



AKEL *bulletin*

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SPEECH OF ANDROS KYPRIANOU, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE C.C. OF AKEL, AT THE MEETING "DEVELOPMENTS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND TURKEY'S ACCESSION COURSE" (*extract*)

Brussels 7th October 2009



Allow me to express my joy, as I am once again present at the Group of the Left to brief you all on the Cyprus problem and hear your own views on this issue. I congratulate the Left Group on the results it achieved in the recent European elections. Furthermore, I congratulate each one of you personally on your election or re-election to the post of MEP. I also congratulate those elected to the various posts of the Left Group and the European Parliament. I wish every

success in the difficult work you have assumed. [...]

On the political level, the so-called New World Order continues to flagrantly violate the Constitutional Charter of the United Nations and impinge International Law. It

Read also:

- *Intervention of George Loukaides in the 11th International Meeting of Communist and Worker's parties in New Delhi (p.5)*
- *Mobilization of Solidarity with the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (p.8)*
- *Event of Solidarity with the Palestinian people (p.9)*
- *Statement of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL regarding the developments in the Cyprus Problem*

continues to strive to sideline and use the UN in order to serve the selfish interests of the powerful forces of the planet and multinational companies. The law of the powerful is imposed by any means in the name allegedly of exporting democracy. [...]

In Cyprus, our people are waging their own struggle for the liberation of Cyprus and reunification of our country and people. This remains the primary goal for AKEL. The vindication of the Cypriot people is the eternal and constant goal of our Party and of the President of the Republic too, who for a whole year now has conducted a huge effort for the solution of the Cyprus problem through the direct negotiations with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

The direct talks between the leaders of the two communities began in September 2008. The two leaders agreed, before the start of direct negotiations that they are aiming at a bi-zonal bi-communal federal solution with political equality as set out by the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations. It was clarified that reunified Cyprus will have a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship.

The first phase of the negotiations was concluded in June. The leaders of the two communities discussed the chapters on Governance, the property issue, Cyprus' participation in the European Union, the economy, the territorial issue and security and guarantees. In this first phase, many convergences, but also many divergences were recorded in the positions tabled by the two communities.

On the chapter regarding **governance**, whilst it appears that an agreement has been achieved on certain issues, nevertheless significant disagreements remain on serious aspects. One characteristic example is the gap that exists concerning the system of government. [...]

The proposal of President Christofias provides for the election of the President and Vice-President directly by the people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, with a common candidate list and a common election programme. [...] The election of the President and Vice-President directly by the people obliges the two communities to cooperate with each other. It transfers antagonism to an ideological-political level and

The election of the President and Vice-President directly by the people obliges the two communities to cooperate with each other. It transfers antagonism to an ideological-political level and contributes in the long term to overcoming antagonism based on national origin.

contributes in the long term to overcoming antagonism based on national origin. To meet the concerns of the Turkish Cypriots due to their smaller numerical number, the President proposes the weighting of their votes. [...]

Regarding the **property issue**, a step forward was made, since the right of property to Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot refugees was recognised also

by the Turkish side. However, huge differences still exist. The most substantial difference is that surrounding the issue of who will decide on the scenario that will be implemented regarding the fate of the properties. We insist that this right must be exercised by the lawful owners. [...]

Unfortunately, regarding the issue of **Cyprus' participation in the European Union** too, disagreements have been ascertained. Despite the fact that it appears converges exist on quite a number of issues, such as our participation within the European Union, the demands of the Turkish Cypriot leadership give rise to serious disagreements. They are raising the issue of permanent derogations from the *acquis communautaire* concerning the right of settlement, property and related questions. [...]

On the chapter regarding the **territorial issue**, the Greek Cypriot side once again, tabled proposals aiming at a viable solution, stressing that the territorial adjustments that must be made take into account all the relevant parameters. The goal of the Greek Cypriot side is to achieve such adjustments so that the biggest number of refugees as possible will return under Greek Cypriot administration, but also to safeguard the right of Greek Cypriots to decide whether they wish to return or not to their homes and properties. In our opinion, there is a way to achieve this goal, whilst meeting at this same time the basic concerns of the Turkish Cypriots.

During the discussion on the chapter of **security and guarantees**, the

leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community insisted on its position regarding the continuation of Turkish guarantees, indeed insisting on the right of unilateral intervention of Turkey. The President of the Republic stressed that this will never be accepted. As AKEL, we agree with this position. [...] Our objective is the withdrawal of all troops within short timetables and not in the long run.

I have referred to some issues to prove the difference in the approach that exists between the two leaders. Our conviction is that long standing problems and conflicts can only be solved when principles are respected, something that the Turkish side seems not to favour. Despite all this, I reiterate our commitment to make every effort to arrive at a solution: a solution that will however be based on the fundamental principles that have been agreed. [...]

As AKEL, I would like to make it clear that we want a solution of the Cyprus problem as soon as possible: not however any kind of solution. We are aiming at a solution that will reunify Cyprus and establish it as an independent, sovereign, federal and demilitarised state. We are aiming for a solution based on International Law, European principles, the Resolutions of the United Nations and the High-Level Agreements of 1977-1979. Consequently, the possibility of finding a speedy solution does not depend on time, but on the positions that are tabled at the negotiating table. This is where the attention of the international community must turn to, in order to ensure that constructive positions are tabled by Turkish side at

the negotiating table: positions that are within the agreed framework. [...]

The objective is that the two leaders arrive together at an agreed proposal through a procedure of Cypriot ownership. Furthermore, before the start of the direct talks, the Secretary-General had reaffirmed the President of the Republic of the United Nations interest in finding a solution of the Cyprus problem through talks of "Cypriots, for Cypriots". Of course, there are issues, such as regarding the guarantees, security and demilitarisation that must be discussed with Turkey. As AKEL, we seek the constructive contribution of Ankara in the talks. Regretfully this does not seem to be the case. [...]

Our wish is that the two leaders eventually achieve the reunification of our island and people; the consolidation of peace, security and stability in Cyprus, but also in the wider region.

As AKEL, we support the European course of Turkey because we consider that this can act as an incentive for the solution of the Cyprus problem. However, we insist that for Turkey to accede to the European Union it must fulfil the Copenhagen Political Criteria, the Maastricht economic criteria and implement the obligations it has undertaken towards the European Union. These also include its obligations towards the Republic of Cyprus. As AKEL, we consider that as of now a clear message must be conveyed to Turkey by the European Union, that is to say that it must

implement these commitments otherwise it will not proceed without consequences. In addition, the European Union must point out to Turkey that the military occupation of a member-state is neither in line with International Law, nor with the principles and values of Europe. The political leadership of Turkey has recently been seeking to project as its goal, its acknowledgement as a factor of stability and normality in the wider region. This goal will be fulfilled if it were to contribute in a constructive way to the solution of the Cyprus problem.

We reiterate our commitment to work to solve the Cyprus problem as soon as possible. In our efforts, we need all the help we can receive from the international community and especially from our associates in the European Union. The exertion of pressure on Turkey so that it will comply with its obligations will benefit the effort of the direct talks to a great degree. Our wish is that the two leaders eventually achieve the reunification of our island and people: the consolidation of peace, security and stability in Cyprus, but also in the wider region. Addressing you all dear friends, I would like to thank you for your long-standing support you have rendered to the struggle of the Cypriot people. I appeal to you to continue this effort until that blessed day when our Island will be liberated and reunified.

On behalf of the Central Committee of AKEL, I thank you for your presence here today. I reassure that AKEL will always be present in the small and big struggles of the Group of the Left.

11th International Meeting of Communist and Worker's parties in New Delhi (20-22 of November 2009)

“The international capitalist crisis, the workers and peoples struggle, the alternatives and the role of the Communist and working class movement”
(extract)

Intervention of George Loukaides

Head International Relations Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL



On behalf of the Central Committee of AKEL, I would like to convey our warmest greetings to all the Parties participating in the 11th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties. Allow me to particularly thank the Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India – Marxist, for hosting this meeting in such excellent conditions.

The continuous dialogue and exchange of views and experiences between the Communist and left parties are of crucial importance,

since through this process we can elaborate positions and coordinate activities and struggles.

Dear comrades,

Humanity is witnessing during the last two years a global economic crisis that constitutes the clearest indication of the failure of the capitalist system and the neo-liberal policies that have been implemented during the last three decades on a global level.

Apologists of capitalism and neo-liberalism, rushed from the beginning to claim that the economic crisis was the result of the personal responsibility and behaviour of leading officials of the big financial institutions. Of course, this argument has nothing to do with reality.

The causes of the crisis have to do with the very nature of the capitalist system itself. This is a result of the inherent unjust and inhuman nature of this system where working people labour but only a few reap the benefits and accumulate wealth and profit. [...]

Although the working class is not in any case responsible for this crisis, they are now the ones that are called upon by the ruling classes to pay the price.

In addition to the millions of workers who are the first victims of this crisis and are losing their jobs, there are millions of others, above all from the countries of the South, who are at the same time losing the fragile resources to sustain their families. The ILO estimates that more than 30 million

people lost their jobs in 2008 and this figure will increase to more than 50 million in 2009. The FAO estimates that the number of people threatened by famine rose from 850 million in 2007 to 960 million in 2008, and that the figure could reach a billion in 2009!

All this is taking place even though everyone acknowledges that humanity has sufficient productive capacity to meet people's needs, and even though it is increasingly clear that specific scientific and technological advances are not utilized, since they do not serve to the criteria of profitability demanded by capital, which controls the process.

The current situation though, is not a new phenomenon but reflects the worsening of an unequal and unfair world based on the capitalist system; a world where inequalities are reproduced and also reflected in the development rates of the regions all over the world. In this world, the so-called advanced economies (31 states in total) until today hold 56.4% of the World Gross Product, whilst the emerging – developing economies (141 states in total) hold the rest 43.6%. The wealth of the 15 richest men of the world is higher than the GDP of an entire continent, Africa. According to the UN, half population of the planet is threatened by hunger. In the richest countries, 100 million people are living below the poverty line.

The neoliberal model implemented over the last few decades throughout the world, has intensified the contradictions of capitalism. In particular, in the European Union the conservative forces, which the social democrats were for the most part in

unison, imposed neo-liberalism as the dominant philosophy of the EU. Thus, the lawlessness and anarchy of the market, the restriction of the control and regulative role of the state and the destruction of the welfare state were imposed.

The current situation though, is not a new phenomenon but reflects the worsening of an unequal and unfair world based on the capitalist system; a world where inequalities are reproduced and also reflected in the development rates of the regions all over the world.

Unfortunately, it is obvious that these forces are not willing, even today, to change course and policy. They still insist on dead end policies. What else but dead end policies do the policies of flexicurity

, privatizations and liberalizations, the extension of active employment represent? They are attempting to put the burden of the economic crisis on the backs of the peoples of Europe. The approval in a second referendum of the Lisbon Treaty by the Irish people constitutes another step in this direction. The Lisbon treaty institutionalizes the neoliberal model, pre-emptive wars outside EU and the complete dependence of EU on NATO.

On the political level, the so-called New World Order continues to flagrantly violate the Constitutional Charter of the United Nations and impinge International Law. It continues to strive to sideline and use the UN in order to serve the selfish interests of the imperialist forces of the

planet and multinational companies. The law of the powerful is being imposed by any means in the name allegedly of "exporting democracy". [...]

Of course, despite the inconsistency between words and deeds, the forces of conservatism and imperialism appear to remain very consistent on another issue: in their anti-communism propaganda. An intense incomprehensible attempt to equate communism and Nazism is underway, as if the irrefutable historical facts and political criteria do not nullify the philosophy, spirit and arguments of this effort. [...]

Dear comrades,

The world economic crisis has re-confirmed that the future of humanity cannot be capitalism, but socialism. The future of humanity cannot be a system that has as its primary goal the continuous concentration of wealth and the maximization of profit to the detriment of social needs.

As AKEL, we believe that the Communist forces, together with progressive, ant imperialistic and ant capitalistic forces around the world, must take more decisive steps to open up the socialist alternative path to our societies and the world. We need to convince people not just that capitalism is driving humanity into barbarism but also that socialism is the only possible alternative. In order to do so, we have to reinforce our contacts with the working class and all the strata of the society that we are addressing. We have to convince them that our struggles are also their own struggles. We have to be out with

them on the streets, in the factories, the trade unions, at the work place and anywhere else where we have to wage social or political struggles. We have to dialectically connect our struggle for socialism with our struggles to elaborate and project short-term solutions on major social issues such as unemployment, homelessness, the increase in the retirement rate, reduction of salaries and wages and the restriction of workers rights. We have to reinforce our struggles for saving the planet from environmental destruction. [...] We have to unite our forces in the struggle against the unjust, aggressive, imperialist wars and strengthen our solidarity activities with all peoples and movements struggling for national independence, peace, freedom and social justice.

Comrades,

Unfortunately, we have to acknowledge that the impact by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp, still affect Communist and progressive forces in a negative way. Nevertheless, the Communist movement has already stood on its feet and is gradually becoming stronger. The developments in Latin America and the anti-imperialistic radicalization of many countries in this continent is one of the examples showing the possibilities we have as a Communist and left movement.

Though, it is obvious that our road still remains a difficult one, full of obstacles, however this remains the only road that can provide a positive perspective to the working class and humanity as a whole: the perspective of the emancipation of humanity; the perspective of socialism.

SEVERAL NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUREAU

14 and 17 of November: Visit in Cyprus of Vijitha Mudiyanse, MP of JVP from Sri Lanka

The MP of JVP Party of Sri Lanka, c. Vijitha Mudiyanse, has visited Cyprus between 14 and 17 of November after an invitation he received from AKEL. The MP had the chance to discuss several issues here in Cyprus with the most important to be the labor issues of Sri Lankese people who live in Cyprus.

The comrade had several meetings with the relative Ministries in these issues (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Labor – Social Insurances), PEO, EDON and AKEL. Also, he participated in an event organized by representatives of his party here in Cyprus on the 15th of November related to the Commemoration of the 20 years after the assassination of the leadership of his Party from the governmental military forces.



23rd of December: Mobilization of solidarity with the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.



A mobilization was organized in the 23rd of December from the Central Committee of AKEL outside the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cyprus regarding the efforts of the Senate of the Czech Republic to suspend the activities of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia. The mobilization ended with the submission of a resolution of condemnation of these efforts and expression of our solidarity with the Party.

A representation of AKEL and its youth EDON, around 100 persons, have participated in the mobilization which was covered from several Cypriot media. EDON has participated with panels and pickets giving the struggling spirit of the demonstration by shouting slogans of solidarity with CPBM and condemnation of anticommunism. Finally, the Parliamentary Representative, c. Nicos Katsourides and the Head of the International Relations Bureau of AKEL, c. George Loukaides submitted the resolution and had a small conversation with the representatives of the Embassy regarding the issue.

Taking this opportunity we would like to express again our solidarity with CPBM and we declare that we will always support its struggles. We also hope that several Communist parties around the world will express their support and solidarity as well.

28th of December: Visit in Cyprus from Lothar Bisky, President of GUE/NGL

Comrade Lothar Bisky, President of the Parliamentary Group in the EP, GUE/NGL (European United Left/ Nordic Green Left), has visited the offices of the Central Committee of AKEL in the 28th of December 2009 while he was in Cyprus for vocation. During the meeting he had the chance to be informed from the G.S. of AKEL c. Andros Kyprianou concerning the developments in the Cyprus Problem and they had also the chance to discuss several bilateral issues and issues related to the EU.



After the meeting, a press conference had followed. There, c. Bisky had the chance to express its gratitude for his visit in AKEL and the information he was provided. It was very important for him the fact that he had visited a country with a Left President. He mentioned in the illness of Oscar Lafontaine is suffering from and he wished as he will recover soon and return back to its duties. Finally, he said that he wishes to have another chance soon to visit Cyprus and be further informed regarding the Cyprus Problem which is also a European problem, as he said.

18th of January: Event of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The Central Committee and the International Relations Bureau of AKEL have organized Event of Solidarity with the Palestinian people on Monday the 18th of January, in the building of ETKA-PEO in Nicosia. The main speakers in the event were the Parliamentary Representative of AKEL, c. Nicos Katsourides and the General Representative of the Palestinian Authority in Cyprus, Mr. Khalid Najjar.



For once more, AKEL expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people and affirmed its stability in positions of principles concerning the Palestinian problem. As c. Nicos Katsourides said *"The struggle for justification is not easy, it has never been for the peoples who fight. With the determination as a weapon for the just in the cases of the Cypriot and Palestinian people, we will resist. This is the only way to reach the desired outcome in our countries and peoples"*. Also, the imperialistic policies of the USA and Israel, which consist diachronically the root of the problem, had been condemned and the relation of imperialism with the international political problems like the Cyprus Problem had been highlighted.

Afterwards, a cultural program had followed from a Palestinian music and dancing group that is consisted from Palestinians living in Cyprus. In the event several people had attended from the Popular Movement and the Palestinian political refugees in Cyprus.

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE C.C. OF AKEL

Nicosia, 16th January 2010



The Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL convened in session yesterday on the 15th of January 2010. The Political Bureau was briefed and discussed developments concerning the intense talks, the informal meeting of the leaders of the political parties and the meeting of the National Council (*Note: the top advisory body to the President of the Republic composed of all the parliamentary parties and former*

Presidents of the Republic).

The P.B. reiterated the full and unwavering support of AKEL to the President of the Republic, his handling and efforts to find a just under the circumstances, viable and workable solution of the Cyprus problem.

President Dimitris Christofias is pursuing with consistency a principled policy in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus, the High-Level Agreements, International and European Law. He is submitting proposals at the talks that are in line with the long-established positions of the National Council and within the bounds of the agreed framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal solution with political equality as set out by the UN resolutions and for a solution providing for a united state with a single sovereignty, a single citizenship and single personality.

The P.B. expresses its regret about the written document prepared by the Turkish side that contains unacceptable long-standing positions of Ankara leading to a solution of confederation. The President of the Republic and the political leadership quite rightly has rejected the Turkish proposals as unacceptable and as being outside the agreed framework of the solution of the Cyprus problem.

Whilst the procedure of intensive talks is still underway, it is a mistake to predetermine their failure. AKEL will judge the result of the talks when this phase has been completed.

The intransigence and the manoeuvrings of the Turkish side disappoint us but do not discourage us. Both the President of the Republic and AKEL will continue with consistency and determination working vigorously to arrive at a solution.

The P.B. welcomes the action of President Christofias to inform the Secretary-General of the UN, the international community and the European Union about the unacceptability of the Turkish proposals and to condemn the Turkish position. Our denunciations and the briefing of the international community have an impact as long as this is accompanied by following a correct policy and tactics by our side; a policy and tactics projecting our political will for a solution and our desire for an honourable compromise based on the resolutions of the United Nations and the High-Level Agreements. Conversely, inertia, unjustified negativity

and the backing-out from long-established positions of the Greek Cypriot side not only do not help the cause of Cyprus but also undermine it. They serve to facilitate the efforts to consolidate partition, which for AKEL does not exist as an option because it would mean the beginning of new tragedies and adventures for our people.

AKEL disagrees completely with the voices being heard for the termination of the talks, the revision of our strategic goal for a federal solution and for the withdrawal of the proposals of the Greek Cypriot side. Consistency on all that we have agreed with the Turkish Cypriot community, but mainly with all that we have agreed for years with the international community is our most powerful weapon in the struggle to maintain the ground of support of Cyprus in the international arena and to dampen Turkish intransigence.

AKEL calls on the international and European factor to correctly and objectively assess the proposals the Turkish side is submitting and to exert its influence and pressure on Turkey in order that it change its policy and at long last comply with the resolutions and principles of the United Nations.

AKEL calls on our Turkish Cypriot compatriots to exercise their own influence on their leadership, but also on Ankara, demanding the respect of the agreed framework of the solution so that we can reach a bi-zonal bi-communal federal solution within the framework of which we shall achieve the reunification of our country, with lasting peace and security for all Cypriots and the prosperity of our country and people.

The P.B. of the C.C. of AKEL expresses the full satisfaction of the Party with the results of the visit and contacts of the General Secretary of the C.C. in Athens. The reassurance by the entire state and political leadership of Greece of the unanimous support of the Greek people to the struggle of Cyprus for vindication is extremely important at this very crucial phase of the Cyprus problem. AKEL expresses once again its warm thanks and gratitude to the government, the political world and the Greek people for their unwavering support and solidarity. The P.B. of the C.C. of AKEL particularly appreciated the fact that the entire state and political leadership of Greece backs the policy and handling of President Christofias and express confidence in him.

The P.B. of the C.C. of AKEL reaffirms the long-established position of the Party that unity on the domestic front is an indispensable precondition for the successful outcome of our struggle. Unity cannot but be based on principles and presupposes that every political force assumes its share of responsibility. Part of this responsibility is the support that should be given to the President of the Republic as the representative and negotiator of the Greek Cypriot side, despite the differences that exist. AKEL will continue to work with consistency and a sense of responsibility for the unity on our domestic front.



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