

November the 8th was the 26th anniversary of Dr. Ihsan Ali's death. He led a life (1904-1978), full of love for his home country, Cyprus, serving as a physician both T/Cs, and G/Cs alike. He was a clever politician with vision who always showed a keen interest in local and international politics.

Upon his return to Cyprus as a doctor in 1934, he settled in Paphos, from where he contributed a lot towards the improvement of living conditions of the Cypriot people, then under the British colonial government.

He regularly wrote articles on the political, social and economic problems pertaining to T/C. In 1935 he started to write on medical matters for the progressive Kemalist weekly *Ses (Voice)*. Later on he contributed political articles in *Söz (Word)* and one year later he became its editor-in-chief. He was criticizing the T/C political leadership, formed around the KATAK, essentially the first T/C political movement, of which he was himself the Paphos district secretary until he resigned. In the period 1951-53, he wrote in *Istiklal (Freedom)*, the newspaper of Necati Özkan, who was also opposing Dr. Kucuk's policies. Dr. Ihsan Ali was a member of the Paphos Educational Board and was socially active in the Paphos Turkish Unity Club as well as a member of the Paphos Municipal Council.

When the Republic of Cyprus was established in 1960, he started to write in the weekly newspaper "*Cumhuriyet*" (Republic), owned by the two advocates Ahmet Gurkan and Ayhan Hikmet who in 1962 were murdered on the orders of the partitionist T/C leadership. Dr. Ihsan Ali observes in his "Memoirs":

"The Zurich and London Agreements created a sui generis state. It was very difficult to have a harmonious cooperation of the two communities within the framework of this constitution which had no parallel anywhere in the world. Three years after the inception of the Constitution, the first bloody incidents broke out, known as "the 1963 incidents".

... The colonial power chose to sow the seeds of disruption, as it did elsewhere. The colonialists believed that they could plant those seeds through the London-Zurich Agreements. The Colonial power managed to secure the support of the T/C leadership.

The percentage of Turkish public servants and policemen (30%) as required by the Constitution, was far higher than the proportion of the population, while the percentage of the Turkish forces (TURDYK) to that of Greek Forces (ELDYK) was 40: 60 per cent. Recognition of the right of veto by the T/C Vice-President, separate courts, separate municipalities and above all, the presence of Turkish and Greek Forces in Cyprus all appeared very attractive to the Turkish side and were considered great success. However, it was the colonialists who had really succeeded. All their efforts concentrated on doing everything within their power to secure the acceptance of a constitution that sooner or later could cause a clash between the two communities. They believed that, with mutual destruction that would be created among the Cypriot people, they would secure their own military bases, which they managed to consolidate with the Zurich Constitution".

Dr. Ihsan Ali defended his struggle against the partitionist T/C leadership as follows:

"One can easily understand how those people terrorised the T/C community. There is no doubt that their aim was to separate the two communities so that the situation would culminate in a de facto partition.

I hope that the reader will understand why I refused to cooperate with that leadership... As I did not follow the policy of the T/C leadership, I was accused of being a traitor, by those who wanted to conceal their own treason.

Even some Greeks regarded my action as strange because their fanaticism and chauvinism did not allow them to realise that I was facing the situation as a Cypriot and was concerned about the interest of the people of Cyprus as a whole. They could not appreciate this line of thought and I wonder how could the Cyprus State continue to exist if the Cypriot people are not able to realise that first of all they are Cypriots."

Dr. Ihsan Ali was a close friend of President Makarios and he was appointed as his political adviser in 1970. After the Greek fascist coup and the Turkish invasion that followed, he was one of the participants of the Consultative Committee whose basic principles were adopted in 1977. He wrote in his "Memoirs" in 1978, a few months before his death:

"The basic principles for the solution to the Cyprus problem were made known to Waldheim and Clifford^s by Archbishop Makarios. The principles had to do with the territorial percentages, return of the Greek and Turkish refugees, freedom of movement and residence and the recognition of the right of ownership. Those principles were rejected after a few days by the T/C leadership and Turkey.

... These basic preconditions which are desired by the masses on both sides are not recognised by the Turkish government and the T/C leadership. Thus, the continuation of the talks with the delaying tactics followed by the Turks aim at perpetuating the situation which prevails today. Such tactics would inevitably lead to partition and perhaps double Enosis, with the direct result of the dissolution of the Cyprus Republic."

An unmistakable clarity of thought on the part of Ihsan Ali, revolving around the notion of the "Common Homeland" and the "Cypriot Citizen", at the same time distancing himself from the so called "national centers" and divisive policies. Having regard to the fact that our country is as of last May a member of the EU, the New Cyprus Association would like to believe that appropriate policies and actions will immediately be pursued which will ultimately lead to the reunification of the country. Thus vindicating Dr. Ihsan Ali's lifelong struggle.