

Nicosia, 17th August, 1976

The Editor
The Cyprus Mail
P.O.Box 1144
Nicosia.

Dear Sir,

Time to look at facts with vision

In response to the movement in Cyprus promulgating the idea that Cyprus belongs to the Cypriots irrespective of their ethnic origin or religion, and in the wake of recent statements by Greek-Cypriot political leaders in support of this line of approach to our Country's problems, a visibly disturbed and disconcerted Mr. Denktas has chosen to lecture us, once again, on the utter stupidity of such a notion.

Mr. Denktas's sensitivity to such "idle talk" is neither casual nor accidental. For a man who has painstakingly dedicated himself to the idea of two separate, hostile, competing and prejudice-ridden communities, this sort of reaction is hardly surprising.

Mr. Denktas, it should be remembered, is no novice in this field and his scathing comments on these political developments in Cyprus must be viewed at in this context. In a world where liberal and progressive people are waging a ceaseless battle to demolish boundaries and barriers, Mr. Denktas is busy erecting new ones, assuring the world that this is the wish of "his own people" as well. But which people is he referring to? We would have Mr. Denktas know that this country is inhabited by human beings, who may be characterized by differences in religion, language and culture, but who share the essential ingredients of character, humanity, country and common fate. It is natural that the responses of these people are identical to conditions of physical danger and harassment as well as to conditions of well being and security. That they have common pursuits, aspirations and humanity, aspects which not even Mr. Denktas can hope to change.

Mr. Denktas's recent utterances are sadly reminiscent of the highly emotional language and chauvinist sentiments prevalent amongst Greek-Cypriot circles and in particular Greek-Cypriot politicians, during the 1963-1974 period, but now almost extinct. It is almost ironic that this sort of chauvinism becomes prevalent in the Turkish Cypriot community.

The burden on the shoulders of the present generation of political leaders in Cyprus is a very heavy one. They are answerable to posterity and the judgement of future generations of Cypriots -who are not here to be consulted- is going to be a very harsh and relentless one if all we succeed in doing is to turn a potential paradise into a land of desolation and despair.

We would also have Mr. Denktas know, that now that all Cypriots are "of age" the obsessive fixation of Cypriots to their so called mother countries is a regressive step in their national life and a psychological luxury that they can ill afford. This is no plea for vindictiveness or for ingratitude towards those that have nurtured us in our early political days. It is, however, a plea for breaking with the past, to shed our blinkers and to look forward to the time when we will be left alone to shape our destiny as Cypriots and to take charge of our political lives into our own hands.

One final thought; the bullying and aggressive mother can always be fought on her own terms given sufficient mettle in the child. It is the loving and self sacrificing mother that we all find so hard to resist.....

We concur with Mr. Denktas that it is time to look at facts in Cyprus with courage, but courage alone is not enough, if it is bereft of vision.

Maroula Evangelou,
Member of the New Cyprus Association