

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The New Cyprus Association was established in 1975 by a number of people who realised that Cyprus needed a new way of thinking and direction after the events of 1974. The historical mistakes that caused the climaxing of the events of 1974, the coup that was organised by the Greek junta and the invasion that followed by the Turkish army, lead the founders of the Association to set its goal, as follows:

- The re-establishment of the whole of Cyprus as an independent country. The NCA considers a strong and united Cyprus state as the key element in the country's continued existence as an independent country.
- The promotion of rapprochement between the two major communities of Cyprus. The NCA considers this 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 two fold 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.

Throughout the duration of its existence, the Association has actively pursued the above goals to the best of its abilities and capabilities in terms of human and financial resources. The following list presents some of the activities undertaken by the NCA over the last 25 years.

1. Co-published 'Small States in the Modern World: The Conditions of Survival', in 1972, edited by Peter Worsley and Paschalis Kitromilides.
2. Organized art exhibitions of Turkish Cypriot artists on various occasions. One of them was for Umit Inachi at Nicosia, a recognized painter who resides in the North. Another one took place at Famagusta Gate in Nicosia and Paphos and was for painters Ahmet Ulubatli and A. Sususlu. This exhibition was opened by then Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Cyprus, Mr. Oscar Camillion.
3. Organized an exhibition of the work of Turkish Cypriot cartoonists at Melina Mercouri Art Centre, Nicosia. The exhibition was opened by the then Government Spokesman Mr. Manolis Christophides.

4. Following the coup and the invasion, and before the forceful movement of populations from one side to the other, the Association was actively involved in the assistance of Turkish Cypriots, who were concentrated in the Paphos area and the British Bases. Our work involved the securing of food, clothing, medical treatment and medicine, Turkish newspapers and legal counselling.

Also we organized a team, including a Turkish speaking Greek-Cypriot member, which was searching for isolated Turkish Cypriots in the South, identifying and solving their problems.

5. Exchanged visits with the purpose of discussing matters of mutual interest with political parties in the North. Most of them were with the New Cyprus Party of Mr. Durduran, a Party sharing similar views and goals with our Association. Such visits were also exchanged with CLP, the Party of Mr. Akkinci. Since 1997 these exchanges have stopped, as a result of Mr. Denktash's erecting obstacles to the realization of meetings between people from both sides.
6. On several occasions invited political party leaders from the North to give speeches in the South.
7. Organized speeches and panel discussions with Greek Cypriot political parties and politicians on issues relating to the Cyprus problem.
8. Presented its written positions on important issues relating to the Cyprus problem to the government and political parties. One such presentation in connection with the repatriation to the South of Turkish Cypriots who emigrated from the North to other countries, is currently under evaluation by a committee set up by the Government. Another such presentation in relation to how the educational system can do away with nationalistic material and become a catalytic force in a federated Cyprus, is currently being prepared.
9. Published numerous articles in papers in the South on all matters relating to its goals and ideas.
10. Published articles in papers in the North.
11. Held meetings with representatives of the United Nations and Ambassadors of various countries in an effort to discuss issues relating to the Cyprus problem with emphasis on the rapprochement between the two communities.

12. Published 'New Cyprus Association, 13 Answers to 13 Questions'. This booklet basically answers questions about the Association. Some of the questions and answers deal with matters that the Association's accusers have used to falsify its position in an effort to undermine it in the eyes of the general public as an anti-hellenistic group.

It is noted that the Association is probably one of the few organized groups in Cyprus that has members from both communities. It is also worth noting that from 1997 to 1999 the Association's president was a Turkish Cypriot.