



NEOKYPIPIAKOS SYNΔEΣΜΟΣ
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Lessons from the History of Cyprus

"The history of mankind follows its natural course. Colonialism - namely that condition as a result of which one State is subservient to another - is fast disappearing from the face of the earth. Those States that carry on a subservient existence conquer, one after another, their independence, and join the family of free Nations.

Cyprus, our beautiful Country, has, like so many other Countries, rid itself of the colonial yoke after an arduous struggle that was the result of long, bitter and singularly conflicting interests, following the natural course of the history of mankind.

Today we are confronted with the State of The Republic of Cyprus that is administered by the two main communities that live in Cyprus, that is to say by Cypriots, a properly constituted and independent State, and a member of the United Nations Organisation. Cyprus belongs to the category of multinational States due to the fact that its subjects do not originate from one nation only. Once due regard had been paid to the special contentions and interests of each of the two main communities that live in Cyprus, the freedom to exercise authority at a communal level was duly recognised to each community, and guarantees were granted for the constitution of the Cyprus State. With this thought in mind, the burden that all Turkish- and Greek-Cypriots that love their Country are called upon to shoulder is to respect each others rights, to ensure the maintenance and growth of a free Cyprus, and to work with all their might in order to help their respective communities to realise a more democratic more affluent, more happy and more peaceful life.

To hold an opposite view is tantamount in our opinion to an inability to grasp reality, or to turning a blind eye to it.

In a few words, the independence of Cyprus does not mean its union with any other nation or State, but the administration of Cyprus by the Cypriots.

This connotation has been incorporated, as a fundamental principle, in the Constitution, and has been signed by the interested parties. At the same time we feel that we must stress the following: Irresponsible words that are uttered not from political platforms from men with a medieval religious mentality, but from a limited number of religious personages, during the performance of religious services in churches, as well as their anachronistic ideas that are based not on realities or on political and social phenomena, but on religious myths, can never change the reality that is called the Independent Republic of Cyprus.

There is constant talk of a fully independent Cyprus, and every one accepts this thing as a common stand and as a principle. And yet there are different interpretations of this principle. For instance, those that define this principle basing themselves not on logic but on their emotions see a fully independent Cyprus only after it will have been united with another State or Country. If we are talking about independence, this sort of talk is wrong and unacceptable - because the moment Cyprus is united with another State it ceases to be independent".

The above is an article that was not written recently by a well-known

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recently constituted Movement, but appeared on 21/1/61 in "Cumhuriyet" the newspaper of the liberal Turkish-Cypriots Gürkan and Hikmet. On the 2nd January, 1961!

As long as fifteen years ago, the voice of the Cypriots Gürkan and Hikmet tried to convince the rest of us that "Cyprus belongs to the Cypriots". The sinister forces that always existed within both communities put an end to their lives. Whether the two Cypriot liberals were right or not is not difficult to realise after what happened in our Country on 15th July 1974 and on the 20th of the same month.

The usefulness of History is not to remind us of the past but to help us to draw useful lessons. Can we say at this late hour that we have grasped what our two liberal compatriots knew fifteen years ago? Can we at long last sever this endless string of errors? We are not labouring under a misapprehension as to foreign interferences, but, surely, we have our share in the shaping of opinion of the outside world.

"..... The Turkish-Cypriots constitute a congenial, industrious and constructive element within the Republic of Cyprus, an element that is conscious of its rights and obligations. Under such conditions we believe - and sincerely hope - that our Cypriot brothers will succeed, within the framework of the Cyprus State, to proceed, in an atmosphere of peace, along the road of well-being and happiness".

Whether we believe it or not, the last paragraph is an excerpt from the message of the then President of Turkey, Cemal Gürsel. A welter of mistakes has succeeded to transform this message to the "peace-keeping operation" of 1974 that has ruined our Country.

We must get away from prejudices, we must face truth squarely in the face. It is not possible, it cannot be that the only Cypriots were, nay are Gürkan and Hikmet

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