



AKEL Bulletin

Edited by the International Relations Department CC AKEL

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ANTIWAR MASS MARCH IN NICOSIA - 18 MAY 2012

NO TO A NEW WAR IN THE REGION YES TO PEACE

**JOINT RESOLUTION of AKEL, left wing Turkish Cypriot parties and
class oriented trade unions of Cyprus**

The following parties and organizations, having taken into account the developments in the wider region of the Mediterranean and the Near and Middle East, as well as the forthcoming Summit of NATO in Chicago USA, have approved the following:

Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, all Cypriots have every legitimate right to be concerned about a possible new intervention in the wider region.

Our parties and organizations support the position that the military-industrial establishments, the imperialist organizations such as NATO and other dominant forces through their policies favor destabilization

in the region of the Middle East, aiming to secure the control of its rich resources.

They issue a warning that the ruling forces will use the pretext of establishing democracy in such a war as a pretext, whilst in reality they are searching for an unjust and dangerous outlet from the economic crisis.

They consider that a new war of intervention in the region will lead to the bloodshed of the peoples, destabilize the borders of countries and will not permit any democratic solutions that will respect the peoples will. It will irreparably harm every possibility for economic development and social prosperity.



Central Committee of AKEL

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It will entangle the region, including Cyprus too, in new adventures and create further negative facts against International Law, imposing the law of the mighty, but also with regards the Cyprus problem which needs to be solved immediately.

They state that such an imposed military solution is not legitimized by International Law.

They stress that they shall struggle against such an attack and in favor of the rights of the region's peoples to decide their countries own fate themselves.

It is the duty of the peace movement in the whole of Cyprus to convey the message of peace against any plans that seek to divide the region and implicate the peoples in a new catastrophic war.

A policy against the militarization of international relations, in favor of peace and dialogue based on International Law and the Charter of the United Nations, the safeguarding of the rights of the peoples and equal development is demanded.

They underline that in the struggle for a solution of the Cyprus problem based on a bicomunal bizonal federation and on the resolutions of the UN Security Council on Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot progressive parties and organizations that cosign the resolution consider that the preconditions for the peace-



ful coexistence of the states and peoples of the region need to be created, aiming at cooperation and development with people at the centre.

AKEL (Progressive Party of the Working People), BKP (United Cyprus Party), KTÖS (Turkish Cypriot Teachers Union), DEV-İŞ (Turkish Cypriot Revolutionary Trade Unions Federation), PEO (Pancyprian Federation of Labour), YKP (New Cyprus Party), KTOEÖS (Turkish Cypriot Secondary Education Teachers' Union), KTAMS (Turkish Cypriot Civil Servants Trade Union).

Speech of the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou at the mass meeting 'Common struggle against a new war in our region'

The meeting we are organizing today together with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots constitutes a significant political achievement. Together we, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, are sending out a powerful message to those who are determining the fate of the peoples.

No to a new murderous war in the Middle East and our wider region! No the massacre of innocent people and the destruction of other countries!

Our position is not accidental. It stems from the assessment that a possible new military intervention and war in the region, whether in Syria or Iran, will entangle the countries in our region. It will also involve Cyprus, our common homeland which is suffering under the Turkish troops and struggling for its liberation and reunification. It will further damage the Cyprus economy, given that the price of petrol will increase. In short, a chain of consequences affecting the whole people will be triggered where the only ones to benefit will be the "merchants of Nations." Such a development will drown the peoples in blood, dividing and weakening them. It will create new waves of refugees who, devastated as they will be, will



seek asylum in neighboring countries. The nearest point is Cyprus which will be inundated with refugees.

A new war will violate International Law, imposing the Law of the mighty. It will loot the energy infrastructures and create

new borders on the ground, provoking instability in the region and potentially leading to the partition of countries.

Our meeting today is firmly for peace and against war. It aims to transmit a powerful message against the NATO war machine which is preparing the war on the pretext of fighting terrorism and the defense of democracy. Their hypocrisy and interests are so great that do not able them to admit that it is imperialism and their aggressive policy which gives birth to terrorism.

No matter how big the crimes of certain regimes in the region are, they will not be corrected by launching allegedly preventive wars; wars which strengthen authoritarian fundamentalist regimes, as the example of Libya unfortunately proves which remains divided whilst the Islamist fundamentalists are growing stronger. This is what the example of Afghanistan shows with the growth of the Taliban. They are the very forces who in the past were used and supported by the same forces who today declare that they are fighting the Taliban. This is what the example of Iraq shows, which remains in ruins, divided on an ethnic and religious basis and with 16,000 American "diplomats monitoring order." The same forces who care so much about democracy in our region are the same ones who support monarchic dictatorships in the Gulf region and elsewhere. They are the same forces who react and deplore the threat of war and the violations of democracy elsewhere. They are the same forces who regretfully tolerate the occupation of Palestine and Cyprus.

The safeguarding of the demands of the peoples is above all their own matter, with the support of International Law and the United Nations. It is not the business of all those proclaiming themselves

as sheriffs of the region and the whole planet. When have we ever heard them condemn, even verbally, the Iranian regime which has prohibited the Communist and progressive movements? The answer is never.

Our own clear position is that they have no legitimacy to prepare and declare wars on the backs and in the name of the people. Without doubt, serious changes are demanded in these countries, democratic changes, changes in the direction of freedom and the right of assembly. This is something that needs to be done in these countries that are violating the rights of the people. However the changes are the exclusive responsibility of the peoples themselves and not of those who want to establish a new Middle East so that they can control it, by those intervening in a region thousands of miles away from their own country for the sake of controlling raw materials and energy.

Today's meeting is taking place a few days before the NATO Summit Meeting in Chicago, United States. At the Summit, the NATO countries leaders are due to take new decisions that will consolidate the path they set out in Lisbon 2010.

At that NATO Summit Meeting in Lisbon the New Strategic Dogma of NATO was established for the coming decade. With this iron hand of imperialism it acquires a greater cohesion and unanimity. It seeks the legalization of its raids. It decides that everything can be considered to be a danger and a threat which demands action: from terrorism and energy security to cyber war, immigration and climate change.

Within this framework the forthcoming Chicago Summit will deal



with three issues: Afghanistan, the new Partnerships of the Alliance and their operational upgrading.

From this podium, we reiterate our position that the Agenda of NATO itself reconfirms that the Partnership for Peace is not a European but a NATO Programme. The Cypriot people should not be fooled by the sirens of deception which are unintentionally or consciously seeking to mislead it by stating that Cyprus' accession to this programme is an EU obligation. We say No to the Partnership of NATO, that surgeon's knife which led to the division of Cyprus.

The NATO Alliance is completing its mission in Afghanistan. Currently it is searching for a way to disengage its forces, leaving behind not only thousands of dead Afghans, but also a country drowned in fear and division. In Chicago, the NATO leaders will agree to the process of transferring the question of the country's security to the Afghan armed forces. Of course, when and if this process is put into practice it will be very far from ending the termination of the occupation and ensuring the liberation of the country, since on the one hand, a number of American and NATO forces will remain in the country ready to invade whenever necessary and on the other hand, the economic and political dependence and subjugation of Afghanistan will be entrenched furthermore with the road map on NATO's role in the country that will be approved at the NATO Summit. Therefore, the USA is withdrawing whilst in effect remaining.

In addition, it is worth pointing out that at the NATO Summit the leaders will be called on to commit themselves to new economic contributions that are estimated at several billion dollars. That is to say, at a time when the peoples of Europe and the world are being crushed by the harsh consequences of the capitalist crisis, the NATO members will make a pledge to make further funds for military expenditure.

The second issue that this Summit will deal with is the Partnership of the Alliance throughout the world. Already with the New Strategic Dogma for 2020 that was approved two years ago NATO has set the upgrading of the cooperation with its partners among its priority, not only for "strengthening international security", but also to support NATO operations.

The leading forces of NATO will not permit the uprisings in the Arab world to end up threatening their interests. On the contrary, as the raid in Libya showed too, they are ready to intervene using force. NATO is seeking the establishment of similar partnership relationships precisely with these countries.

The declared "globalization" of the Alliance is becoming a reality.

It has long of course ceased being a mere European Atlantic ally. Its involvement in Afghanistan and Somalia proves that NATO is now being consolidated not only as a regional, but also an international sheriff of the peoples. As NATO itself declared literally, the case of Afghanistan as an expeditionary operation outside the zone of the Alliance will not be the exception but the rule!

Given the position of the DHSY party (Note: the main right wing opposition party, EPP member) and others, unfortunately, in favor of our country's accession to the NATO Partnership for Peace it is important to see what the NATO circles themselves say about the usefulness of these Partnerships.

These Partnerships enable the Alliance to "expand its range of activity" and "act with more legitimization." That is to say that the states who are not members will legitimize through their participation NATO operations, unjust wars and the scorn of International Law which represents the shield and our ally in the struggle for the solution of the Cyprus problem.

"Responsibilities should be shared" – that is to say, that other peoples too should assume unbearable economic expenditures. "The Alliance should benefit from the possibilities of others" – that is to say, we should surrender any forces and infrastructures of our country to the Alliance's plans. Indeed, the USA hails those countries, despite the fact that they are not members of NATO, who have rendered every kind of service to assist the NATO operations. Indeed, they are promising to the gov-



ernments of these states – given that they “pass the exams” - to make them, formally too, members of the Alliance. Towards this end, they are preparing in the period ahead to exert new pressure on Greece so that it will consent to the accession of Skopje joining NATO.

The third issue the NATO Summit will deal with is the so-called operational questions that will render the Alliance “more flexible, more effective and efficient.” In other words, the goal is for NATO to become more mobile and murderous. All these developments are part of the so-called “smart defense” strategy. The structure of NATO is becoming much more tightly knit and uniform, even through the establishment of common infrastructures of the member-states. This is how the further linkage – both military and political – between NATO and the European Union is being promoted.

The fact that the USA are announcing that they are “modernizing their presence in Europe” can only provoke horror. They are indeed praising their European allies because during the raid in Libya they carried out 85% of the aerial attacks, whilst in 1999 only 15% of the bombings in Yugoslavia.

We know very well that these acts lead to the further militarization of the European Union. The interests of the Cypriot people and all the peoples of Europe is to be on the side of the forces who are fighting to create structures for peace and not war machines to be paid by the people itself.

Finally, the NATO Alliance is planning to announce at the Summit Meeting the so-called “Review of the Provision on Prevention and

Defense” with regards the arrangement of conventional forces of the anti-missile shield and the Alliance’s nuclear weapons.

Permit me to make a final reference to the deployment of the so-called Anti-missile Shield in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. This is about preparing for war. The radar system of the NATO Shield was deployed and already operates in the district of Malatya of Turkey. It controls and monitors the entire region, upgrading the expansionist role of Turkey, as well as its strategic position. Systems to intercede and stop missiles have been installed in Poland and Rumania, as well as a missile system in Spain. In the USA itself consultations have begun for the deployment of weapon systems of the Shield in the countries of the Gulf region, intensifying the preparations for another attack.

AKEL, the entire Peoples Movement of the Left, the peace-loving movement of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, faithful to the ideals of peace, condemn the escalation of the militarization in the region which now resembles an explosive arsenal. We unite our forces with the peace-loving forces, with parties and organizations in the region that are fighting for peace, democracy and for political sovereignty. We shall struggle so that Cyprus will not be used as a base for war. We call on all the peace-loving forces in the EU member-states to continue their struggle against the militarization.

The peoples must not and will not yield in the face of the imperialist plans. AKEL will remain in the front line of this struggle in Cyprus, fighting for peace, the freedom of the peoples, democracy and disarmament.



Statement of the Plenary of the Central Committee of AKEL on the presidential elections of 2013

15th May 2012



The Plenary of the Central Committee of AKEL during yesterday session dealt with the issue of the presidential elections of 2013. The plenary debate was conducted on the basis of the introductory speech of the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou.

The Plenary of the C.C. of AKEL unanimously endorsed the actions taken so far by the Secretariat and the Political Bureau on the issue of the presidential elections.

The Plenary of the C.C. of AKEL considers that **the aim of certain forces and figures to lead through their decisions to a premature and prolonged pre-election period is wrong.** This error harms whatever efforts are underway and reduces any possibilities for a consensual approach to major problems and challenges, which Cyprus has to confront. The responsibility lies primarily with the leadership of the Democratic Rally party (DHSY), which clearly prioritizes its ambition to gain the presidency of the Republic above the country's problems.

The presidential elections in February 2013 are extremely important for the future and prospect of Cyprus and the Cypriot people, as they will be held in a very critical environment. The global economic crisis of capitalism continues to afflict humanity. On the pretext of the crisis, working people's rights and living standards are under an unprecedented attack from big capital and their representatives. With the main responsibility on imperialism's

shoulders and its aggressive policy, which to a large extent generates terrorism, which in turn is exploited by imperialism, political instability in the world is growing. The dangers of wider conflicts are mounting. Furthermore, the dangerous and disturbing phenomenon of the growth of ultra right-wing parties is being observed.

In Cyprus due to Turkey's stance the talks for a solution of the Cyprus problem are being led to a deadlock. On the pretext of the Republic of Cyprus assuming the Presidency of the European Union and the explorations for hydrocarbons in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus, Turkey is intensifying its provocations and threats. Because of the big exposure of Cypriot banks to the Greek economy, the impact of the global financial crisis on our country is becoming particularly felt. The banks themselves and the Supervisory Authority bear enormous responsibilities for the negative and potentially dangerous developments. On the other hand, the encouraging findings concerning the undersea wealth that Cyprus has, can result in radical change for the better, provided of course that a serious and responsible handling of the matter, as at present, will continue to be implemented. On the domestic front, the narrow-minded and cheap party exploitation of difficulties and the levelling criticism of the opposition forces is undermining any efforts for a climate to prevail that would enable the collective and consensual tackling of the problems and challenges.

AKEL considers that the presidential elections of 2013 can give our country and people new positive perspectives. The five-year admin-

istration of Cyprus by Demetris Christofias and his government, with the excellent work done in all areas, is the solid base and springboard for a new promising path.

Our aim and priority in this election is to continue the path of Cyprus towards the future and enhance its prospect; to create conditions and facts that will lead to a solution of the Cyprus problem and enable the successful tackling of the many challenges before the people of Cyprus.

The political system of Cyprus, the balance of political forces and above all, the problems facing the country, primarily that of the Cyprus problem, render the cooperation of forces imperative for the election of the President of the Republic and the government. AKEL, having a long tradition in the policy of alliances, which, despite the problems that from time to time appeared, benefited Cyprus and our people, remains consistent in this policy. **Our Party will work, aiming at forging a broad cooperation of political forces in view of the presidential elections.**

The Plenary of the C.C. of AKEL considers that to forge cooperation a framework of principles that will govern this cooperation must be agreed, which should include the Cyprus problem and the key issues of internal governance. **As AKEL we have already elaborated and prepared a framework of policy positions on the basis of which we have conveyed to all political parties except the Rally party - which has already announced the candidature of its President Mr. Anastasiades - to discuss the possibility of cooperation.** We will engage in the dialogue with political will, a positive attitude and respect for every political force to arrive at a positive conclusion.

Apart from the framework of principles, the ways of cooperation and coordination of the forces that will possibly support the President and the government should also be discussed and agreed. The phenomenon of certain forces participating in government whilst

at the same time exercising opposition, very often even fiercer than the opposition parties, cannot under any circumstances be repeated.

Finally, the presidential candidate who will be supported by the possible partnership must be discussed and agreed. AKEL is ready to discuss the issue of the candidate without prior decisions and without prior exclusions.

We believe that the discussions on the framework for cooperation, ways of coordination and the candidate should not drag on too long. Everything should be completed as soon as possible without losing time.

The Plenary of the C.C. of AKEL stresses in every direction that regardless of the direction and outcome of the efforts for cooperation, AKEL will strongly defend the principles and positions of the Party, the five year Christofias term, the President himself, the options and policy of the five year term in all areas. This is because we firmly believe that throughout all these years correct decisions were taken, proper policies were implemented, radical changes were made and a very important work has been produced to the benefit of Cyprus, our people and workers.

In view of the dialogue with the other parties, the Plenary of the Central Committee will convene once again, wage a dialogue with the rank and file base of the Party and subsequently the Central Committee will formulate a concrete proposal that will be put before the extraordinary Congress of the Party to take the final decisions. AKEL, as always, will take its decisions on the upcoming presidential election guided solely by the interests of Cyprus, our people and working people.

The Plenary of the C.C. of AKEL
15th May 2012, Nicosia Cyprus



Excerpts from the address of the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou in the discussion with Ambassadors on the Cyprus Problem

8 March 2012

Many, both within but also and outside Cyprus too, are perhaps wondering: why is there so much insistence on resolving the Cyprus problem after so many years, given that life is going on peacefully on the island? As AKEL we have said many times and repeat it constantly that only through the achievement of a just, workable and viable solution will there be conditions of lasting peace and security in Cyprus. The fact that currently there are over 43,000 armed Turkish troops in the occupied area of the island does not enable anyone to talk about peace and security in Cyprus. The fact that colonization is continuing, changing the demographic character of our country, threatening both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots does not allow anyone to speak with certainty about the survival of the Cypriot people in their own homeland. The continued occupation is a slow-burning fuse in the heart of our country and the future of our people. This is why as AKEL we will never cease from struggling with all our strength daily and at all levels for the solution of the Cyprus problem. I clarify that for us this goal is our priority and a life goal.

Since the High - Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979 until today, AKEL is insisting on an agreed framework. At the heart of every initiative we undertake and the goal of the difficult struggle we are waging, both AKEL and the government too, is the reunification of our country and our people, within this agreed framework. Our goal is **the evolution of the Republic of Cyprus from a unitary state to a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality as set out by the relevant United Nations resolutions, for a solution that will lead to a single unified state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship; for a solution that will not deviate from the principles of International and European Law and that will be in line with the resolutions of the UN Security Council on Cyprus and the High Level Agreements.**

To achieve a solution as soon as possible the Turkish must show a willingness for an understanding. The only thing we have been hearing from the Turkish side so far are verbal declarations and the monotonous repetition of the stand they took on the Annan Plan. This position does not help because the Cyprus problem is unsolved and what matters is the content of the proposals submitted at the negotiating table; proposals which must be in line with the agreed framework of the solution. What matters is the implementation of Turkey's EU obligations also with regards the Republic of



Cyprus; the abandonment of approaches that lead to the existence of so called "two states - two peoples" on the island. This approach leads to the partition and not to the reunification of the island.

For our Party, the partition scenario, even if agreed, is a scenario that we will never ever be accepted because partition means the conceding of a large part of our country to Turkey. It means granting Turkey the right to bring as many troops and settlers as it wishes to the island. This is the reason why we insist on an agreed solution.

Currently the procedure of the talks is at a truly critical phase that will determine the future course of the issues. While the Greek Cypriot side has in recent years undertaken a serious and sustained effort to address these issues and register mobility in the process, unfortunately the Turkish side did not operate in a corresponding manner. **Particularly after Mr. Eroglu assumed the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community, he is going back from all that was agreed with Mr. Talat.** At the same time he is expressing

unacceptable positions both on the essence of the Cyprus problem, but also regarding the procedure of the talks.

I would like to state our position regarding the possibility of the imposition of timetables for the convening of an international conference, but also on the possibility of arbitration in general. In his statement after the meeting in New York the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressed his intention, if certain preconditions are met, to convene an international conference. That is to say, if there is significant progress at the talks and after consultation with both sides.

AKEL's position on the issue of an "international conference" is very clear and in line with the agreed procedure. **This conference must be convened only as a result of reaching an agreement on the internal aspects and with the presence of the permanent Security Council members, the guarantor powers, the Republic of Cyprus and the two communities.** It is clear and the UN Secretary-General has himself stated after the last meeting at Green Tree that the agreement on the internal aspects will be the result of the free will of the two communities and not the outcome of any imposition by the United Nations.

If the convening of an international conference is sought without the internal aspects being solved there will be various dangers. First, the internal aspects of the Cyprus problem will also be discussed in this conference that will remain unresolved. Such a development will mean an attempt to impose a solution. Such a possible development would fail and its impact would be severe on the attempts to find a solution, as well as on the prestige and credibility of the

Secretary-General of the UN. We express the certainty that Mr. Ban Ki-Moon will not convene an international conference if the preconditions I have referred to previously have not been met.

Both President Christofias and AKEL have expressed on many occasions their opposition to the possibility of the imposition of timetables and arbitration at the talks. This is not done out of formalism, or because we want to "invent pretexts" that would complicate the effort. The experience of the past has shown that the timetables were simply a tool in the hands of Turkey to let time go by. It had in its mind that arbitration would have been favourable to it and that in the end its own unreasonable demands would have been met. The result was that **the Annan Plan was justifiably rejected by the Greek Cypriots.** This is a possibility that we want to avoid because a second failure in referenda would be disastrous for the attempts to solve the Cyprus problem.

Some circles project put forth the proposal for the enlargement of the talks with the participation of Greece, Turkey and the European Union. They argue in favour of this proposal based on the reasoning that with the participation of Turkey in these talks it will give us the opportunity to expose its intransigence to the world. **Our insistence on a procedure of Cypriot ownership has the sense that we will not accept the imposition of a solution from outside, something which the UN Secretary-General accepted too in his recent statement.** This does not mean that we do not want to listen to ideas that will not be binding and which possibly could bridge the gap in the positions of the two communities.

Regarding the essence of the proposal for the enlargement of the talks, we do not consider that the tolerance being shown by a section of the international community towards the Turkish positions stem from ignorance of their content. On the contrary, it stems from how they perceive their interests being served. Consequently, a possible participation of Turkey in enlarged talks does not change the given facts and will not expose it.

Furthermore, the participation of a representative of the European Union will not have a decisive significance, given that the Union does not have a common foreign policy of a binding character. Its member states will continue to have their own separate position. As AKEL, we believe that our position will not be enhanced in the enlarged talks. On the contrary, it is the position of the Turkish side that will be strengthened, which has a serious advantage over Greece.



AKEL on the indication of interest for the second round of licensing regarding the research, exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone

AKEL welcomes with great satisfaction the great interest shown by companies to conduct research in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus, aimed at discovering and exploiting of hydrocarbon reserves, as announced today by the Minister of Trade.

Especially the fact that under the Second licensing round giant companies from important countries on the international scene have submitted bids, whether individually or through joint ventures, is a welcome development that shields even more politically the Republic of Cyprus and opens up new horizons and favourable prospects for our country and people.

Today's action by the Minister to publish the tenders submitted demonstrates the disposition and willingness of the government to work in the context of full transparency. We congratulate the Government and urge it to continue working in this direction.

We consider the next steps regarding the management of the natural wealth of Cyprus should continue to be characterized by transparency, prudence, seriousness and responsibility, far from populism and arrogance. We express our congratulations to all those who have worked over the years so that we could achieve this positive result.

In particular, we wish once again to applaud and congratulate the Demetris Christofias Government for its discreet, methodical and skilful handling of the issue. The forging of a network of alliances, the strengthening our European and international support base and the utilisation of the interests involved created a powerful protective shield of the Republic of Cyprus, which in turn enabled Cyprus to



become a part of the energy map of Europe and the world. Without exaggerating the developments surrounding the question of the existence of energy sources in the Cyprus EEZ is one of the most significant successes of Cyprus and its people since the founding of the Republic of Cyprus.

The interest shown by companies regarding the second round of licensing can create feelings of optimism and self-confidence in all for the future, but it also charges us with additional responsibilities and duties, especially for the political forces. It demands that we rise to the occasion and in a spirit of unity, consensus and collectiveness to work together in order to tackle this huge opportunity which has emerged for our people by above all putting the interests of Cyprus above all else.

Hydrocarbons: The submission of bids for the second licensing round has been completed

With the submission of 15 bids for 9 of the 12 offshore blocks the second licensing round for hydrocarbon exploration in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus was completed.

After the deadline for the bids expired, which was scheduled for 2.00pm Friday midday, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Neoclis Sylikiotis announced at a conference at the Ministry of Commerce, the names of the companies. Mr. Sylikiotis said that applications were submitted by 5 companies and 10 joint ven-

tures. The number of companies that have applied either through joint ventures or by themselves, amounts to 29 and come from 15 countries including Cyprus too. The other companies' home countries are the United Kingdom, France, America, Israel, Netherlands, Korea, Russia, Malaysia, Italy, Australia, Norway, Canada, Indonesia and Lebanon. The most popular pieces are 9 and 2.

According to the Minister, bids received will be evaluated by the Advisory Committee established for this purpose, which will then submit a report to the Minister himself. "The final decision on the

applications for this second round of licensing offshore areas of Cyprus rests with the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus and is expected to be taken within 6 months," he said.

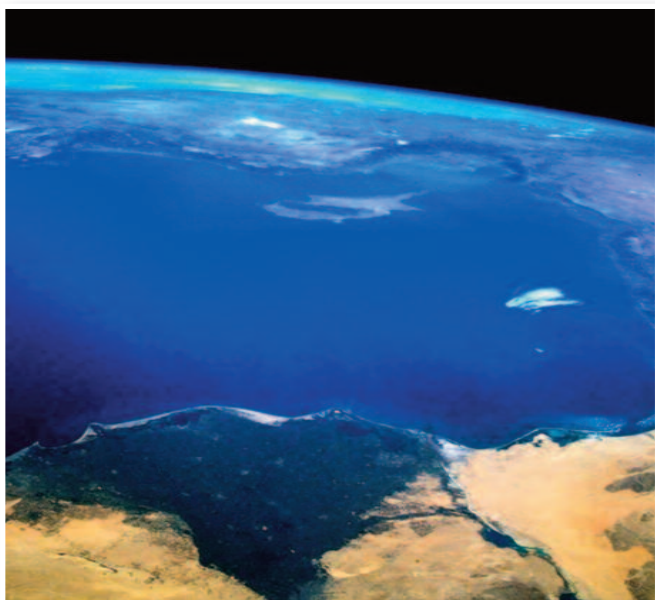
The Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Neoclis Sylikiotis said in his speech that this is an important moment for the future of our country and people, adding that results from the expression of interest "have not only not refuted us", but have surpassed all our expectations which are linked with the prospects for a new course of prosperity, progress and peace of the Cypriot people and the peoples of the surrounding area.

At the same time he assured that the licensing process will be completed "in full transparency, in a fair game for everyone," by faithfully applying the provisions of existing legislation and European standards.

Moreover, Mr. Sylikiotis noted that Cyprus is now at this point as a result of the efforts of three successive Governments, the Government of Clerides, the late Tassos Papadopoulos and the current government of Demetris Christofias.

"In this new perspective and hope that three Governments have worked to offer to our country and people, we are sure to follow up," he said. The names of the interested companies or consortia of companies who have submitted the 15 bids were announced by the Minister.

Looking back to the actions that preceded it, Mr. Sylikiotis referred to the approval of the conduct of the second licensing round on 23rd November 2011 by the Christofias Government as a further step in implementing its strategy for elevating Cyprus into a regional energy hub, ensuring firstly the energy security and the needs of Cyprus. He said he followed on February 11, 2012 publication in the Official Journal of the EU announcement and criteria for submission of applications, and then the Ministry of Commerce



AKEL denounces new Turkish provocations regarding Cyprus EEZ

AKEL denounces the new Turkish provocations concerning Ankara's official announcement that it will proceed to make explorations in five blocks of Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.

AKEL Spokesperson Giorgios Loucaides in a written statement stated that Ankara's new adventurist actions are "part of the general framework of Turkey's arrogant and provocative behaviour, as these have been issued with the threats against the exercise of the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus in the EEZ of Cyprus, the threats and blackmail against the assumption of the Presidency of the European Council by the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the promotion of a Plan B aiming at the upgrading of the pseudo-state."

The escalation of Turkey's arrogance and aggressiveness, the AKEL Spokesperson went on to say, "must encounter the determined reaction of the international community and our partners in the EU. Any toleration exhibited towards the Turkish provocations will represent a toleration of new facts accomplished that would flagrantly violate International Law, but also a toleration of actions that would endanger stability and peace in the south-eastern Mediterranean basin."

29 April 2012

participated in specialized international conferences and exhibitions to promote the second licensing round.

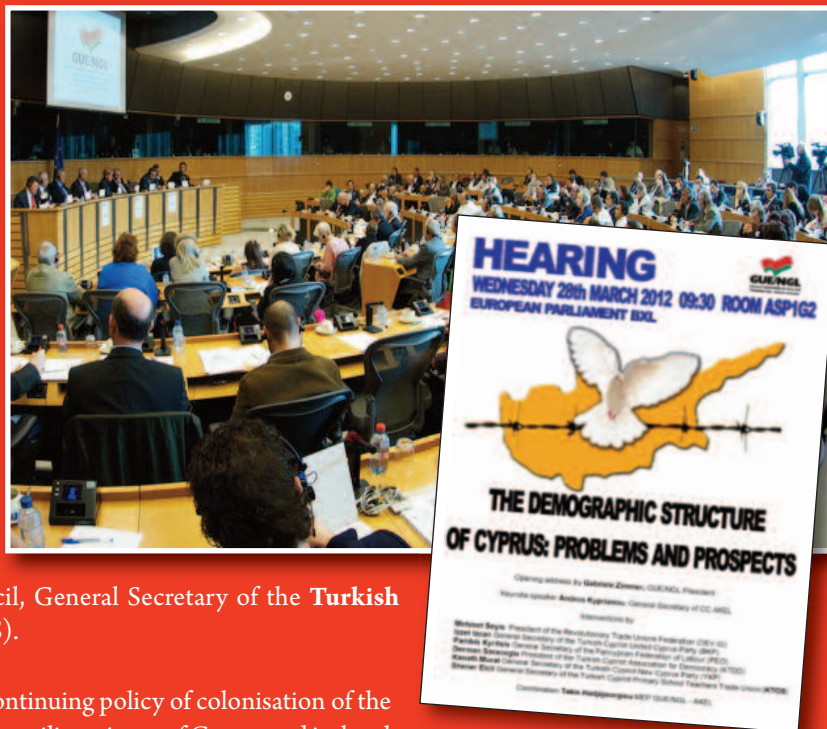
At the same time, the Minister said that for purposes of easy access for interested companies to information, a special website on the Ministry's website has been set up where all the documents relative to the second licensing round can be found, whilst for quick and timely response to questions from stakeholders a specific channel for communication through email has also been established.

"We knew from the outset that our determination to ensure strict rules of transparency, impartiality and equal treatment for all concerned would play a key role in the success of the licensing round", stated the Minister referring to the procedures followed to answer these questions, through their parallel publication on the website of the Ministry.

In conclusion, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Neoclis Sylikiotis thanked the members of the Ministerial Committee on hydrocarbon issues, the group of experts, the Advisory Committee, the former Ministers of Commerce Antonis Antoniadis and Praxoula Paschalides, the Legal Service of the Republic and the Norwegian firm that collaborated in the preparation of the documents, the technocrats of the Ministry of Commerce and other Ministries and all those who contributed to the successful completion of the process.

AKEL, left wing Turkish Cypriot parties and class oriented trade unions of Cyprus in a joint visit at the European Parliament

AKEL and GUE-NGL organised a Hearing at the European Parliament on **"The Demographic structure of Cyprus: problems and prospects"**, on the 28th of March 2012, combined with a joint visit of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in Brussels. Gabriele Zimmer, President of the GUE/NGL made the opening address stressing that the Cyprus Problem is a top priority for the Group of Left. The keynote speech was delivered by the General Secretary of CC AKEL, Andros Kyprianou while interventions were made by Mehmet Seyis, President of the **Revolutionary Trade Unions Federation (DEV-IS)**, Izzet Izcan, General Secretary of the **Turkish Cypriot United Cyprus Party (BKP)**, Pambis Kyritsis, General Secretary of the **Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO)**, Derman Saracoglu, President of the **Turkish Cypriot Association for Democracy (KTDD)**, Kanatli Murat, General Secretary of the **Turkish Cypriot New Cyprus Party (YKP)** and Shener Elcil, General Secretary of the **Turkish Cypriot Primary School Teachers Trade Union (KTOS)**.



The Hearing discussed, exposed and deplored Turkey's continuing policy of colonisation of the occupied areas of Cyprus since the fascist coup d'état by the military junta of Greece and its local organs and the subsequent NATO-Turkish invasion and occupation in 1974. Colonisation constitutes a war crime, a violation of International Law aiming to impose demographic change in the occupied areas, a threat to all Cypriots - Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Turkish Cypriots stated in figures the dramatic situation in the northern part of the island. AKEL, left wing Turkish Cypriot parties and class oriented trade unions of Cyprus issued also a joint statement:

Joint Statement

"Our joint visit to Brussels is another example of our resolve for joint action by Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Our common struggle shows the path for our country's future and stems from the cooperation in the past between the two communities and the people. It stems from the need for a free, united, federal and independent Cyprus. Maintaining their autonomy, the participants announce the following:

- **The solution of the Cyprus problem is of primary importance. Partition is not tolerated, nor accepted. It will have devastating consequences for Cyprus and the wider Mediterranean region.**
- **The solution of the Cyprus problem is a matter for all Cypriots, and will be solved without foreign interference. It will be to the benefit of the legal inhabitants of this island, and will promote the peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the two communities, the progress and prosperity of our country.**
- **The reunification of our country must exclude secession and Enosis.**
- **The solution of the Cyprus problem will be based on a bizonal and bicomunal federal state based on the resolutions of the UN,**

where relations between the two communities will be on the basis of political equality, as set out in the resolutions of the international Organization. The High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979 and the Joint Statements of May and July 2008 complement the framework of the solution.

The alteration of the demographic structure of the island imposed by outside, which suppresses the political, legal and labour rights of both communities and of our people as a whole, is not acceptable. Our Parties and Organizations are committed to continue and intensify their struggle for the promotion of the above objectives".

AKEL

Turkish Cypriot United Cyprus Party - BKP

Turkish Cypriot New Cyprus Party - YKP

Pancyprian Federation of Labour - PEO

Revolutionary Trade Unions Federation - DEV-IS

Turkish Cypriot Association for Democracy - KTDD

Turkish Cypriot Primary School Teachers Trade Union -KTOS

47 years since the sacrifice of Kavazoglou and Misiaoulis COMMON HOMELAND - COMMON STRUGGLE

Dervis Ali Kavazoglou (Turkish Cypriot), member of the CC AKEL and Kostas Misiaoulis (Greek Cypriot) member of AKEL and PEO were assassinated on April 11 1965 by Turkish Cypriot terrorist organization TMT. Both were fighting against chauvinism, fascism and NATO plans for dividing Cyprus.

Their sacrifice became the symbol of Greco-Turkish friendship in the island and a great inspiration for antimperialist struggle.

Every year AKEL organises mass march to the graves of the two martyrs. The presence of EDON, the youth organisation of AKEL, is always impressive. Many Turkish Cypriots cross the dividing line to join their voices with Greek Cypriots for an independent, reunited and demilitarised Cyprus.



"They did not just target two humble, people's fighters; they also targeted AKEL and the entire People's Movement. They aimed to attack the perspective of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots living together in peace in our common homeland. (...) Today, over the graves of the two martyrs of the friendship of our people we renew the vow. This Party has never yielded, nor will it do so today. This country can and must be saved. This people can and will manage to do so. In the name of the sacrifice of our heroes we will continue the struggle! We will continue the struggle until vindication!

Andros Kyprianou, General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL
8th April 2012



Cypriot workers honour Red May Day

Working people in a mass and militant way have this year too conveyed the message through the PEO May Day meetings organised in all cities that they are united, asserting and defending their gains. Young people, along with workers working for years on construction sites and factories, with their mass participation have once again honoured workers day, Red May Day, in the appropriate way on Tuesday 1st May.

The capital was again the centre of the celebrations which were attended by the President of the Republic, Ministers, other state officials and the Ambassadors of Cuba and Venezuela. It is worth pointing out that Turkish Cypriot workers were also present this year too. The meet-

ing began with speeches outside the central PEO offices, which was followed by a big demonstration to Freedom Square.

In his own address to the May Day meeting, the General Secretary of AKEL Andros Kyprianou called on the working people who are being exploited, regardless of national origin, whether Cypriot or foreign workers. We call on them to reinforce the ranks of the class-based trade union movement, to struggle to gain all that belongs to them", adding that "AKEL, the Party of the Working People, was, is and will always be on their side."



"1st of May is not a holiday, it is a strike day"



"Today we remember with respect our forefathers and pioneers, those you took the cause of the working people into their own hands and confronted the misery and fatalism, defying attacks, insults, imprisonment, even death itself; those who stood upright and became the example for the rallying and organisation of our workers movement"

Pambis Kyritsis, General Secretary of PEO



Famagusta



Limassol



Pafos



Larnaca



PEO participated at the May Day celebrations organised by the Turkish Cypriot trade unions in the occupied by the Turkish army northern part of Cyprus.



Nicosia

AKEL tables legislative proposals to enhance social cohesion

On behalf of the Parliamentary Group of AKEL - Left - New Forces two bills were submitted today aiming to boost government revenues through mild measures for most of the people and certainly for the vulnerable groups of the population, precisely because these measures are aiming at more a fair distribution of the burden of the economic crisis.

It is imperative that those with more economic capabilities must contribute more resolutely, precisely based on these capabilities towards the equitable distribution of national income and towards tackling the economic difficulties which have surfaced as a result of the global economic crisis. AKEL's ultimate goal is the approval of decisions that will enhance social cohesion. AKEL therefore calls on all parliamentary parties to contribute towards this end by voting for the bills.

More specifically, an amendment to the Consumer Tax Act is being proposed so that **an additional luxury tax on a scaled basis is put on motor vehicles in excess of 3,000 cc and which are pre-**

sumed to fall into the category of luxury vehicles.

Simultaneously, with the second proposed bill, legislation is introduced under which **the construction of residential units in excess of 300 sq.m a specific fee depending on the size of the unit will be imposed.** Similarly the owners of luxury vehicles, the owners of residential units exceeding this area are estimated to have the necessary financial resources to pay this slight fee. As a measure it is considered as strengthening public finances, an assistance which will help in deciding on further social cohesion measures.

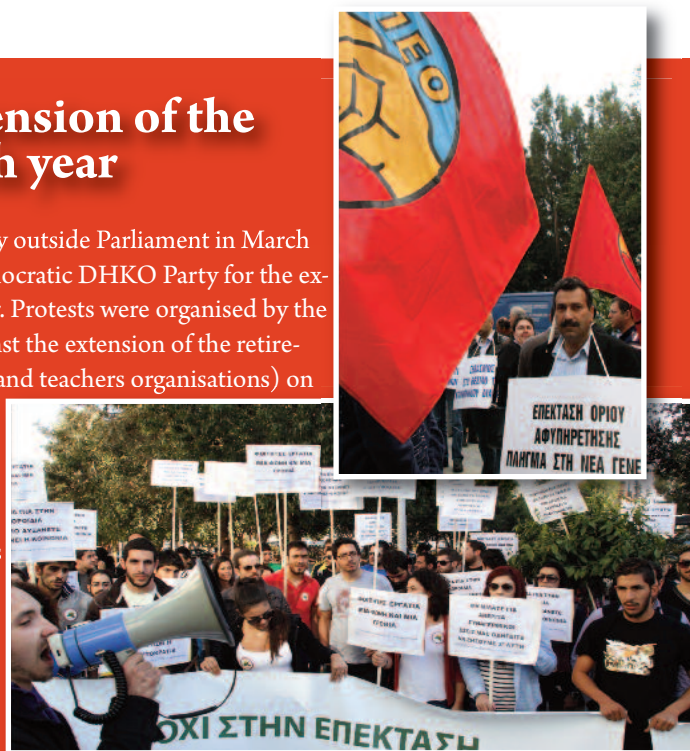
The legislative proposals were co-signed by AKEL's Parliamentary Group, the General Secretary the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, the Parliamentary Party Spokesman Nikos Katsourides, the Deputy Parliamentary Leader Stavros Evagoras, Yiannos Lamaris MP and member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. and AKEL MP Pambos Papageorgiou.

10th May 2012

Demonstrations against the extension of the retirement age to the 64th year

Hundreds of workers and youth demonstrated dynamically and militantly outside Parliament in March against the Bill tabled by the Democratic Rally DHSY party and the Democratic DHKO Party for the extension of the retirement age to the 64th year in the broader public sector. Protests were organised by the Pancyprian Federation of Labour on 29.03.2012 and the "Coalition against the extension of the retirement age" (formed by student unions, youth organisations, trade unions and teachers organisations) on 22.03.2012.

The main slogans during the protests were: "Enough of the mockery, the retirement age is increasing, society is paying the cost" and "No decisions behind workers backs!". The demonstrators were holding banners such as "The extension of the retirement age shall not pass!", "Take measures against unemployment", "Students-Workers-One voice-One fist!", "Increasing the retirement age will not save finances!", "The plutocracy should pay for the crisis!"



The General Secretary of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, flanked by AKEL-Left-New Forces MP's, addressed the youth mobilisation stating that, "We are here to assure you of our support towards your struggle".

"Some forces", he continued, "cannot hypocritically shed tears on the one hand about the sharp rise in youth unemployment, whilst striving to promote measures aiming at increasing youth unemployment. We are on your side. Continue your struggle. We gain many rights through struggle."

AKEL on Anti-fascist Victory Day

The 9th May has been established as the Day of Victory in the Second World War. The 9th May is at the same time a day of memory and honour for the millions of the war dead.

AKEL greets the anniversary of the Anti-fascist victory of the peoples. It commemorates all those who died fighting fascism, or died as a result of the atrocities committed by the Nazis and their collaborators. Every country of the anti-Hitler coalition made its own valuable contribution to the victory. However the great truth inextricably remains that the main burden of the war, the biggest share of the sacrifices and the most decisive contribution to the defeat of Hitler fascism was made by the Soviet Union and the Soviet people.

Cyprus made its own worthy contribution to the universal struggle against Hitler fascism. Around 30, 000 Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, who voluntarily enlisted to fight the Axis powers in the expectation that the war would bring freedom to our homeland too. Many of them even sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the world.

The crowning moment of the anti-fascist struggle of the Cypriots was the decision taken by AKEL on 16th June 1943 in which the Party urged its members to enlist and fight Hitler fascism in an organised way. Hundreds of cadres and members of AKEL headed by 17 members of the Central Committee responded willingly to that appeal. The volunteer members and cadres of AKEL were the



most conscious antifascist fighters. After their demobilization on returning back to Cyprus gave a new impetus to the anti-colonial struggle of our people.

On the occasion of the anniversary of 9th May AKEL addresses a greeting of honour to the Cypriot veterans of the great anti-fascist war, who through their struggles wrote a glorious page in the history of Cyprus.

The entry of the Nazi "Golden Dawn" party in the Greek Parliament, the activity of ELAM and the memorials of glorification of Sampson recall that fascism 67 years after its defeat continues to poison the minds with its inhumane ideology and is threatening democracy. This emphasizes the task of continuing the struggle against fascism today too.

On the other hand, the aggressive nature of imperialism, which is the main cause of modern wars, stresses the need of continuing the struggle for peace in conditions of democracy and respect for the national independence of peoples.

8th May 2012



International Meeting of AKEL and GUE/NGL

The Mediterranean, a nuclear free zone

Communist Party of Greece, Communist Party of Israel, Communist Party of Spain,
Communist Party of Japan and Palestinian National Authority



On 3rd March 2012 the AKEL Delegation in GUE-NGL and GUE-NGL in the European Parliament co-organised an International Meeting "The Mediterranean - a nuclear free zone" in Nicosia.

Important speeches from foreign guests included Mr. Abdullah Abu Shawish, Deputy Head of the Multilateral Relations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority, Junichi Kodama of the Japanese Communist Party, Aida Touma - Sliman, Head of International Relations Committee of the Communist Party of Israel and Chief Editor of "Al-Ittihad", Nikos Karathanasopoulos Member of Parliament and of the Economic Bureau of the C.C. of KKE Greece, Pedro Marset, member of the C.C. and the International Relations Department of the Communist Party of Spain. Erato Kozakou Marcoulli, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus also addressed the meeting.

The GS of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou made the opening speech, stressing that, "AKEL believes that the Communist Parties, the Left and progressive forces, the peace-loving forces in general must coordinate their actions and organise a big campaign against

nuclear weapons, fight for a nuclear free Mediterranean zone, insist on dialogue and cooperation as the means of solving problems. The Mediterranean waters connect three continents that can and should live in peace and security without the danger and threat of war and nuclear weapons. AKEL is ready to take an active role in such a campaign."

A discussion took place, followed by questions. Yiannakis Colocassides, Member of the Political Bureau of AKEL, noted three main points arising out of the discussion. Firstly, the danger of a nuclear disaster is still real, stemming exclusively from imperialism's aggressive nature. The struggle in reality is a struggle against imperialism.

Secondly, we struggle for a world and a Mediterranean free from nuclear weapons. There are no bad or good nuclear forces.

Thirdly, the so-called peaceful use of nuclear energy provokes big debates, whilst for sure its so-called peaceful use is submitted to the terms of the capitalist market, and is equally dangerous as nuclear weapons.

Message to the 7th Congress of the Democratic Progressive Tribune (Altaqadomi) of Bahrain

The Central Committee of AKEL expresses its warm solidarity greetings to the Democratic Progressive Tribune (Altaqadomi) on the occasion of its 7th Congress.



Your Congress is taking place under very difficult conditions for your Party, your country and the world. Humanity is witnessing during the last three years a global economic crisis that constitutes the clearest indication of the failure of the capitalist system and the neo-liberal policies that have exacerbated this crisis. International imperialism and the neoliberal strategies of the ruling classes in the most developed capitalist countries are waging a fierce attack on working people's rights.

The imperialist forces around the world, on the pretext of safeguarding people's democratic values and political freedoms, are proceeding to carrying out foreign invasions and other kinds of interventions wherever and whenever these serve their interests. In other cases, like your country Bahrain, the imperialist forces are turning a blind eye to the genuinely democratic struggle of the people. The Bahraini regime has been brutally repressing the struggle of the Bahraini people for democracy, political freedoms and social justice, which has intensified since last year, is being brutally repressed by the Bahraini regime. We also express our solidarity with all the comrades from your Party that have been jailed, tortured or persecuted by the Bahraini regime. We fully support your just struggle for democracy, freedom and social justice (...).

Accept once more our wishes for fruitful and successful deliberations on the occasion of your 7th Congress.

AKEL on the detention of demonstrators by the Israeli authorities

AKEL condemns the recent detention of 7 protesters, who participated in a peaceful protest against the government's policy, by the Israeli authorities.



We express our solidarity in particular with the two arrested comrades and members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel Yoav Goldring and Alon-Lee Green.

The struggles of the Communist Party of Israel, that has both Jews and Arabs in its ranks, show the way for the solution of the Palestinian problem based on the 1967 borders.

AKEL in the same direction is also waging a timeless struggle for the peaceful coexistence of the peoples and people regardless of their ethnic or religious origin, against the plans of the imperialist centres and chauvinist ideologies.

24th May, 2012

Message to the 9th Congress of the Iraqi Communist Party

The Central Committee of AKEL expresses its warm solidarity greetings to the Iraqi Communist Party on the occasion of its 9th Congress.

(...) Your country has been a recent victim of imperialism after the American invasion of 2003 that aimed to the transformation of Iraq into another American base in the Middle East. Nine years after the war of Iraq none of the pretexts of the American imperialism cannot justify even for a bit their brutal invasion that cost the lives of more than a million Iraqis, thousands of injured, the destruction of the infrastructure of Iraq and the inhuman other consequences that until today the Iraqi people suffers such as the social consequences, a continuing internal conflict and the lack of security in several levels. The USA not only have not contributed to the reconstruction of Iraq or apologized to the Iraqi people but even after the recent withdrawal of the American troops from the country, they keep as a heritage of their invasion an Embassy of 16,000 "diplomatic personnel" that makes all possible efforts to conserve

their imperialist interests in the region.

The NATO war against Iraq and the occupation has also transplanted strong seeds of division among fractions and sections of the people of the country. We condemn this policy "of through division we rule".

As AKEL we express our solidarity with the people of Iraq for gaining full independence of their country. We support the efforts of the Iraqi Communist Party for making Iraq a land of peaceful coexistence of all the Iraqi people independently of their religious or ethnical background. We fully support your just struggle for democracy, freedom and social justice. We support a unitary, sovereign state ruled by its people. (...) Accept once more our wishes for fruitful and successful deliberations on the occasion of your 9th Congress.



71th Anniversary of the foundation of AKEL

14th April 1941

On the occasion of the 71st anniversary since the foundation of the Progressive Party of the Working People, AKEL addresses warm greetings to the thousands of cadres, members and friends of the Party and the people of Cyprus as a whole.

With the founding assembly of Skarinou held on 14th April 1941 AKEL emerges on the political arena of Cyprus AKEL and takes the baton of political and social struggles from the Communist Party of Cyprus (CPC).

The development of the labour movement in Cyprus from the mid-1930's had made the need to create a mass party of the working class to act in legality pressing. The cadres of the underground CPC fully realized this need. They used the new conditions created by the Second World War, and in collaboration with other progressive elements of Cypriot society, **the cadres of the CPC founded the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL), which is the continuation of the Communist Party of Cyprus.**

In the decades that followed since the Assembly of Skarinou, AKEL with its struggles, actions, service to the people and sacrifices was acknowledged in the hearts and minds of the Cypriot people and especially of the workers. It was acknowledged as a patriotic bulwark of struggle for the freedom of Cyprus. It was established as the exponent of the broad popular masses, as the primary force of democracy and social progress.

It managed to elect the until recently leader of AKEL, Demetris Christofias, to the highest office of the Republic of Cyprus with AKEL firmly on his side in the great effort that he and his government is undertaking to dampen Turkey's intransigence and provocation.

AKEL wholeheartedly supported and supports the assertive policy of defending principles and at the same time the realistic policy of the President of the Cyprus Republic, which in combination with



the multi-dimensional foreign policy of the government has created a powerful network of alliances of Cyprus in the international and European arena.

At the same time AKEL backs the enormous effort which the government with consistency is making to address the consequences of the global capitalist economic crisis through measures and policies to stimulate growth, ensuring social cohesion and fiscal consolidation in a balanced and socially equitable manner.

AKEL has worked alongside the President of the Republic for the production of a rich and diverse government work which inter alia includes the solution or setting the process of the solution in motion of serious long-standing problems of the Cypriot society, as well as the promotion of institutional modernization changes.

AKEL serving noble ideals and values since its foundation was, and will, remain a force for creation; it will remain a patriotic force of responsibility in the struggle for liberation from the occupation and for the reunification of our country and people. It remains the leading force of unity, stability, consistency, seriousness, responsibility and social progress.

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