



AKEL *bulletin*

EDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUREAU

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We condemn the bloody military attack in Beit Hanoun

Statement of the Press Office of the C.C. of AKEL

Once again the Israeli army has conducted a bloody military attack against the Palestinian city of Beit Hanoun in the northern part of the Gaza strip. AKEL condemns vehemently the indefensible Israeli attacks during the past seven days which have resulted in the death of at least 68 civilians and a Palestinian soldier.

The events during the summer have shown that a military solution to the Middle East problem cannot be imposed. The democratic gains of humanity, the struggles for peace, freedom and human rights cannot be erased in the name of the war against terrorism and through the imposition of the "right of the powerful". Israel must stop this merciless war, the continuous violation of international law and human rights which are undermining peace and stability in the Middle East.

AKEL calls on the international community and the European Union to insist on the return to the negotiating table of all of the interested parties and the waging of a peaceful dialogue. They should demand from Israel that it must comply with the relative resolutions of the United Nations and to respect the principles of territorial integrity and national sovereignty. As long as the international community does not resolutely tackle the causes of the crisis, that is to say the aggressive policy of Israel and the occupation of the Palestinian territories, the peoples of the Middle East will continue to suffer and bear the tragic consequences of this policy. It is long overdue to promote an overall and final solution to the Palestinian problem with the establishment of an independent Palestinian state next to the state of Israel with East Jerusalem its capital. This is the only way to achieve lasting peace in the Palestinian territories but also throughout the whole region.

Nicosia 8/11/2006

Progress Report of the European Commission on Turkey's candidacy. Press statement of the C.C. of AKEL.

The Progress Report on Turkey, which the European Commission has just issued, contains strict references regarding Turkey's obligations towards the European Union. There are also strict references regarding Turkey's obligations towards Cyprus.

The Commission recalls that according to the negotiating framework and the partnership relation Turkey is obliged to fully implement the Additional Protocol. It further recalls the declaration of the 21st of September 2005, according to which Turkey is obliged to open its ports and airports to the ships and aeroplanes of the Republic of Cyprus. It stresses that the European Union will closely monitor and assess the full implementation of this obligation within 2006. It also repeats the provision of the counter-statement that the recognition of the Republic of Cyprus constitutes an essential element of the accession procedure and underlines the importance of the normalisation of bi-lateral relations as soon as possible.

The Commission ascertains that Turkey has not fully implemented the Protocol, given that it has not opened its ports and airports to Cyprus. The position of the Commission that such restrictions do not constitute the most economic way of communication and consequently obstruct the free trade and movement of goods is of special significance.

Even more significant is the observation made by the Commission that Turkey cannot link the opening of ports and airports with the lifting of the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, because this issue has to do with Turkey's legal obligation which should not be related to the situation in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Furthermore, the Commission ascertains that no progress has been made in the normalisation of bi-lateral relations, since Turkey continues to veto the participation of the Republic of Cyprus in international organisations.

Finally, the Commission welcomes the steps that were made in 2006 by the leaders of the two communities for the resumption of a procedure that shall lead to an overall settlement of the Cyprus problem under the aegis of the United Nations and underlines that these efforts must be continued in a substantial way within 2007.

Without doubt the above mentioned assertions of the Commission are correct. We hope that the European Union will not just simply restrict itself to making severe assertions and that it will move forward to implement concrete measures because it is only through this way that it can contribute to the efforts to find a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem which as the Commission itself ascertains represents the great challenge.

Nicosia 8/11/2006

Speech of the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL, President of the House of Representatives D.Christofias at the meeting for the anniversaries of the October Revolution and the Anti-Fascist War in Spain, Nicosia 8th November 2006

As is the case every year AKEL will also honour this year the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution: the revolution that changed the course of history, the revolution that ushered in the era of the transition from capitalism to socialism, the revolution that showed in practise that another society based on the working man and woman is possible.

The Red October of Petersburg shook the world. It gave a new impetus to class social struggle. It accelerated the revolutionary processes. It mobilised the national liberation movements of the subjected peoples. The impact of the revolution was catalytic, especially regarding the establishment of new parties of the working class. The messages of October very quickly reached our own homeland also. They found a fertile ground here in Cyprus and together with the maturing of the objective conditions led to the foundation of the Communist Party of Cyprus, whose first cells began to be established early on in the 1920's.

This year, when we are celebrating the 80 years since the foundation of our Party, we considered it necessary to substantially upgrade the meeting on the October Revolution, stressing precisely this message: that is to say that the CPC-AKEL is the child of that great revolution and a living example that the October of the Bolsheviks and Lenin is of constant importance and influence. The ideals of socialism are eternal; the vision of a world of peace, labour and democracy is alive.

A second reason that has lead to this decision is due to the fact that this year marks 70 years since the beginning of the Anti-Fascist War in Spain and that is why we wanted in the same meeting to also project this momentous event of the 20th century. We want to honour the anti-fascists from all over the world who rushed to fight on the side of the struggling Spanish people and of course to honour the Cypriot anti-fascists.

There is a welcome coincidence. The 7th of November is the anniversary of the October Revolution and on the 8th of November, that is today, 70 years will have passed since the repulsion of the fascist attack against Madrid in 1936 by the united forces of the Spanish people and the International Brigades. This is not only a historical coincidence. It is also due to the fact that these two leading historical events of modern history are connected directly in an ideological and political way because the communist movement both in Spain, as well as on an international level, played a decisive role in the formulation and development of the events of the Spanish civil war.

Dear friends,

The lowering of the red flag with the hammer and sickle from the Kremlin has been interpreted by many as signifying the end of communism. They were in a rush to issue the death certificate of socialist ideals and the communist idea. They were in a rush to bury Marx and Lenin in the scrapheap of history and in the basements of museums. They talked about the end of history and concluded that capitalism is the everlasting fate of humanity.

However what they should have asked themselves is whether the reasons which led to the emergence of Marxism, the emergence and development of the communist movement, the October Revolution, and all the other socialist revolutions which followed, ceased to exist.

However has exploitation ceased to exist? That certainly is not the case. In the countries of the economically developed world from time to time different strategies were used with the aim of

fooling people by portraying the system as popular capitalism even as 'socialist' because social democracy had taken over its management. In reality through the use of technology and the introduction of less discreet forms of exploitation, an immense surplus is produced which is taken advantage of by capitalism. In the countries of the economically less developed world the forms of exploitation, first of all the form of exploitation of child labour, are no different from the barbarity of the era when capitalism first appeared.

The Red October of Petersburg shook the world. It gave a new impetus to class social struggle. It accelerated the revolutionary processes. It mobilised the national liberation movements of the subjected peoples. The impact of the revolution was catalytic, especially regarding the establishment of new parties of the working class

Is it the case that the wealth has stopped being concentrated in the hands of the few and that the majority are sharing the surplus of multinationals with some and poverty and inequalities with others? That is certainly not the case. With each new decade the statistical data reveal that a group of extremely rich families concentrate in their own hands even more wealth, whilst even many more millions of people in underdeveloped but also in developed countries live in squalor and deprivation.

Indeed have wars stopped and have their causes ceased to be the insatiable thirst of the monopolies for more and more super-profits? Only those who are naive and close their eyes to reality can believe that today for example the war in Iraq was waged in order to rid the country from a dictator or that it was carried out to allegedly combat terrorism. The war in Iraq was waged so that the American monopolies could control the energy resources of our planet and the price of petrol and so that the war industries - whose leading shareholders are to be found within the inner circle of the American President - can make untold riches.

Indeed has imperialism abandoned its aggressive and expansionist character? Not only has it not abandoned it but today, when an opposing power pole does not exist, it is behaving in an uncontrollable and unbridled manner. It is waging wars, it is attempting to impose its hegemony throughout the whole world and it is even trying to control international organisations such as the United Nations. All of this aggressiveness cannot but provoke the reaction of humanity. And it is already doing so.

Indeed has the insatiable lust for profit halted the destruction of the environment and the planet itself? Quite the opposite is the case. The destruction of the environment is preceding at such a rate that scientists doubt whether life itself on our planet will be preserved.

Has democracy stopped being undermined by big economic interests? On the contrary, the economic strength of the multi-national companies is such that today they determine the fate of the world. All the more democracy, human rights and civil liberties are being curtailed. A huge sub-culture industry and controlled mass media are systematically attempting to completely brainwash people, distancing them from their very human essence and dignity.

Therefore since these reasons which led to the emergence of Marxism have not ceased to exist but on the contrary are continually intensifying, then Marxism has not only not died, but it is continuously being rejuvenated by the inherent contradictions of capitalism itself.

The contemporary world is not negating Marx. It is totally reaffirming his ideas. Every day that goes by proves the correctness of the socialist idea. Every day that goes by it is becoming all the more clear that if humanity wants to move forward and prevent the return to barbarity then there is only one way to advance - the path of the struggle for democracy and socialism. That is why today as never before the socialist idea is alive and timely. That is why today we have the duty to celebrate

and honour the Great October Socialist Revolution. We have the duty to fight on all fronts of class struggle, on the political, the ideological, cultural and economic.

With the break-up of the Soviet Union and the community of socialist countries in Europe the international progressive movement received a very powerful blow. The wheel of history went backwards in time. Capitalism was victorious, but its victory was short lived. It did not win the war. The wheel of history however cannot continuously turn back to the past. It will once again move forward. This is the general law of human society.

History has begun once again. I would say that it has begun again to experience birth pangs. The birthing process will be long and the pain strong and torturous. The pot once again is beginning to warm up. However in order for this cauldron to boil more wood will need to be put into the fire. For the wheel of history to advance forward millions of people will need to move into action. This wheel of history will once again take its path in a progressive direction. The Left, and especially the Marxist Left, is called upon to play in the current contemporary conditions its pioneering and leading role. It is called upon to organise, inspire and guide the working people in new struggles. Along and together with the working people it is called upon to rally the middle strata and the progressive intelligentsia. Briefly it has the duty to rally and mobilise all those social forces that are situated on the opposite side of the ruling class and of monopolistic and multinational capital.

Will the Left today be able to play this role? Will it be able to win the challenge with history? To win the challenge it must draw lessons from its own experiences; from the positive experiences which it should utilise and from the negative experiences which it should reject. It needs to view in a critical manner its own history without dogmatism and idealisation, without a tendency to copy the past but also neither with a self-destructive disposition and stance. Because this history irrespective of mistakes, shortcomings, even of criminal actions which took place during the years of socialism which happened as a result of the Spanish Civil war, is first and above all a history of service to humanity, to the working man and woman and to civilization.

Assessments and evaluations must be made. Examinations regarding the past are necessary. However these examinations cannot lead to introversion, to the Left closing itself from the outside world, which will prohibit it from dealing with the present and the future. Life is continuing and moving forward, setting us new tasks and duties. The Marxist Left reached new heights when together with the peoples it fought in the front line of the struggles for the major problems of people, but also for the day-to-day problems of ordinary people. The Marxist Left has made history when it opened up roads and projected perspectives. This is what it must also do today. Apart from criticising capitalism, the new world order and neo-liberalism, it must propose solutions to tackle contemporary problems. It must be in the front line of the struggles for the solution of these problems. It must open up perspectives, inspire the conviction that another different world based on humanness and solidarity is possible. The value and sacred heritage of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the entire invaluable and precious legacy which the great figures of socialism and the collective struggles have handed down to us constitute an inexhaustible source from which we can draw the strength to carry out the tasks of modern times.

Dear friends and comrades,

The October Revolution contributed to the radicalisation of the world and particularly of Europe during the interwar period. At the beginning of the 1930's the social-class, political and ideological contradictions in Spain intensified to an unprecedented level. The country was divided into two opposing camps. The democratic camp consisted of workers, peasants, the petty-bourgeois strata and the progressive intelligentsia. The reactionary camp was made up of the big ruling class, the landowners, the leading bodies of the clergy of the Catholic Church and the reactionary leadership of the armed forces. The confrontation between the two camps was taking on all the more greater dimensions. The conditions were maturing for a popular democratic revolution.

The victory of the Popular Front in February 1936, which rallied within its ranks a broad spectrum of political and social forces of the Left and the progressive centre, raised the hopes of the Spanish people for a better future. However the reactionary forces, both inside the country as well as abroad, wanted to put a stop by force to the progressive course of the Spanish people.

On the 18th of July 1936 a fascist coup d'etat took place headed by General Franco. The forces of Democratic Spain are mobilised and waged resistance. Hence began a bloody civil war that lasted three years.

Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy intervene overtly and openly on the side of Franco. Hitler and Mussolini hasten to recognise the fascist regime. They support it diplomatically and politically. They generously offer every kind of weaponry and military aid. They send tens of thousands of soldiers to fight alongside the Spanish fascist forces.

Britain and France instead of standing on the side of the legal democratic government form the so-called International Non-Intervention Committee. On the pretext of non-intervention they implement in essence an arms embargo to the detriment of Democratic Republican Spain. The United States follow the policy of "non-intervention". Only the Soviet Union stood on the side of the Republic of Spain and supported it politically, diplomatically, morally but also with the sending of weapons and experienced officers to train the democratic Spanish armed forces.

Under these circumstances the idea of the formation of an international military force made up of volunteer anti-fascists begins to take hold in the international communist movement, who will make their way to Spain and fight on the side of the Spanish people. Thus the International Brigades begun to be established. In the ranks of these Brigades not only communists enrol, but also socialists, Catholics, people of no particular party affiliation and other democrats of all persuasions and ideologies. Of course until the very end the communists constituted the main bulk of the International Brigades. It has been calculated that around 60,000 internationalist anti-fascists went to Spain to fight against fascism. The International Brigades were the most vigorous and powerful expression of international solidarity which the world has witnessed.

Despite the heroism and the carnage of sacrifices made by the Spanish people and the fighters of the International Brigades the fascist forces of Franco managed finally to impose their rule.

What were the reasons for the prevalence of the fascist forces in Spain?

The open foreign intervention and especially of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy was the major reason.

A second reason was the policy of non-intervention applied by England, France and the United States and which in reality strangled Republican and democratic Spain. The Cypriot people, who has on many occasions felt betrayed by the policies of equal distancing and appeasement of the occupying power of Turkey, can understand more easily the magnitude of the hypocrisy of the shameful policy of "non-intervention", which was implemented against the Spanish people.

Of course there were also internal reasons which helped the prevalence of fascism. At the most crucial times of the war social democrats and centre forces that participated in the Popular Front did not hold a consistent position, vacillating and exhibiting a tendency to compromise with reaction. On the other hand, the anarchists, Trotskyites and other leftist political groups hiding behind an ultra-revolutionary phraseology were undermining every effort to combat fascism in an organised and disciplined way. By not understanding correctly the Marxist-Leninist theory concerning the various stages of struggle, by showing a petty-bourgeois revolutionary impatience, they hastened to lend to the struggle of the Spanish people the character of a socialist revolution. For example, in regions where they had a strong support the anarchists moved forward to the enforced collectivisation of the land, a fact which turned a section of the peasantry against the

government of the Popular Front. The leftists and anarchist approaches and practises have never helped a struggling people. This is a lesson which also holds true in our period of time.

Comrades,

Dear friends,

Tiny Cyprus also responded to the call of struggle in the great universal mobilisation to defend democracy and defeat fascism in Spain.

Around 60 of our compatriots hastened voluntarily to Spain and joined the ranks of the International Brigades. Nearly all of them were Cypriot immigrants from Britain, the United States and other countries. In the conditions at that time and bearing in mind the situation of the Palmer colonial regime (Palmer - the British colonial governor) in Cyprus it was very difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to start off from Cyprus itself to go to Spain to fight. All the Cypriots of the International Brigades belonged to the Left progressive movement and the majority were organised in the Communist Parties of Britain and the United States. One of these comrades, Kostas Lapithiotis before immigrating to England was a member of the Central Committee of the illegal Communist Party of Cyprus.

Fifteen of our compatriots and comrades sacrificed their own lives so that fascism would not pass. They sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the Spanish people and the world as an utmost act of internationalism.

The Cypriot internationalists joined the ranks of their units in which their fellow fighters from Britain, the USA, Canada and other English-speaking countries had enrolled. They fought in nearly all the great battles of the Spanish Anti-Fascist War, such as the battle of Jarama, Guadalajara, Teruel and the river of Ebro. The Cypriot fighters were characterised by their bravery, courage and heroism. Some of them indeed, whilst when they went to Spain as ordinary volunteers and in the course of events their courage, militancy and leadership qualities were held in high esteem, were promoted to various ranks. Hence Evanthis Nicolaides became a Captain. Michalakis Economides attained the rank of Political Commissar. Giakoumis Koumoullou was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

The most well-known of the Cypriots who fought as a volunteer in Spain was without doubt Ezekias Papaioannou, later to be the General Secretary and historical leader of AKEL. Papaioannou was one of the first comrades who together with Michalakis Economides and Antonis Theodoulou hastened to go to Spain and enlist in the ranks of the International Brigades. Papaioannou fought in the battle of Andalucía, on the southern front of Cordoba, where he was seriously wounded in the leg, which is why after his treatment he was forced to return to England.

At least 15 of the Cypriot internationalists of Spain fell heroically in battle. Fifteen of our compatriots and comrades sacrificed their own lives so that fascism would not pass. They sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the Spanish people and the world as an utmost act of internationalism. As the legendry "La Pasionaria", one of the leaders of Spanish Communist Party Dolores Ibaruri, stressed in bidding farewell to the fighters of the International Brigades: "thousands of Internationalists remain for ever in Spain and the land of Spain will eternally embrace them". It's an honour for our Party; it's an honour for Cyprus that these heroes of internationalism Cypriot anti-fascists are included amongst them.

Allow me as a due tribute and a minimal expression of honour to pronounce their names: **Angelos Romanis** from Nicosia; **Anastasis Antoniou** and **Demetris Nicolaou** from Agios Ilias Famagusta; **Achilleas Kanaris** from Agious Omologites; **Vasilis Patichis** and **Giakoumis Koumoullou** from Lefkara; **Giorgios Pantazis** from Kythrea; **Loucas Orfanides** from Akaki; **Nikos Perdikos** from

Gialousa; **Panagiotis Anthiros**, immigrant from the United States whose place of origin is unknown; **Panagiotis Katsaronas** from Larnaca; **Sergios Rossides** from Pyrga Famagusta; **Spyros Pantelides** from Kato Dry; **Christos Konstantinou** from Bellapais and **Christos Christodoulou** from Rizokarpaso. Eternal glory and honour to them all!

Comrades,

The participation of Cyprus in the Spanish Anti-Fascist War represents an outstanding, honoured and glorious page in our history: an outstanding, honoured and glorious page in the history of our People's Movement but also of Cyprus as a whole. Unfortunately this page, as well as the contribution of Cyprus in the Second World War, still remains downgraded, I would even say forgotten. Historical memory should be cultivated first and above all at school. The reform of the educational system, which the current government of the cooperation of the democratic and progressive forces is moving towards, will be judged to a large degree also by how it restores the historical truth concerning the deliberately forgotten or even distorted aspects of our history and how it enforces historical truth as part of the teaching programme. As far as our own Party is concerned we shall continue to do whatever we can by undertaking various initiatives so that the historical memory and the example of the internationalists of Spain will stay alive.

After seventy years what messages do the Anti-Fascist War in Spain and the struggles of the International Brigades convey today? The first message that they definitely send out is that the only way to confront fascism, whatever form it may take, is the path of unflinching, tireless and uncompromising struggle. The communists are and will always be in the front line of this struggle.

The second message, equally important, concerns international solidarity. In an age when imperialism harnesses all its aggressiveness, establishes unholy alliances, wages wars of invasion, is behaving with utter contempt by flagrantly violating every principle of law, at a time when neo-liberalism through the vehicle of the globalisation of the multi-national companies and the monopolies is sweeping across every corner of our planet, the democratic progressive forces of the world have only one choice before them: to develop and enhance international solidarity and coordinate their activity between them. Only through the struggles of the peoples, the coordination of the struggle and the international unity and solidarity between these forces can they constrain and block the war-mongering plans of imperialism and to repel the neo-liberal storm.

AKEL once again states that it is ready to respond to the contemporary international call for action. It is taking initiatives. It is working within the Political Group of the European Left in the European Parliament and the Council of Europe. It is developing its relations with brother parties and movements in all the continents besides the European continent. We are not satisfied with the level of cooperation and coordination which exists today between the Left forces. Despite the differences that exist and which no-one can ignore, we are united by common visions, ideals and values that can provide the solid foundation for the development and upgrading of the solidarity between us.

This solidarity is necessary and must be developed first of all for reasons of self-defence: in order to finally and irrevocably thwart the implementation of the ideas and directives which seek to ban and prohibit the Communist Parties.

We need international solidarity to resolutely defend the democratic gains and the rights of working people and in order to tackle the criminal "new world order" and neo-liberalism. International solidarity is needed to support the struggling peoples of Cuba and Palestine, as well as all the peoples who are fighting for their national independence and dignity. International solidarity is needed so that we can support the peoples of Latin America which at this time are opening up through their example new paths and perspectives for the revolutionary perspective.

Comrades,

The Great October Socialist Revolution and the Anti-Fascist War of the Spanish people and the International Brigades are shining lighthouses whose brightness lightens up the darkness and illuminates the path towards the future. As historical events they are unique and unrepeatable. Their symbolism, importance and impact however are everlasting, always vivid, and always timely. Keeping October in our hearts and with our fists raised high to salute the Internationalists we look towards the future with certainty and self-confidence. Our future is not capitalism, but the new world - socialism.

We express our Honour and glory to the working class revolutionaries of October.

We express our Honour and glory to the anti-fascist internationalists of Spain.

Speech of the G.S. of the C.C. of AKEL Demetris Christofias at the bi-communal meeting organised by the Famagusta District Committees of AKEL and RTP, Friday 3rd November 2006

We have all gathered here today thanks to the initiative of the Famagusta District Committees of AKEL and RTP (Republican Turkish Party). This is the fifth joint meeting of the two district organisations. We wish to extend to you all a warm friendly greeting and we congratulate the two District Organisations for the initiatives they are taking to bring Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots together.

AKEL has always supported and worked hard for rapprochement, especially for the development of relations at all levels with the Republican Turkish Party. This policy has not changed and nor will this policy change.

At the last meeting of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot parties held at Lidra Palace in September AKEL was the party hosting the meeting and as is the custom it set out the content of the discussion. We proposed that the subject of discussion should be the role of the political parties for the rejuvenation and enhancement of rapprochement between the two Cypriot communities. We made such a proposal because we deeply believe that the development of relations and trust between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots constitutes a fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of a solution that will satisfy the interests of the two communities and the Cypriot people as a whole and not the interests of any foreign powers. We made such a proposal because we deeply believe in the achievement of a bi-zonal bi-communal federal solution.

At the meeting the position of all the parties was common regarding the need to continue and broaden contacts at all levels. Everyone at the meeting acknowledged that AKEL and RTP were and remain the backbone and the pioneers of the rapprochement of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Tonight's meeting, which it should be pointed out was decided even before the Lidra Palace meeting took place, contributes to the efforts to enhance rapprochement. Once again I congratulate the Famagusta District Committees of AKEL and RTP and I greet the mass participation of people in this event.

Allow me also to greet the presence here at the meeting of my friend Ferdi Sabit Sogyer. His presence here gives me the opportunity to say a few things straight from the heart and especially regarding the relations of AKEL and RTP.

The contacts between our parties are taking place on two levels: on a leadership level and between the cadres, members and friends of the two parties. As far as the contacts between the two leaderships is concerned I must say that frequent contact has been re-established and we are discussing the differences of opinions and approaches that do exist regarding the federal solution of the Cyprus problem, which also means the political equality of the two communities within the framework of this federation.

I want to be sincere and frank with you all. For quite a long time now the approach of the two parties on the fundamental aspects of the Cyprus problem differ greatly. We have different positions on the issue of the militarisation of the united Federal Republic of Cyprus and the abolition of the right of intervention in the internal affairs of our country by the guarantor powers. There are different approaches regarding the solution of the question of the thousands of citizens of Turkey who have been transported here: that is to say the issue of the settlers. There are differences of opinion on the issue of the properties, regarding the question of safeguarding the right of voluntary return of the refugees and on the question of political equality which is interpreted differently, as well as on other issues.

I would like to underline that despite the differences in our approaches the dialogue between the two Parties must continue, which should aim at the bridging of the gap which exists in the positions of the two parties.

The other level of contact concerns, as I have already mentioned, the cadres, members and the people of our parties. I think that ordinary people and the rank and file, irrespective of whatever feelings of disappointment were caused by the result of the referenda, continue in a genuine and spontaneous way to want the relations between AKEL and RTP to once again become comradesly on the basis of their common struggles. The people want our relations to be based on the foundations of the suppression the members and cadres of the Left experienced and on the basis of the sacrifices made by our comrades who were murdered in our common struggle for a Cyprus without foreign troops and bases, without imperialist dependences, for a Cyprus for all its people Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

I would like to underline that despite the differences in our approaches, the dialogue between the two Parties must continue, which should aim at the bridging of the gap which exists in the positions of the two parties.

I assure you that we, as AKEL, continue to be guided by our class-based and social approach and outlook, on the basis of which we regard the Turkish Cypriots not as our enemies, but as our brothers, sons and daughters of the same mother earth, of our homeland Cyprus.

With these thoughts in mind I greet you all and I wish you all every success in our future common struggles for the good of the working people, for the benefit of our people and our common homeland.

Long live our Cyprus!