

This year marks the completion of 25 years since the establishment of The New Cyprus Association in 1975. The Association was established by a number of people who realized that Cyprus needed a new way of thinking and direction after the events of 1974. The historical mistakes that formed the basis for the climaxing of the events of 1974, the coup that was organized by the Greek junta and the invasion that followed by the Turkish army, lead the founders of the association to set its goals, as follows:

- The re-establishment of the whole of Cyprus as an independent country. The NCA considers a strong Cyprus state as the major force for the country's continued existence as an independent country.
- The promotion of rapprochement between the two major communities of Cyprus. The NCA considers this as of utmost importance and a precondition for a viable solution to the Cyprus problem.
- The preservation and enrichment of democratic values and conditions. In Cyprus, given the experience of the past, this has a twofold meaning. Firstly, the pre-1974 conditions that allowed one community to prevail over the other through discriminatory policies lead to a distancing between them thus acting as a catalyst towards the 1974 events. Secondly, the destruction of the Cyprus State was the result of the violent uprooting of democratic governance.

The name "New Cyprus" was given to the Association as a symbolic expression of the members' conviction that the time was ripe for laying the foundations of a "new" Cyprus for all Cypriots without the burden of past misconceptions and prejudices.

Throughout the duration of its existence the Association has actively pursued the above goals to the best of its abilities and capabilities by focussing on the following principles:

- Cyprus is inhabited by Greeks, Turks, Maronites, Armenians and others who must not physically segregated since they have common interests and pursuits which define their identity as Cypriots.
- All inhabitants of this country treasure their ethnic origins and cultural links, but they should consider themselves firstly as Cypriots and then as Greeks, Turks or others.
- The presence of any armies in Cyprus was not and cannot be in the interest of Cypriots independently of ethnic origin.
- The adoption and strict adherence to democratic principles in all aspects of political life is a necessary prerequisite for the proper development of society.

The Association's goals and principles have been actively promoted over the last 25 years through a variety of activities such as: publications, exhibitions, visits and discussions with Turkish-Cypriot groups, organization of speeches and panel discussions, publication of numerous articles in papers in both sides, meetings with representatives of the United Nations and ambassadors of various countries. The Association whenever required was also involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance to Turkish-Cypriots especially during the first years that followed the events of 1974.

It is noted that the Association is probably one of the few organized groups in Cyprus that has members from both communities.