

ORIGIN OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association first started when a small group of like-minded people met together informally soon after the shattering events which took place in Cyprus in the summer of 1974. It was then realized that they were in complete agreement concerning the principal causes of the catastrophe which befell Cyprus. By informal and personal contacts they found other people - mainly in the professions - who felt and thought the same way.

A committee was then set up and the first informal meetings were held. A Declaration of basic principles released to the press received an encouraging enough response to prove that it was in fact expressing the views of many other people in Cyprus. This led to the founding of the "NEW CYPRUS ASSOCIATION", on Wednesday the 19th March, 1975, in Nicosia, when its inaugural meeting was held. The Association expressly defined itself as a non-political, non-sectarian society of public-minded people who are interested in promoting the objectives adopted at its inaugural meeting.

The members of the Association are convinced that their views have always been shared by the vast, but silent, majority of Cyprus in all communities. The tragic events of 1974 led to the realization that a movement had to be launched to salvage Cyprus from the ruins of the war and to rekindle the old feelings of comradeship and understanding which existed among the different communities in Cyprus for many decades in the past. Thus the name of the "NEW CYPRUS ASSOCIATION" was agreed upon as expressing the members' belief that a NEW Cyprus would ultimately emerge from the chaos and devastation.

OBJECTIVES

According to its Constitution the aims of the Association are:

- (a) to promote ideas and to help create conditions that will inspire all of us, irrespective of ethnic origin, with feelings of love and loyalty for Cyprus, our Country.
- (b) to promote contact and continuous understanding among all communities so that areas of common interest are emphasized and developed while at the same time differences are narrowed down and alleviated.
- (c) to foster concepts which shall contribute towards the consolidation of a democratic way of life so as to eliminate any possibility of recourse to violence for achieving political ends and to safeguard the peaceful existence and welfare of the people of Cyprus as a whole.

The Association intends to foster and enhance the feelings of pride, love and loyalty of all Cypriots for their Country and to work towards the reintegration of all Cypriots into a unified, peaceful and democratic society. It is believed that these pursuits in no way prevent Cypriots from appreciating their ethnic origins traditions and cultural achievements.

MEMBERS

Membership is open to everyone who fully subscribes to the principles and objectives of the Association.

PRINCIPLES

The Principles of the Association are as follows:

- (a) This country is inhabited by Greeks, Turks, Armenians and others who must never be physically segregated since they happen to have common interests and pursuits which define their identity as Cypriots, and which they alone can understand and safeguard. This is so - must remain so, in spite of their differences, real or imagined.
- (b) The most significant cause of our present plight can be found in the erroneous conceptions prevailing among the two major communities brought about, in part, by separatist orientations and further aggravated by the use of wrong slogans which were actively exploited by outside interests.
- (c) We do not deny our ethnic origins and cultural links, but we must as a people consider ourselves as Cypriots first and foremost and then as Greeks, Turks, or others.
- (d) The presence of any armies in Cyprus was not, is not, and cannot be in the interests of our country.
- (e) The adoption of and strict adherence to democratic principles in all aspects of our political life is a necessary prerequisite for the proper development of our society.

MEANS AND METHODS

The Association will use all lawful means and peaceful methods which can contribute towards the achievement of its aims. In particular it proposes -

- (a) to study all aspects of Cypriot society and inter-relations within it;
- (b) to publish articles, make public statements and circulate suitable material on the activities of the Association;
- (c) to organise meetings, seminars, debates and other peaceful activities.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE

The executive body of the NEW CYPRUS ASSOCIATION is a Co-ordinating Committee elected by the annual general meeting. To achieve the objectives of the Association the Committee has set up four working groups specializing in the study of cultural, institutional and political questions, as well as in the study of relations with other Countries.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Association is faced with a difficult task. It will have to wage a hard struggle in order to counter the effects of the mistakes and failures of the past and to mobilise public opinion against the forces which caused the two major ethnic communities to drift apart from each other. Nevertheless the Association is convinced of the ultimate vindication of its principles and of the success of its aims. The Association's activities will not only revitalise the bonds among all Cypriots which existed in the past, and which have never actually been completely severed, but will also foster ideas held among the majority of Cypriots but forcefully suppressed by opinion-forming minorities in the two major ethnic communities. The Association seeks, moreover, to impress upon all Cypriots and on all persons interested in Cyprus the fact that what is now taking place in Cyprus in no way represents the true feelings and aspirations of the Cypriot people as a whole.

The Association calls upon all peace-loving people here and abroad to offer it their assistance in whatever form towards building a New Cyprus for all Cypriots.