

The New Cyprus Association comments on the recent  
articles by Mr G. Christophides and Mr R. Tatar  
on the Economic Aspects of a Cypriot settlement

We wish to refer to the article of Mr George Christophides published in the Cyprus Mail on March 31 on the Economic Aspects of a Cyprus settlement, and to Mr Rustem Tatar's reply, published in the Cyprus Mail on April 15. Both articles constitute a classic example of the tendencies amongst both communities to think and act as Greeks and Turks, rather than as Cypriots. Mr Tatar has made the point in his thought-provoking article that "a unitary economy would serve the interests of the Turkish Cypriots only in the long run, after sufficient progress has been hopefully made, drawing on the lessons of the past, in developing a "Cypriot Identity". Mr Tatar omitted to explain more fully what we are sure that he had in mind: namely that he was referring to a "State Identity", as opposed to a National and cultural identity, which is distinct and different, and which both communities are entitled to safeguard and cherish.)

Mr Tatar's reference to a "Cypriot Identity" may be interpreted in certain circles as implying a drawing apart from the national and cultural heritage of both Communities.

This, however, is the crux of the problem that must cause us to think again, as, together with the question of an integrated economy, both these issues constitute the corner stone on which the edifice of a united Cyprus for all Cypriots must rest. It is true that we Cypriots have never delved deeply enough into these two most important questions, and the publication of these articles offers us the opportunity to turn our attention to these matters, that constitute the basis for a future solution of the Cyprus problem.

Perhaps the most serious obstacle to reintegration of the two communities is the difficulty in establishing conditions of trust. It is the belief of the New Cyprus Association that every thinking Cypriot (Greek - and Turkish-Cypriot alike) must face squarely the legitimate fears and aspirations of his neighbours, and place his trust on political leaders who can demonstrate that they can see both sides of the coin and act accordingly, if elected to power. "The Economic Aspects of a Cyprus Settlement" is one such opportunity for the leaders of both communities to demonstrate their grasp of this crucial question. It is an exercise in objectivity, tempered by humanity, that will not fail to move even the most intransigent political opponents.