



ΝΕΟΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
YENİ KIBRİS DERNEĞİ
NEW CYPRUS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT BY "THE NEW CYPRUS ASSOCIATION"

TO

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

ON CYPRUS

On behalf of the members and the Committee of the New Cyprus Association we welcome you to Cyprus and we trust that you will meet all leaders of all communities and a great number of Cypriots individually and from the wide spectrum of views form your own opinion on the situation in Cyprus.

We hope that the subsequent report you will prepare will influence the British Government to take some kind of action to alleviate the sufferings of all Cypriots and especially the misery and degradation of all Cypriot refugees, irrespective of ethnic origin.

We fervently hope that after hearing at first hand what has happened on this island that you will share our views that all Cypriots are victims and the many crimes committed on our island could never have been perpetrated by the Cypriots themselves against themselves.

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 realised that they were in complete agreement concerning the principal causes of the catastrophe which had befallen Cyprus.

The members of the Association are convinced that their views have always been shared by the vast, but silent, majority of Cypriots of all ethnic

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groups. The tragic events of 1974 led to the realisation that a movement had to be launched to salvage Cyprus from the ruins of war and to rekindle the feelings of comradeship and understanding which existed among the different communities in Cyprus for many decades in the past.

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 feeling 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.

THE INVASIONS OF CYPRUS BY GREECE AND TURKEY ON THE 15TH JULY AND 20TH JULY, 1974 RESPECTIVELY, AND THE MILITARY OFFENSIVE BY TURKEY ON THE 14TH AUGUST, 1974.

Ever since its inception the Republic of Cyprus has been subjected to the influences and pressures of the two "mother" countries, Greece and Turkey. Their influences and pressures were rarely for the benefit, or in the interest of the Cypriot people - a fact noted by UN Mediator Galo Plaza in his report to the Security Council in 1965. These interventions were always aimed at promoting the interest of the two "mother" countries individually or jointly.

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The balance sheet in the summer of 1974 for the actions by both Greece and Turkey included the uprooting from their homes of 43% of the population of Cyprus by force - 200,000 Greek Cypriots and 60,000 Turkish Cypriots. They are refugees in their own country.

BRITISH POLICY ON CYPRUS.

In the summer of 1974 Cyprus was invaded twice by the two guarantor powers who acted either jointly or severally.

Britain, the neutral guarantor power, the Head of the Commonwealth, willingly or unwillingly, adopted the role of the neutral observer during the two invasions and failed to prevent the August offensive at Geneva. In January, 1975 the British Government despatched 10,000 Turkish Cypriots to the occupied areas of Cyprus by air via Ankara, thus, we believe, helping in the defacto partition of the island. In fact under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee the United Kingdom, Turkey and Greece undertook to prohibit any activity aimed at promoting, directly or indirectly Union of Cyprus or part of Cyprus with any other state.

THE FUTURE

NOTE: Names of Turkish Cypriots are being given in strict confidences

The tragedy of Cyprus is the tragedy of people, the misery of Greeks, Turks, Armenians, Maronites, British and others who live on this island and the misery of men, women and children that have basic human needs such as the right of hope for to-morrow, the right of a home, the right to belong to the place where they and their forefathers lived.

These sentiments were expressed by the Turkish Cypriot Muktar of Mouttalos - Paphos, Mr. Kemal Regep to Mr. Spiros Hadjigregoriou a member of the Committee of the New Cyprus Association on the day before Mr. Regep was forced to leave his house at Paphos for an unknown destination in the occupied North of Cyprus.

Mr. Kemal Regep has three beautiful houses facing the sea in Paphos and Mr. Regep like many other Turkish Cypriots expressed to several members of the Association the hope that they will be allowed to return soon to their homes

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and property under conditions of safety.

Before the Vienna III Agreement Mr. Regep never dreamed of leaving his house at Paphos and evidence of his intention can be cited the fact that on the 4th July, 1975 he enrolled his daughter Zalihe in the English School of Nicosia and he had arranged accommodation for his daughter with a Greek Cypriot family of Nicosia.

Mr. Hussein Irkad another Turkish Cypriot with his son Uluz had meetings in March, 1975 with Mr. D. H. Humphreys, Head Master of the English School of Nicosia, with the object of Uluz commencing studies at the said school. It should be noted that Turkish Cypriot leaders "advised" Mr. Irkad that it would be politically unwise to accept economic assistance from Greek Cypriots and allow his son to commence studies at the English School of Nicosia.

The New Cyprus Association can cite numerous examples of co-operation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots which would prove that the great majority of Cypriots think and behave as Cypriots irrespective of ethnic origin.

Cyprus is to-day threatened with partition and the people of Cyprus are thereby threatened to retain refugee status for ever. Turkey to-day has threatened to declare the occupied part of Cyprus an independent state. The Attila line has divided Cyprus into North and South and however much we detest these concepts they are words widely and literally used and meant. There is no time for impartiality on Cyprus. Part of Cyprus is occupied by a foreign power and to be impartial on that is tantamount to be unjust. You must commit yourselves for the people of Cyprus. You must exert all political, diplomatic and economic pressure on Turkey to make the kind of concessions which will lead to an acceptable and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem.

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CONCLUSION

It is the conviction of the members and the Committee of the New Cyprus Association that Britain can make a more positive contribution to solving the Cyprus problem otherwise she will be guilty of perpetuating the sufferings of all Cypriots.

The inhabitants in more than one hundred countries, members of the United Nations, are not of the same ethnic origin but this has not been used as an excuse for their destruction. Only one example is the Commonwealth Country of Trinidad and Tobago where citizens are of varied ethnic origins, and religions.

Nicosia, 15th September, 1975.