Bearing in mind that nothing is more important than the reunification of the country, and that the recent favourable circumstances for a solution tend to disappear because of international fatigue as well as some activities within Cyprus itself, the Association will continue unabated its efforts towards a solution, distancing itself from petty considerations and monocommunal beliefs that are reminiscent of the past.

16 November 2004