

~~They were~~ **T**he first to realize the need for a new start for Cyprus as well as for a real rapprochement of the two communities and the building up of confidence, was the New Cyprus Association, ~~They were~~ founded early in 75.

As the founding of the Association was the direct product of the 1974 events, it was only too natural that the major objectives of the Association were set to be:

1. The rapprochement of the two communities.
2. The strengthening of the Cyprus State and
3. The maintenance and adherence to democratic institutions.

The Association was the first to denounce "ENOSIS" and declare that they firmly believed in a unified Cyprus State which would encompass all Cypriots.

They were the first "to discover" and impose in a way the Cyprus flag and try to explain that the use of other national flags or anthems was, to say the least, inappropriate and undermining the sovereignty of the State.

They tried to promote loyalty and love for Cyprus, as the motherland of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, within a framework of respect, understanding and tolerance of the cultures prevalent in the country.

They tried to bring out the message that be they of Greek or Turkish extraction, Cypriots should first and foremost be loyal to their own country, without having at all to sacrifice any of their cultural features and characteristics.

The task of the New-Cyprus Association was by no means an easy one. They were trying for the first time in the recent history of Cyprus to create a new Cyprus - hence the title of the Association - and make Cypriots discover their own country. In doing so, they had to oppose traditionalism, nationalism and chauvinism, let alone other considerations.

It is no wonder that until today they are attacked by nationalists and people who are generally not in favour of the rapprochement of the two communities. It is perhaps worth mentioning that they were branded as"

pro-unionists" by Mr. Denktash and at the same time as "antihellenistic" from the other side. However, they go on unabated with their efforts of bringing Cypriots together in a unified country, knowing that the price to be paid is worth it.

Creating a new Cyprus for all Cypriots is not an easy task and unless we are prepared to burn our fingers, we are not likely to achieve much.