



AKEL *bulletin*

EDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUREAU

No. 32
OCT 2011

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The exploratory drilling process at the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus and the threats of Turkey

The Republic of Cyprus has proceeded to drillings of an exploratory nature in the "Aphrodite" block that is within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on the 26th of September. AKEL from the first moment has pointed out the correct handling by the Christofias government of this vitally important issue for Cyprus, the initiatives that had been undertaken and are continuing, the prudent, persistent and low profile diplomatic handling far from any kind of attempts to exploit the issue for petty domestic purposes.

We further estimate that this handling has formed a new framework for the political shielding of the Republic of Cyprus in view of the provocations and threats made by Turkey. Furthermore, Turkey is proceeding in creating military tension, disputing the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus to its natural resources. Moreover, Turkey has proceeded to sign illegal agreements with the pseudo-state to exploit the natural resources of the Republic of Cyprus. As AKEL, we stress that these agreements violate International Law and constitute another link in the chain of illegal criminal actions of Turkey against the Republic of Cyprus.

We believe that the possible existence of natural wealth in the EEZ of Cyprus can and must be beneficial to both communities of the island within the framework of a solution of the problem and not represent a pretext for Turkey for new condemnable provocations, threats or/and adventurist actions.

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Decision of the Political Bureau of AKEL on Polyviou Finding

4th October 2011, Nicosia

The Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL convened today to discuss the Finding of the One-Member Committee of Inquiry of Mr. Polis Polyviou on the explosion at the Mari naval base. The Political Bureau unanimously agreed on the following positions.

As AKEL, we express once again our grief surrounding the tragic incidents at Mari which cost the lives of 13 of our fellow compatriots and led to the injury of others. We express our distress that the state did not manage to protect human lives and vital state installations.

We should all acknowledge that on the initiative of the Government, the inquiry into the case was conducted at an unprecedented pace and total transparency and without an attempt to "cover up", as was the case in the past. All of this has refuted those who rushed after the appointment of the Inquiry Committee by the Government, to talk about expediciencies and interventions that would camouflage responsibilities. It has been proved in practice that such practices are alien both to Demetris Christofias and AKEL. Furthermore, also unheard of within Cypriot reality is the fact that President Christofias put himself at the disposal of the Committee, submitting his own testimony, showing that he has nothing

to hide and that he respects and seeks equality of law.

Within the framework of the functioning of democracy we all judge and are being judged. That is why we have every right to point out that **Mr. Polyviou through the conclusions of the Finding and his public statement has exceeded his mandate. With his written text and statement he took a political position on many issues;** regarding the foreign policy followed by the Republic of Cyprus; regarding the political system itself, the distortions he deplored in the most intense way and in essence incriminating and indiscriminately discrediting the political parties. Mr. Polyviou yesterday referred to all these and many other issues, raising questions with regards his objectives. Did he aim with the Finding at a political or sociological intervention in the affairs of the country or did he seek to draw objective conclusions based on all that was submitted to the Committee? We observe with regret that in many cases he preferred the first rather than the second.

With regards to the substantiation of his conclusions, specific questions have been raised that must be answered. For example, how is Mr. Polyviou's conclusion substantiated through the testimonies that President Christofias himself decided that the containers should be stored at Mari? Since this is not substantiated, then, with respect to all the work that has been carried out, questions are raised concerning Mr. Polyviou's

reasoning to apportion the blame even for this decision too, which was a decision taken by experts, on President Christofias. **As AKEL, we have already assigned to a group of experts to examine all these points and the Finding as a whole, rigorously and in depth.** We shall make the conclusions of this study public so that the Cypriot people can judge events objectively and well-documented.

Today, Cyprus is going through critical times and has to face serious challenges. Turkey is continuously threatening and in every way the Republic of Cyprus and at the same time it is attempting intensively to upgrade the pseudo-state. At the same time, it is seeking to put the responsibility for a possible deadlock on the Cyprus problem on the Greek Cypriot side. There is a pressing need for the economy of the country to get on course for a substantive recovery and free itself from the long-standing structural problems that were created over the years. Another important issue are the prospects of Cyprus being transformed into a regional energy centre. Furthermore, we are also confronted with the formidable task of the Presidency of the European Union, which the Republic of Cyprus must successfully carry out to be recognized on an all-European level.

The blast at Mari highlighted the need for modernisation and the determined tackling of problems that exist in the operation of the state machinery. It highlighted the need to promote more effectively measures to ensure the

safety of citizens, especially now that developments render Cyprus as a country with a significant energy role in the region. AKEL shall be in the forefront of these efforts in this direction.

All these extremely important issues cannot be tackled with a narrow-minded and petty party approach that President Christofias must resign. Besides the fact that we reject that the President has personal responsibility, such a possibility will only result in plunging political life into a fierce pre-election period with all the negative developments that would entail.

As AKEL, we call on the people to remain united and rallied around our common collective goals, safeguarding that Cyprus will face the problems and move forward. We call upon the Cypriot people to leave behind the cries of hatred, fanaticism. polarisation and division; to open paths for a healthy political life, openness, radical changes and the modernisation of the country, to pave the way for the reunification and prosperity of our Cyprus.

AKEL ON THE EXPLORATORY DRILLING PROCESS IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF CYPRUS

**Statements by Press Spokesman
of the C.C. of AKEL
Georgios Loucaides**

16th September 2011, Nicosia

As AKEL, we would like to welcome the determination with which the Government of Demetris Christofias is proceeding in exercising the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus in relation to the beginning of drillings of an exploratory nature in the "Aphrodite" block that is within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEC) of the Republic of Cyprus.

We assess that the correct handling by the Christofias government of this vitally important issue for Cyprus, the initiatives that have been undertaken and are continuing, the clam, persistent and low profile diplomatic handling far from any kind of attempts to exploit the issue for petty domestic consumption reasons, have formed a new framework for the political shielding of the Republic of Cyprus in view of the provocations and threats made by Turkey.

We wish to deplore once again in the most vehement way the Turkish threats and in general, the aggressiveness and cynicism of the occupational power of Turkey against the Republic of Cyprus.

More specifically, we deplore and condemn as illegal any agreements Turkey is promoting with the pseudo-state to exploit the natural

resources of the Republic of Cyprus, stressing that they violate International Law and constitute another link in the chain of illegal criminal actions of Turkey against the Republic of Cyprus.

We express the conviction and certainty that our people and political leadership will, united, support the Government of the Republic of Cyprus in exercising our inalienable rights to exploit the natural resources in the geographical area of the Republic of Cyprus, as this has been defined by International Law and more specifically, in the International Convention for the Law of the Sea.

In conclusion, we call on Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side to contribute in a productive and constructive way to the ongoing procedure of the negotiations on the Cyprus problem so that we can reach a just and viable solution as soon as possible. The possible existence of natural wealth in the EEC of Cyprus can and must be beneficial to both communities of the island within the framework of a solution of the problem and not represent a pretext for Turkey for new condemnable provocations, threats or/and adventurist actions.

We call on the peace-loving forces within the Turkish Cypriot community to oppose Turkey's attempt to provoke new tensions in Cyprus and the region and together intensify our struggle for a free, reunited homeland, a bridge of peace in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Parliamentary elections 2011

Parliamentary elections were held in Cyprus on Sunday 22nd of May, for the election of the 56 Deputies of the House of Representatives. The elections were held in very difficult conditions as a result of the unfriendly stance of the media and the results of the capitalist economic crisis that affected Cyprus as well. Nevertheless, AKEL succeeded in increasing its percentage by **1, 6%**, reaching **32, 67%**. It has also gained 1 extra Seat in the House of Representatives reaching a total of 19 Seats out of the 56.



The first Party was the right-wing Democratic Rally (DISY) with 34,28%, whilst the centre party, the Democratic Party (DIKO), was elected as the third largest party with 15,76%.

The Parliamentary Group of AKEL-Left-New Forces has been renewed to a large degree and strengthened with worthy cadres. Our voters also sent to the House of Representatives figures from the New Forces, a fact that consolidates this practice.

Cyprus Problem

After the Geneva meeting which was held on the 7th of July between the Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki Moon, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Dervis Eroglu the negotiations between the leaders of the two communities resumed in September.

Unfortunately, the negative Turkish position at the negotiating table with regards the Cyprus problem in general weakens the prospects of finding a solution. The Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu has regressed from the agreed framework in the chapters under negotiation in violation of the mandate of the UN Secretary-General Bak Ki Moon to the two sides for the achievement of convergences in the negotiations.

The only way to achieve a positive outcome of the current process is through the change in Turkey's position which must come to the negotiations table with the necessary readiness for a compromise on the Cyprus Problem.

As it has been agreed in Geneva meeting, the next meeting with the Secretary General of the UN will be held in October.

**DECLARATION OF AKEL ON THE
BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS
AKEL C.C. STATEMENT,
19th July 2011, Nicosia**

AKEL condemns and deplores in the most vehement way the Turkish invasion of 20th July 1974, the sufferings and consequences our people have been living through for the last 37 years. We condemn and deplore the illegal visit of the Turkish Prime Minister to the occupied areas, as well as his unacceptable, provocative and arrogant statements. The international community in particular must reflect on Erdogan's statements because they reveal Turkey's real intentions.

The barbarian invasion of the Turkish Attila represented the second part of the anti-Cypriot conspiracy that was drawn up in foreign decision-making centres with the cooperation of Ankara and which regretfully found obeying executors in Athens and Cyprus to promote them. Without the treasonous actions of the junta of Greece, Grivas and EOKA B the foreign powers and forces could not have implemented their plans to dissolve the Republic of Cyprus and surrender half of Cyprus to Turkey. Thirty seven years after the crime and the betrayal, the Finding of the File of Cyprus of the House of Representatives in the most official and clear way documented the responsibilities and connection of



the imperialist decision making centres with the junta of Greece, the militarists of Ankara and EOKA B. The responsibilities of those who through their actions brought Attila to Cyprus remain grave and unpardonable: a treason for which no one has apologized after so many years to the Cypriot people and no one has been punished for. On the contrary, many of the culprits of the Cyprus tragedy have the audacity to appear as judges and prosecutors. Their political and ideological ancestors insist on adhering to the same disastrous ideological positions.

The invasion of the Turkish Attila provoked the havoc and disaster. It caused untold human pain: thousands of dead, injured, war stricken people and missing

persons. The invasion left our homeland divided into two, put 37% of its territory under the occupation of Turkey, uprooted tens of thousands of people from their homes, thousands found themselves enclaved in the occupied areas, the most important rich productive resources of our island were lost. Our cultural heritage was destroyed. Colonization dramatically changes the demographic composition of the Cypriot population.

We honor the memory of the fallen who although betrayed resisted the Turkish Attila and defended with their lives the independence of Cyprus. We express once again our unreserved support to the relatives of our missing persons, refugees, enclaved people and war stricken people. We remain devoted to the principled position that the fate of the missing persons of the Cyprus tragedy must finally be verified. We stand on the side of the refugee people in the struggle for the safeguarding of the right of return. The black anniversaries of the coup d'état and invasion coincided unfortunately with another tragedy that has befallen Cyprus on 11th July as a result of the deadly blast at Mari. Once more, we express our unwavering support to the relatives of the victims and reaffirm that AKEL will do everything possible so that responsibilities are apportioned where and wherever these exist. Compatriots,

The 37th anniversary of the Turkish invasion finds the Cypriot people in the front line of the struggle for the liberation from the occupation and for the reunification of our country. Our objective is to achieve a solution of the Cyprus problem as soon as possible. The parameters of the solution are given and are found in the resolutions of the United Nations and High Level Agreements, International and European Law and the agreed framework of the bicomunal talks. The solution must be a bizonal bicomunal federal solution with political equality as defined by UN resolutions. We are struggling for a solution with a single united state, with a single sovereignty, a single citizenship and a single international personality; for a solution that will put an end to the occupation, colonization and any foreign dependency; for a solution that will safeguard the human rights and basic freedoms of the Cypriot people as a whole, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

AKEL supports with all its strength the struggle being waged by the President of the Republic Demetris Christofias to find a solution of the Cyprus problem, both at the table of the talks and on the arena of internalization. Unfortunately today the negotiations do not register the development we would have liked. In Geneva, the intensification of the talks was decided. However, whatever intensification will not record the desired result if the

Turkish side continues to table proposals that are outside the spirit and letter of the UN resolutions and the agreed framework of the solution. Turkey does not appear to have taken those necessary decisions that will enable the solution of the Cyprus problem. On the other hand without doubt the presence of Eroglou in the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community complicates the efforts even more. Despite this, we remain faithful to the procedure and its essence because it is the only proper option.

The crucial nature of the situation makes unity and the rallying of forces imperative. The people and political forces need to support the President and leave to one side any other approach. "Patriotic" rhetoric, empty slogans and oppositionist expediences cause only harm. It is imperative that responsibility, devotion to principles, militancy but also realism prevails. Only through prudent positions and handlings can we win the battle of internationalization and demand from the international community and the European Union that they put pressure on Turkey. A joint effort is required to dampen the Turkish intransigence and pave the way for the solution.

AKEL insists on its policy of rapprochement and we address a militant greeting to our Turkish Cypriot compatriots who in adverse conditions are intensifying their own struggle. The struggle for the

salvation of the Turkish Cypriot identity, for a solution of the Cyprus problem and the questioning of the presence of Turkey in the occupied areas represent a significant contribution to the common struggle for the salvation of our common homeland. AKEL reassures our Turkish Cypriot compatriots that it will remain steadfast to the line for a bizonal bicomunal federal solution with political equality as set out by the resolutions of the United Nations.

Thirty seven years is a very long time. The solution must not be delayed any longer. The ordeal of Cyprus must end. The suffering and sacrifices of our people must be vindicated. They shall indeed be vindicated when Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots reach an agreed solution that will turn our country into a truly independent, peaceful, democratic and prosperous country; a country that will safeguard a secure and safe future for all its citizens, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Maronites, Armenians and Latins.

**The Central Committee of AKEL
19th of July 2011**

Social and economic policies and the impact of the world economic crisis

The three main pillars of the economic policy of the government are development, fiscal consolidation and social justice. On the basis of these main targets, Cyprus has managed to have the 4th best record of economic growth in the European Union for the period 2008-2010 with an overall growth rate of 0,8%. The government has supported the main sectors of the Cypriot economy, tourism and construction. At the same time it has increased social expenditure in the period 2008-2010 by 30%, aiming to provide practical assistance to the lower social strata. Some characteristic examples of the socially-sensitive policies implemented are, inter alia, the increase in pensions by 20%, the increase in the minimum wage by 30% and the provision of low-interest loans for the purchasing of a house with social criteria.

The Christofias government has produced very significant and multifaceted work through the

implementation of its progressive programme in the people's interests. Despite the difficulties created by the crisis and the stand of the opposition, the government is determined to double its efforts for the implementation of the government programme.

Certainly, the impact of the world economic crisis has also affected Cyprus, despite the measures that have been taken and despite the fact that we are in a better position in comparison to many other countries of the European Union and in the world in general. Moreover, the Cyprus economy has been undermined by the international credit rating agencies last June due to the exposure of the Cypriot banks to the Greek bonds at a time when the Greek economy was facing the contingency of bankruptcy. As a result the interest rate in Cyprus has increased considerably and a refinancing of the public debt and the satisfaction of the immediate needs of the state has been inevitable. The situation in the economy deteriorated further due to the blast in the naval base of Mari last July which destroyed the

biggest part of the most important power plant in Cyprus.

AKEL considers that the working class and people in general of Cyprus are fortunate in that the world economic crisis and its impact on Cyprus is being handled by the Demetris Christofias government in the peoples interests. It should be noted that the right wing along with the employers organizations had asked and supported, from the first months of the world economic crisis, anti-people measures such as the undermining of the COLA (Cost Of Living Allowance) and the extension of the retirement age.

A significant effort of the government was the first packet of measures that has also been approved by the Parliament in August, also supported by the trade unions, aiming at fiscal consolidation. This is a result of the just and balanced character of the measures which on the one hand do not include measures proposed by the liberal opposition and on the other hand includes taxation of capital and the big immovable property. Among others, this packet of measures aimed mostly at

promoting the taxation of wealth and correcting the distortions in the public sector. At the same direction a second packet of measures is being discussed between the government, the trade unions, the political parties and the social partners.

Unemployment is the biggest problem we have to face. Unemployment particularly affects working people, a large section of who belong to our own political and ideological spectrum. In addition, the crisis has also affected the middle strata that have seen their incomes and work fall. AKEL traditionally enjoys significant influence among these strata. Our opponents exploited to the greatest possible extent the consequences and impact of the crisis to create a climate of dissatisfaction against AKEL and the government.

Speech of the General Secretary of AKEL Andros Kyprianou at the meeting held within the framework of the Festival of "AVANTE", newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party PCP, on the theme "Cyprus – AKEL –Cyprus problem and political developments in Cyprus"

4/9/2011, Seixal, Portugal

On behalf of the Central Committee of AKEL I convey a warm and militant greeting to today's meeting taking place within the framework of the Festival of "AVANTE", a newspaper with a rich and glorious history, a historic newspaper that played a significant role in the struggle for the restoration and consolidation of democracy in Portugal. Furthermore, allow me to transmit our thanks and gratitude to the Portuguese Communist Party for its invitation to AKEL to take part in this mighty event for the Party and the Portuguese people. With this opportunity, I would like to express once again our deepest and profound appreciation and gratitude towards the Portuguese Communist Party for its practical solidarity towards the struggles of AKEL and the Cypriot people.

The recent visit of the General Secretary of the C.C. of the Portuguese Communist Party comrade Jerónimo de Sousa to Cyprus is another testimony and proof of the strong ties and links that unite our Parties. I would like to especially express our gratitude since this visit took place at the time of the pre-election campaign in Portugal. As AKEL, we reaffirm that we are always in solidarity with the struggles of the Portuguese Communist Party. The close cooperation until now between our two Parties on a European and international level has given us the opportunity to gain invaluable experience and draw useful conclusions. Our Party shall continue to build upon and strengthen this cooperation and promote it to the benefit of our common goals.



In looking at Cyprus and Cypriot history one could say that our island has been blessed by a wish and burdened by a curse. Cyprus was fortunate to have an important geographical position, to become a country-crossroads between various peoples, a fact that established it as significant in the region. Unfortunately, Cyprus can also be considered as being cursed for precisely the same reasons. Its important geographical position made it the target of powerful forces at every historical period. These powerful forces always strove to put Cyprus under their control so that they can control the wider region.

As a result the people of Cyprus is condemned to struggle for all that many peoples of the world consider as self-evident and given: freedom and peace. This is what the contemporary history of our island shows. The Cypriot people has for the last 37 years been waging its own struggle; a struggle for the restoration of its rights that were violated by the traitorous coup d'état of

the junta of Greece and the domestic ultra-right, the EOKA B organisation who literally executed right down to the very last detail the horrible plans of NATO. These rights have been violated by the criminal invasion and continued occupation by Turkey of 37% of Cypriot territory since July 1974. This is the essence and nature of the Cyprus problem.

The Cyprus problem is an international problem; a problem of invasion, occupation and colonisation and the usurpation of Greek Cypriot land; a problem regarding the flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus; a problem of the violation of the human rights and basic freedoms of the Cypriot people. These all constitute the international aspects of the Cyprus problem.

The internal aspect of the Cyprus problem concerns the problems that arose in the cohabitation of the two communities, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots; problems that were fostered by nationalism and chauvinism which have been the main and precious allies of imperialism which has since the time of the Cold War wanted to safeguard its geo-political interests in the region. The plans for the partition of Cyprus were elaborated and drawn up in the headquarters of NATO and they were executed on their orders by the right and ultra-right elements in Greece and Cyprus. If we insist on this position, which reveals the culprits of the Cyprus tragedy, it is because we believe that we must all draw lessons from the history of Cyprus, about how the international environment, foreign interventions and the situation on the internal front created such balance of forces that allowed the execution of the double crime of the coup d'état and the Turkish invasion in Cyprus.

Cyprus is paying the price of the consequences of this crime. As the Cypriot people, we are fighting to free ourselves from the Turkish occupation and throw out the foreign troops and barbed wire of division from Cyprus. We are struggling for the solution of the Cyprus problem through the achievement of a bizonal bicomunal federation, with political equality as set out by the United Nations resolutions. We are fighting for a solution based on the principles of International and European Law, based on the UN Resolutions and High-Level Agreements between the leaders of the two communities of 1977 and 1979. We are struggling for a solution that will lead to a united state with a single sovereignty, a single citizenship and a single international personality; for a solution that will reunify the people, area, institutions and the economy and that will safeguard the human rights for all. The solution of bizonal bicomunal federation represents a painful compromise which the Greek Cypriot side was forced to make in 1977. We made the painful compromise because it was the only way for the liberation and reunification of our common country, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

From time to time, many efforts have been made to solve the Cyprus problem. Regretfully, they have always come up against the intransigent stance of Turkey which came to a climax in August 1997 when the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community at that time formally projected the position for a solution of confederation. This was a demand that was impossible for our side to accept because it could have represented the forbearer of partition.

In the years that were to follow, the Cyprus problem went through many crucial phases. The climax was the referenda of 2004. The Plan of the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was

put before the Cypriot people for approval; a plan that the Greek Cypriot side judged as unfair, biased and not meeting the fundamental concerns of the Greek Cypriots. Through separate and simultaneous Referenda, the Greek Cypriot community rejected by an overwhelming majority the Annan Plan, whilst the Turkish Cypriot community approved it. The rejection of the Annan Plan created, unjustly, a negative climate among the international community against the Greek Cypriot community, a climate which made the efforts to breach the stalemate that had been created more difficult.

The Greek Cypriot side made it clear that the rejection of the Annan Plan did not under any circumstances mean that this was the end of the road in the procedure to solve the Cyprus problem. It did not under any instance mean that the Greek Cypriot side rejected the solution. Indeed AKEL from the day after the referenda addressed the Cypriot people and internationally, reassuring that the goal was and remains the reunification of our country through a just, viable and workable solution. It reached out its hand to the progressive Turkish Cypriot forces, calling on them to wage together a common struggle in order to safeguard the interests of the Cypriot people as a whole.

Two years later, the 8th July Agreement was signed between the then President of the Cyprus Republic, the late Tasos Papadopoulos and the then leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mehmet Ali Talat. This agreement reaffirmed the commitment of the two communities to a bizonal bicomunal federal solution and outlined the procedure for the proper preparation of negotiations between the two. It provided for the setting up of Working Groups and Technical Committees that would deal with core and day-to-day issues respectively.

Unfortunately, the great number of preparatory meetings between the advisors of the two leaders did not lead to direct negotiations, creating a dangerous stalemate.

In those conditions, our Party took a historic decision to contest, for the first time, the Presidency of the Republic with the candidacy of the then General Secretary of AKEL, comrade Demetris Christofias. This decision of course was not taken lightly and without thought. We bore in mind all the facts as befits a Party of our character and our own philosophy; as befits a serious and responsible Party. It is evident at each historical moment sets different duties and priorities before the Parties of the working people. Having the liberation and reunification of our country as the primary goal, we assessed that the conditions to put forth a Party candidacy with possibilities to succeed had matured. We assessed that the candidacy of comrade Demetris Christofias, an especially popular person, a genuine expresser of the popular interests and the interests of the Cypriot people as a whole, with prestige on the domestic front and abroad, could break the deadlock and utilise all the possibilities for the achievement of a solution, a solution that would lead to the reunification of our country.

Immediately after his election to the Presidency of the Republic, President Christofias succeeded in setting in motion the procedure for a solution of the Cyprus problem. He set about implementing the 8th July Agreement, agreeing to the establishment of Working Groups and Technical Committees. These Groups and Committees produced results which although judged as not satisfactory, were deemed as adequate for the start of substantial negotiations. This was viewed as indispensable because the danger existed of an endless dialogue

continuing within the Working Groups without substantial discussion. Com. Demetris Christofias knew that the passive passage of time consolidated the *faits accomplis* on the ground. Fully aware of possible traps and difficulties, he commenced substantial negotiations.

Before the beginning of the negotiations, President Christofias clarified within and outside Cyprus that the Greek Cypriot side has the genuine will and sincere intention to negotiate based on principles. He secured the support of the international community to the procedure and safeguarded that the imposition of a solution from abroad would not be sought and that timetables and arbitration would not be set. Within a few months after his election to the Presidency, he succeeded in commencing substantial negotiations in September 2008.



During the first phase, each side presented its positions on the basic aspects of the Cyprus problem, on the issue of Governance and power sharing, the property issue, participation in the European Union, the economy, the territorial issue and on the issues regarding security and the guarantees. During the second phase, an effort was made to bridge the differences that existed in the positions of the two communities. At this stage, intensive talks also took place. The two leaders

went into greater detail on the issues of Governance, the Economy and European Union, ascertaining convergences, but also divergences. Regretfully on some issues the Turkish side continues to insist on the same intransigent positions of the last 37 years. Today, the negotiations are continuing. However, their pace is not as the Greek Cypriot side would like.

This of course is not due to the frequency of the meetings of the two leaders, but to the positions that are tabled at the negotiating table. Unfortunately, the Turkish side insists on submitting provisions that lead to confederation or even to two separate states. Although it verbally declares its intention to contribute to the solution of the Cyprus problem, in practice it operates in the opposite direction. It is becoming increasingly evident that Turkey, recognizing that its accession to the European Union is a remote event, has rendered its compliance with its obligations stemming from the Ankara Protocol as secondary. Instead it has turned its attention to the Arab world, where it is seeking to appear as a peacemaking force both in the region of the Black Sea and Asia aiming to gain political and economic cooperations. Its ambition is to upgrade its political role internationally and its economic power in order to negotiate with the European Union from a position of strength.

In addition, the assumption of the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community by Mr. Eroglou, a politician with positions traditionally in favour of partition, two years after the beginning of negotiations has exacerbated the difficulties that existed. This is so because the positions projected by Mr. Eroglou anything but are in the spirit and the letter of the agreed framework. One can point out a multitude of statements in favour of the existence of "two separate states, two peoples, two

separate republics". At the same time Turkey is issuing threats against the Republic of Cyprus that are threatening to destroy the whole procedure. The threats concern the explorations that are underway in the territorial sea of the Republic in the Western part of Cyprus for the verification of the existence or not of oil and natural gas. They also concern the assumption of the Presidency of the European Union by the Republic of Cyprus. In the first case, Turkey is threatening that if the Republic of Cyprus continues the explorations it will provoke tension, without excluding a conflict. In the second case, it is threatening that if the Republic of Cyprus assumes the Presidency of the EU it will terminate all of its relations with the European Union. As the Republic of Cyprus and as a Party, we condemned and condemn in all directions these threats as unacceptable and provocative. They question the entity and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus and International Law. Our demand is that the United Nations and the European Union should adopt a clear and strong position on the issue, as Russia and the USA have done, who we thank. These developments, in combination with the unwillingness of Turkey to contribute in a constructive way to the procedure of the solution of the Cyprus problem, do not permit us today to talk about substantial steps of progress and to be optimistic about a solution as soon as possible. This of course is above all our own wish, given that it is our people who are suffering from the consequences of the occupation. However we will not under any pressure consent to any solution. We shall consent to a solution that will be based on the relevant UN Resolutions, the High-Level Agreements, International and European Law. This is the pledge President Christofias gave to the Cypriot people on his election. He will fulfil this pledge in its entirety.

This coming October the third meeting of the UN Secretary-General is imminent with the leaders of the two communities. When this meeting was being set up the goal was that there would be sufficient progress and that the next steps would be decided. We express our readiness, which Demetris Christofias is reaffirming daily, to work for the achievement of progress. However, if such a development is not feasible due to the Turkish intransigence we will not retreat and concede under any kind of pressure. This is good for everyone to know.

For comrade Demetris Christofias and AKEL, the election to the Presidency of the Republic was a great success of the Peoples Movement of the Left and a great gain of the working people and the Cypriot people in general, not only because for the first time in the 48 years of the existence of the Republic of Cyprus a member of AKEL was elected to the highest position, but because the work of the Christofias government so far has honoured the popular will which elected him, producing worthy work also with regards internal administration. Radical changes and reforms have been promoted, opening up new avenues in the uphill path of Cypriot society. A pro-peoples social and economic policy was implemented, despite the consequences of the world economic crisis and the long-standing structural problems of the Cypriot economy, but also despite the exposure of the Cypriot banks to the Greek bonds. The important and ambitious reform in Local Self-government and Education is being advanced. A new strategy for Development Schemes has been introduced. For the first time Social Tourism Schemes are being implemented. For the first time A Department for the Social Integration of People with Disabilities has been operating and a Bill has been introduced for hiring them in the public

sector. For the first time a comprehensive strategy for the management of the environment and the housing policy is being implemented. Long-standing problems of the agricultural sector have been solved and a policy rendering support to the young people, women and pensioners is being followed.

All of these practical achievements are only just a part of the creative work of the Christofias government. Regretfully, the conditions under which the government is called upon to work are not the best. The absence of satisfactory progress on the Cyprus problem, but also the consequences of the world capitalist crisis, has created negative realities which we are working systematically to overcome. Regretfully, a corresponding stand is not adhered by all the political forces. On the contrary, the impression is often given that they are trying to exacerbate the problems instead of cooperating to solve them. For us, this is to be expected and we knew this when we contested the Presidency of the Republic with D. Christofias. However, we regret that political, petty party and personal expediences and ambitions are being put over and above the interests of our country and people.

As AKEL, we consider that there are many reasons to explain this position they are taking. Some have not accepted the fact that a member of AKEL has been elected as President of the Republic. On the pretext of the recent tragic events that took place with the blast at the naval base at Mari where 13 people lost their lives, they are insisting on insistently arbitrarily demanding his resignation. Some circles and forces cannot reconcile themselves with the idea that the supremacy of their establishment interests and powers are being dealt blows. Others are angered by the consistent efforts of President

Christofias to solve the Cyprus problem. They are also angered by the policy followed on socio-economic issues. In saying all this, we do not suggest that mistakes have not been made, that weaknesses and problems have not arisen. However, we consider that the reaction and dimensions given to the issue are disproportionally greater than they should be.

The economy of Cyprus, as it is generally acknowledged, has solid foundations and a healthy base. The capitalist crisis has negatively affected the whole world, shaking mighty economies, such as those of the USA, Japan and the majority of the Euro zone countries and others, to their very roots. It was unavoidable that the crisis would also affect the Cyprus economy which is strongly dependent on external developments due to the large tourist sector and holiday residences. The public debates conducted in Cyprus on the measures that were adopted on the economy revealed and exposed the following paradox: all over the world the overwhelming number of governments are cutting wages and social benefits and implementing conservative, neo-liberal and anti-peoples policies to tackle the consequences of the crisis that have been created precisely by these very same policies. Hence, the peoples have taken to the streets to defend self-evident gains and fundamental rights. In Cyprus, the Christofias government is under pressure from political forces to implement the same policies. That is to say, to take away rights and rights and adopt as reactionary policies as possible, disregarding the positions of the trade union movement, as if working peoples wages were reduced by half and the criteria set by the rating agencies were to be met this would automatically mean that we would also safeguard the prosperity of the Cypriot people and solve the economy's problems. AKEL's position is that the

measures that will be taken must be balanced; profits and accumulated wealth must make their own contribution and only then working people shall undertake their own share of responsibility.

It is a fact that the tragic explosion at the naval base exacerbated the problems the Cyprus economy is facing. To tackle all these problems a minimal disposition for understanding is required between the political forces. The blast at Mari also created other consequences. Firstly, human lives were lost, which unfortunately cannot be brought back to life. As AKEL, we expressed from the outset our grief on this incident. We stood and are standing on the side of the families who have lost their beloved ones. Secondly, feelings of anger within Cypriot society were created with regards the inadequacy and irresponsibility that was exhibited, feelings which we share. However, certain circles and forces attempted to exploit the anger and sorrow of the Cypriot people. They attempted to give a political content to this incident in an effort to turn the people against President Christofias and AKEL. They have cultivated fanaticism and hatred which is expressed in slogans calling for the death of the President of the Republic.

Our reply was clear from the very first moment. As AKEL, we have pledged that the whole truth must come to light, that the whole issue must be investigated in depth by the established

state agencies and that the findings concerning the causes and responsibilities of each and everyone involved should be made public. As AKEL, we are not in a hurry to state who is to blame, neither to exclude others from any possible responsibilities. We are patiently waiting for the findings of the Report which we will respect. The President of the Republic has made the same pledge. We addressed all those who found with this tragic incident the opportunity they had been yearning for to cause damage to President Christofias and AKEL. We made it clear that above all the President and the political forces must exhibit a responsible stand and seriousness; that the fanaticism and fascism certain circles are attempting to spread today will bring to our people suffering tomorrow from the hatred and catastrophe. If their target is AKEL, let them not put our country and people in danger once again just so that AKEL is attacked and harmed. Besides, our 85 year old history has shown, as Lenin stated about our ideas that we are like a nail: the harder it is hit, the more it takes root in the consciousness of the people through its presence, struggles, activity and services. That is how we shall continue, in the front line of the struggle of Cyprus, for freedom, reunification and justice. In the front line in the struggles of peoples for peace and socialism!

SEVERAL NEWS OF AKEL

2-4 of September: Participation of AKEL at “Avante Festival” in Portugal



A Delegation of AKEL has participated in the "AVANTE" Festival that was organised by the newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party PCP which took place 2-4 September 2011 in the city of Seixal. The AKEL Delegation was headed by the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou. This year the Festival was held under the title of "Freedom, Democracy and Socialism. The perspective for the future". Within the framework of the Festival a solidarity meeting devoted to Cyprus under the slogan

"Cyprus -AKEL - The Cyprus problem and the political developments in Cyprus" took place in which the keynote speaker was the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou. The Delegation of AKEL has participated with its own stand and a Cypriot food and drink stall was operated within the grounds of the Festival. A part of the Delegation was also composed of representatives of the Youth Organisation EDON.

4-6 of September: The General Secretary of AKEL held official visit in Portugal and Germany

The General Secretary of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, as a head of a delegation from AKEL, held official visits to Portugal and Germany where he was an official guest of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and the Party Die Linke, respectively. During the visits, several meetings were held with the parliamentary political parties of Portugal and Germany where Andros Kyprianou made a detailed analysis of the Cyprus problem, with special reference to the current situation and the stage the talks have reached. Also the current political situation in Cyprus and the world were discussed as well other issues of common interest.



29th of September: Event organised by AKEL dedicated to the 51st Anniversary of the Independence of Cyprus

A massive event took place at Eleftheria Stadium in Nicosia on the 29th of September commemorating the 51 years of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. Also the event was dedicated in the need for respect of the institutions.

The main speakers at the event were the President of the Republic of Cyprus, ex-General Secretary of the CC of AKEL, Demetris Christofias and the General Secretary of the CC of AKEL Andros Kyprianou. A cultural program followed by the well known Greek singers Thanos Mikroutsikos and Hristos Thiveos.

The event, that was attended by thousands members and friends of AKEL, was held in a very crucial period of Cyprus concerning the developments in the Cyprus Problem, the threats Turkey concerning the researches of the Republic of Cyprus for finding natural gas within its exclusive economic zone and the instable internal political front.





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