



AKEL *bulletin*

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21st Congress of AKEL

Force for Cyprus

Force for the people

The 21st Congress of AKEL will be held on the 25 – 28 of November 2010, in Nicosia. The first day of the Congress, on the 25th of November, we will organise an International Conference under the title "The struggle of the Left and the fight of the peoples for global peace and security against the imperialistic Order".

Our Congress is taking place in a period where the capitalist system and neoliberal model of its management are going through a deep crisis, as a result of the inherent contradictions of the system and the rapid exacerbation of inequalities over the last three decades, since neoliberalism was imposed.

Within the framework of the imperialist order, the United States and their allies are continuing their efforts for the preservation and expansion of their global hegemony at all levels: economic, political and military-strategic.



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- Speech of the G.S. of the C.C. of AKEL, com. Andros Kyprianou at the meeting with the Ambassadors of the EU in Cyprus (p.3-7)
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The 21st Congress of AKEL will take place in unprecedented circumstances for the Party itself. For the first time, the President of the Republic c. D. Christofias comes from the ranks of AKEL. For the first time AKEL is having such a big participation in a coalition government.

The 21st Congress of AKEL will also be held in extremely crucial conditions for Cyprus and our people. The most important and coherent attempt to solve the Cyprus problem is underway since 1974 and onwards, an attempt which was made possible due to the policy and initiatives undertaken by President Christofias.

Both the President of the Republic and AKEL, are struggling hard for a solution based on principles. We are fighting for the termination of the occupation and the colonisation, for the reunification of our country and people, for the restoration of the human rights and basic freedoms of all Cypriots, for a solution that will be in line with the resolutions of the United Nations, the High-Level Agreements, International and European Law. We remain committed to a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal solution with political equality as set out by the resolutions of the United Nations. We are fighting so that the solution will provide for a united state, with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship. We are struggling against nationalism and chauvinism. We are resolutely promoting rapprochement and the culture of peaceful cohabitation with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots.

Concerning the domestic issues, despite the difficulties caused by the world economic crisis, the President and his government are implementing a programme of governance with a marked content in the people's interests. Radical changes and reforms have already been implemented, solving many long-standing problems of Cypriot society in a progressive direction. AKEL proves to be a force that knows and can exert influence in the direction of the exercise of power to the benefit of the people and the country, remaining always faithful to the principles of socialism, progress, social justice and meritocracy.

SPEECH OF ANDROS KYPRIANOU, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE C.C. OF AKEL, MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF EU MEMBER STATES IN CYPRUS (20-10-2010, NICOSIA)

Allow me on behalf of the C.C. of AKEL to welcome you all to our meeting today, which represents a continuation of previous similar meetings we held.[...]

The direct talks between the leaders of the two communities began in September 2008. Despite the fact that over two years have elapsed, we did not, regretfully, manage to achieve sufficient progress that would bring us within a range of solution of the Cyprus problem.



[...] For us, it is clear that in order to build a lasting future for our country and people, the solution must be acceptable. To fulfil this goal the solution must be just, under the circumstances, workable and viable. It must free us from the ghosts of the past and heal the wounds caused by the actions of extremist and chauvinist organisations, the traitorous coup d'état of the junta of Greece and EOKA B' and the subsequent Turkish invasion and occupation.

The Cyprus problem is an international problem: a problem of invasion and occupation. It is the result of foreign interventions, colonisation and the flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as of the human rights and basic freedoms of the Cypriot people as a whole. This is reaffirmed by a series of resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, which from the very first day of the Turkish invasion of the island on the 20th July 1974 approved resolution 353 which, inter alia, calls on all the states to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. Just one year afterwards, resolution 367 was adopted which called upon all the states, as well as the interested parties, to refrain from any attempts of partition or enosis with another state. At the same time, we do not neglect that through the solution of the Cyprus problem we are called upon to proceed to a reformation of the structure of the state and to achieve the creation of the proper preconditions for the cohabitation of the two communities, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. We are called upon to forge the trust between the two communities that has been largely damaged as a result of the events of the last decades. The building of trust is indispensable, both for the attainment of a solution, as well as for its sustainment and backing.

Today, 36 years after the invasion of Turkey, Cyprus remains divided. [...] It would be inconceivable for the situation, which the occupation of Cyprus by Turkey has created, to be legitimised through the solution or through the implementation of fragmented and piecemeal measures. Taking into account the humanitarian character of some issues related to aspects of the Cyprus problem, we need to safeguard that the solution that will be agreed shall satisfy the feelings of justice of our people as a whole. If the solution will not safeguard human rights and not reverse the partitionist *faits accomplis* it will not be lasting. What we point out in no event negates the proposals that have been submitted at the negotiating table by the President of the Republic. AKEL considers that these proposals are based on the fundamental principles of the solution and seek to function in a consensus manner between the two communities.

Since the 1977 and 1979 High-Level Agreements up until today, the Greek Cypriot side has focused its efforts on a bicomunal bizonal federal solution. At the centre of every initiative we undertake, the goal of the difficult struggle we are waging, both as AKEL and the government, is the reunification of our country and people through this agreed framework. Our objective is the transformation of the Republic of Cyprus from a unitary state into a bicomunal bizonal federation, with political equality as set out by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. Our goal is a solution that will lead to a united state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship; a solution that will not diverge from the principles of International and European Law and that will be in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council of the UN on Cyprus and the High-Level Agreements. [...]

We aspire to a solution that will provide to our country conditions of prospect and progress in all fields and that will reunite the people, area, institutions and the economy.

It is evident that the key for the solution is in Ankara. This under no circumstances means that we underestimate the factor of the Turkish Cypriot community. On the contrary, we believe that the Turkish Cypriot community can positively influence the stand of Turkey, on the precondition however that it wants to operate within the agreed

framework. We know how difficult it is for such a development to occur. Firstly, because there is a great economic and other dependency of the Turkish Cypriot community on Turkey and secondly, because at the helm of its leadership is Mr. Eroglu, who does not share the framework of the solution that has been agreed.

We understand the prevailing current realities internationally and how the balance of forces formulates and preserves the fabric of international developments. We are aware that the so-called new world order unfortunately does not always serve the just causes and rights of small states and peoples, that the geo-political and economic interests of the forces playing a leading role in international affairs affect the course of events and play a decisive role in the formulation of their foreign policy.[...]

Without denying to view the world with realism, we assess that in order not to lead humanity to further tribulations, the relations between states and peoples must continue to be governed by basic principles of law, that have proved particularly enduring through time and by mutual respect and solidarity. Therefore in the case of Cyprus, we expect that the international community and especially the European Union, with Cyprus being its member since 2004, will exercise their influence towards the Turkish side so that the Cyprus problem shall be solved based on International Law, the declared European values and the decisions of the Security Council of the United Nations.[...]

A second, but equally significant, parameter of the activity of the international community in favour of the solution, is the continuation of the procedure of the direct negotiations as it has been agreed with the United Nations and the two sides: that is to say the waging of negotiations, as a procedure of Cypriot ownership, without suffocating timetables and arbitration. This position of course should not be interpreted under any circumstances as relieving Turkey from its responsibilities as an occupational power. Neither does it mean that we reject the assistance which, in the proper parameters, the international community and especially the European Union could provide to giving to giving the procedure an impetus. It merely aims to point out that Cypriots must solve between them the internal aspects of the problem, without attempts to impose a solution externally.

Acknowledging simultaneously that time is not working in favour of reversing the unacceptable status quo, but it is consolidating it, President Christofias continues to undertake potentially driving initiatives, seeking to give a new impetus and extensive perspective to the talks. Indeed just recently he submitted a broad codified package of three proposals, which so far have not received any positive response by the Turkish side; despite the fact that they respond to various important issues, and difficulties pertaining to the moving forward of the procedure.

Therefore in the case of Cyprus, we expect that the international community and especially the European Union, with Cyprus being its member since 2004, will exercise their influence towards the Turkish side so that the Cyprus problem shall be solved based on International Law, the declared European values and the decisions of the Security Council of the United Nations

The proposals of President Christofias in our opinion are realistic and balanced. The first proposal concerns the simultaneous discussion of the chapters of the property, territorial and settlers' issue. These are chapters that are connected with each other and a possible successful outcome of the negotiations on these issues can prove to be decisive for the overall result of the negotiations. [...] Unfortunately, the Turkish

Cypriot side so far has not accepted the proposal, although it declares that it is seeking a solution by the end of 2010.

The second proposal of President Christofias calls for the implementation by Turkey of resolution 550 of the Security Council of 1984 for the return of the fenced off city of Famagusta to the United Nations for its restoration and return to its lawful inhabitants. [...]

The third proposal of President Christofias concerns the convening of an International Conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the European Union, the guarantor powers, the Republic of Cyprus and the two communities. This conference will be convened if the two sides are within range of an agreement on the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem. In such an eventuality, we will be able to discuss the issues regarding the international aspects too, that is to say the issues concerning security, guarantees, the presence of foreign troops and the settlers. The international conference will be conducted under the aegis of the United Nations, within the framework of which we insist that the procedure of the direct talks must remain.

[...] I would like to focus on the issue of the so-called isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community, its economic assistance and the bringing back of the European Commission's proposal for a direct trade regulation.

The so-called isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, to the extent it exists, is due to the Turkish invasion and continuing occupation. This position is also reaffirmed through the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. It is therefore evident that the final solution of the problems and difficulties faced by the Turkish Cypriot community will only be overcome with the lifting of the Turkish occupation. [...]

The proposals President Christofias has projected lay the foundation for the solution of the property issue based on the constant positions of principle of our side. The proposals project in the main the right of first choice of remedy, restitution, compensation or exchange by the legal owner. This safeguards the respect of the individual right to property vis a vis any current user or others. At the same time with our insistence on positions of principle we have attempted as the Greek Cypriot side to adhere to a constructive stand, taking into account, to the degree this is possible, the situation that has been formed after 36 years of occupation.

A basic parameter of our proposals is that the purchase of property will constitute a component part of the broader economy of the Federal Republic of Cyprus and will function based on the principles of non-discrimination. Furthermore, we insist that there cannot be permanent derogations from the *acquis communautaire* regarding human rights and basic freedoms. We are ready to discuss small and limited derogations, but only for a brief transitional period.

Regretfully, the Turkish Cypriot side has not exhibited a corresponding will and has not adopted a constructive stand. [...] In contrast with the expressed and agreed framework of the solution that provides for the reunification of Cyprus, the Turkish side insists on projecting positions that are seeking the consolidation of homogeneous ethnic regions. In its proposal, it gives emphasis to the demand for the existence of a ceiling on the right of restoration of properties so that there shall be guaranteed population majority and properties in the Turkish Cypriot federal unit. This obliges the two communities to live side-by-side one next to the other. In reality, the two communities are prohibited in the future from coming closer together and cooperating closely and harmoniously for the future of Cyprus and our people.

At the same time, the Turkish side insists on its proposal for permanent derogations from the *acquis communautaire*, a position with which we cannot agree given that, in essence, it will be harmful for the economy of the country as a whole, whilst in addition this will also apply for the non-Cypriot European citizens. [...]

Also indicative of the position adhered to by the Turkish Cypriot side is that priority is given to the current user and not to the legal owner of the property, something that is unacceptable. [...]

Consequently, the conclusion that one can easily draw is that for progress to be achieved in the negotiations, the will for a constructive dialogue and the finding of a comprehensive solution must be demonstrated by both sides. Our appeal towards you is to judge each side by its actions and not by its verbal positions, by its devotion to the goal it has set out and not by diplomatic and verbal manoeuvres.

The situation continues to be difficult, as we always knew. However, we are determined to work hard for a solution. We know that the perpetuation of the existing situation means the consolidation of the *faits accomplis* of the occupation. It means the gradual slide towards the final partition. On the contrary, a proper solution means peace, security and stability for the Cypriot people as a whole. It means progress and prosperity for both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. We address you with the request that you intensify the efforts for a solution of the Cyprus problem. The only demand we have is that this assistance is granted within the framework set out by the International Law, within the framework set out by the declared European values and principles.

Interview with Giorgos Loucaides, Head of the International Relations Department of the C.C. of AKEL, with the daily newspaper "Haravghi"

12th September 2010

-AKEL is organising an important event on the interesting developments underway in Latin America. Can you tell us some details about this initiative?

-GL: Next Saturday 18th September 9.15 a.m AKEL is organising a seminar in Nicosia on the very interesting developments taking place in Latin America entitled "The successes of the Left in Latin America: Experiences-Challenges-Perspectives". The reason we decided to organise this

meeting, which is taking place within the framework of a number of other pre-Congress events, is due precisely to the fact that in several Latin American countries an ongoing radical process is underway with an anti-imperialist character. These radical processes follow the gradual election to power in a number of the countries in the region of Left governments or governments in which Communist Parties support or participate. It is therefore very interesting for us here in Cyprus, which is the only country in Europe and the EU where a party of the Left is in power, to have the opportunity to be informed as comprehensively as possible about the developments in this continent. Of course, we shall also seek to draw experiences from their actions and struggles.

We are referring to a region that the USA has always considered as its own back yard. This region has succeeded, headed by the pioneering country of heroic Cuba, to resist American imperialism and hegemony and pave the way for the successes of Left parties. This was not given, but gained through fierce political, class and social struggles, through a policy of cooperation pursued by the parties of the Left. They have managed in countries such as Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and El Salvador, to win the trust of their people through election procedures.

The seminar will include an introductory speech by the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL com. Andros Kyprianou, whilst we will have keynote speakers from Latin America. From Ecuador, we will have as keynote speaker Pedro Paez. From the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), we will have an introductory speech from the Secretary of the International Relations Department of the Party, Ricardo Abreu de Melo and the Ambassador of Cuba in Cyprus Fidel Emilio Vasco Gonzales.

As you can appreciate by the thematic subjects that have been chosen, we shall attempt to cover a range of issues that concern the region today: the economic aspect, social struggles, the policy of cooperation and alliances, the management of power and the challenges ahead, as well as the international environment, particularly with regards to the anti-imperialist nature of the struggle the Latin American peoples are waging.



-You have mentioned that this event will take place within the framework of the pre-Congress activity. What will be the participation of international representatives at the 21st Congress of AKEL in November?

-GL: A large number of fraternal parties from all over the world, as well as all the parliamentary parties from Greece, as is the norm at our Congresses, have been invited. Many parties have already replied positively and we anticipate many other positive replies. We are optimistic that we shall have an even bigger international representation at the Congress, despite the fact that we also had a very large participation of parties at the previous 20th Congress.

It is evident that particularly today when AKEL and Demetris Christofias are in power, but also due to the respect and prestige our Party has among the Left, our aspirations that there will be an increased interest to participate are valid so that the comrades can have the possibility of understanding from first hand the conditions in Cyprus and draw once again experiences from our struggles.

Our fraternal Parties with their presence at the Congress express in this way too their solidarity with the struggles of the Cypriot people for liberation from the occupation.

Let me also say, that within the framework of the 21st Congress, AKEL will organise on the 25th November an international meeting on the theme "The struggle of the Left and the struggles of the peoples for peace and security against the imperialist order".

This international meeting will take place one week after the Summit of NATO in Portugal, a fact that attaches an even bigger significance to the international meeting we shall be holding.

-How do you assess the role of NATO today, particularly in view of this specific Summit in Portugal?

-GL: As AKEL, we have on many occasions stressed our position that NATO has no reason to exist and that it must be dissolved. In the past, the existence of NATO, the arms race by the imperialist forces and the militarisation of international relations was taking place on the pretext and the projection of the communist scare, the existence of the USSR and the socialist community. The dissolution of the socialist community should have led to the dissolution of NATO too. Instead of this of course we are observing an intensified arms race headed by the USA and NATO, with NATO not only not dissolving, but expanding its activity, institutionalising with its new strategic dogma all that it has been implementing for many years: "pre-emptive wars" with the violation of International Law on the pretext of the "war against terrorism" and interventions camouflaged under the cloak of "humanitarian missions".

It is of course clear that all of these developments do not in any way serve the goal for a world of peace and security and the well-intentioned interests of the peoples of the world. On the contrary, they are creating enormous dangers for the peoples. That is why in the forthcoming Summit of NATO a great mobilisation in Portugal will be organised by 104 parties and organised groups, whilst corresponding mobilisations will also take place in other countries.

-Last week, you too attended the Festival of "AVANTE!" in Portugal where, inter alia, a special event on the Cyprus problem was held. What did you take from the Festival?

-GL: We are represented at the Festival of "AVANTE!" every year. The Festival of "AVANTE!" is a truly mass event with the participation of hundreds of thousands of people: a Festival that constitutes an important means and tool for the Portuguese Communist Party to enhance and promote its intervention in the political affairs of the country. We have been extremely impressed by the whole dimension of the Festival.

As AKEL, we had a stand at the Festival, distributing material about the struggles of our Party and the history of the Cyprus problem, including the tabling of the recent package of

proposals by President Christofias, whilst we also had an exhibition regarding the basic landmarks of the Cyprus problem and on the current phase.

It was amazing to see how much so many of our comrades, but also visitors to the Festival, knew about the Cyprus problem, as well as the history and struggles of AKEL. The most characteristic example was that of a 17-year-old young man, a member of the Portuguese Communist Youth JCP who knew everything in detail, even about the results of the recent European elections. Indeed, he asked us why we allowed the DHSY party (*Note: the right wing party, member of the EPP*) to come first by a very small margin of votes... He knew everything about AKEL and the Cyprus problem, which he told us he follows systematically.

For us it was not therefore a surprise that within the framework of the Festival an open discussion on the Cyprus problem was organised. We noted the great interest surrounding the Cyprus problem; an interest completely linked with the struggles and solidarity the Portuguese Communist Party wages with continuity and consistency on the Cyprus problem, always standing on the side of AKEL and the Cypriot people.

-Finally, could you comment on the recent resumption of the dialogue on the Middle East?

-GL: Our wish and hope is that through the new procedure the desired result will emerge for the peoples of the region and particularly for the Palestinian people, who have been suffering so much for so many decades. However, to be honest, we consider that this procedure has not begun with the best preconditions. On the contrary, our own assessment is that Israel has not shown any practical examples that it has decided to proceed to a compromise on the Palestinian problem that would pave the way to the establishment of a viable and independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as the capital as set out by the resolutions of the United Nations itself. The assessment not only of our comrades in Palestine itself is that this move by the USA who undertook this initiative and the Netanyahu-Lieberman government has more to do with reducing the pressure on the state of Israel regarding the ongoing crimes being committed and the aggressiveness against the Palestinian people. Let us hope that developments will not evolve in this way and that these valid reservations will not be vindicated so that finally the Palestinian people can live in peace, in conditions of security and economic prosperity, side by side with the peoples and states of the region, including the state of Israel.



SEVERAL NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUREAU

3-5 of September: Participation of AKEL at “Avante Festival” in Portugal

The delegation of AKEL composed by the Head of the International Relations Department George Loukaides and the member of the International relations Bureau Vera Polykarpou, had represented AKEL at Avante Festival, the annual Festival organized by the newspaper “Avante”, organ of the Communist Party of Portugal. Avante Festival is a significant political and cultural event that attracts thousand of people and especially the youth of the country. AKEL as well as many of the other Parties that participated at the Festival had its own stall where it had the opportunity to present its position and its character.

The Cyprus Problem was one of the main topics that were highlighted this year at the Festival by the Communist Party of Portugal. Also, one of the four events of the international section of the Festival was dedicated to the Cyprus Problem where the main speaker was the Head of the International Relations Bureau of AKEL, com. George Loukaides. The several events in the Festival showed actively the solidarity of the Communist Party of Portugal and the progressive people of the country to the struggle of the Cypriot people and the President of Cyprus com. Demetris Christofias for peace and reunification in Cyprus.

18th of September: Seminar of AKEL under the title “The successes of the Left in Latin America. Experiences – Perspectives”

AKEL has successfully organized a seminar in Nicosia on the very interesting developments taking place in Latin America entitled "The successes of the Left in Latin America: Experiences-Challenges-Perspectives".

The seminar included an introductory speech by the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL com. Andros Kyprianou, whilst we had keynote speakers from Latin America. From Ecuador, we had as keynote speaker Pedro Paez former Finance Minister of Ecuador that today is the Chair of the Presidencial Technical Commission for the New Regional Financial Architecture (Banco del Sur and SUCRE). From the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), we had an introductory speech from the Secretary of the International Relations Department of the Party, Ricardo Abreu de Melo and the Ambassador of Cuba in Cyprus Fidel Emilio Vasco Gonzales.

The thematic subjects that had been chosen covered a range of issues that concern the region today: the economic aspect, social struggles, the policy of cooperation and alliances, the management of power and the challenges ahead, as well as the international environment, particularly with regards to the anti-imperialist nature of the struggle the Latin American peoples are waging.





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