

Address by the President of New Cyprus Association
on the occasion of a presentation by the
Australian High Commissioner in Cyprus
Mr. Garth Hunt:
Nicosia, Holiday Inn Hotel, March 27, 2008

Ladies & Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Although the question of a federated Cyprus was agreed upon by both Cypriot Communities a long time ago, indeed since 1977 by Archbishop Makarios and Mr. Denktash, until this very moment its implications are not correctly understood in Cyprus.

As a result, a lot of pertinent issues are misconceived or misinterpreted and when it comes to the need of a compromise solution within a federated framework, we are not in a position to do so. Moreover, we are not aware as to how many federal states are to be found around the world, nor how many models of the system exist, depending on the case, specific to each country.

Hence we asked his Excellency the High Commissioner of Australia to Cyprus, to kindly talk to us about the federal experience of Australia. Australia is one of the so called new countries and has not been ravaged by inter-communal strife and war, as has been the case with Cyprus. Nonetheless, it is essentially a multicultural country and I suppose there were times whereby problems posed by its diversity had to be addressed to.

Our speaker, Mr. Garth Hunt who is married with one daughter, was born in Balaclava, in South Australia in 1948. He has an Honours degree in Political Science from the Flinders University of South Australia, a Masters degree from the University of Hawaii and a Diploma in International Law from the Australian National University. He is also a Fellow of the Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies.

Mr. Hunt joined the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs in 1974. He served as a Third Secretary in Tokyo between 1974 – 1978 as Counsellor (Labour Relations) between 1981- 1984, also in Tokyo. He

subsequently served as First Secretary in Beijing between 1986 – 1988, Deputy Consul-General in Hong Kong between 1991-1995 and Counsellor (Strategic) in Tokyo between 1996 – 2000. He has been in Cyprus since 2004.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Hunt.