

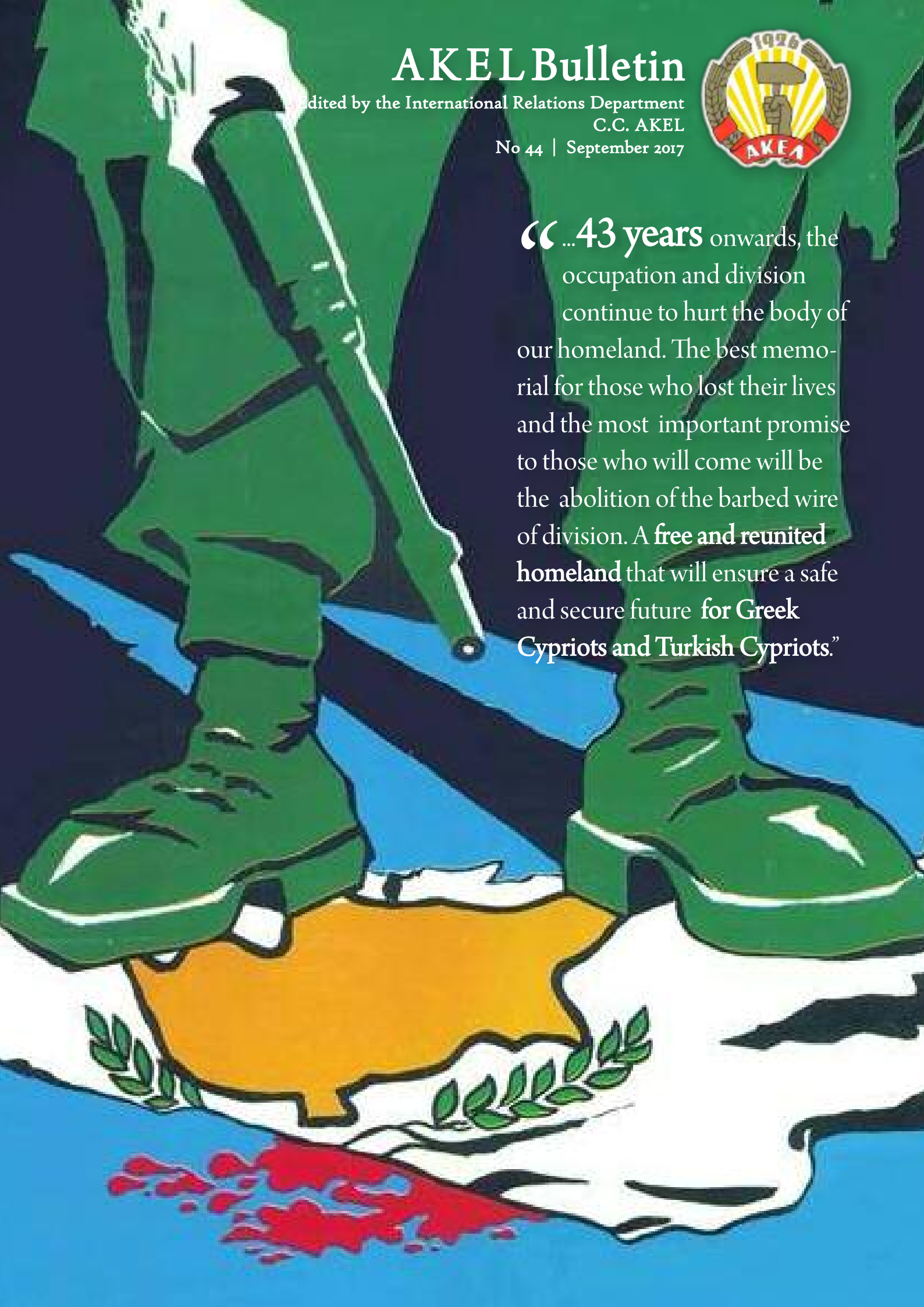
# AKEL Bulletin

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C.C. AKEL

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“...43 years onwards, the occupation and division continue to hurt the body of our homeland. The best memorial for those who lost their lives and the most important promise to those who will come will be the abolition of the barbed wire of division. A **free and reunited homeland** that will ensure a safe and secure future for Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.”





# We must keep the hope for a **solution** alive

by Andros Kyprianou,  
General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL

**U**ndoubtedly, the Cyprus problem is going through one of the most critical periods in its history. From the day after the Crans Montana talks, AKEL stressed the need for a proper assessment of the situation. Mr. Anastasiades has built up many hopes among the people, which he unfortunately did not realize. In saying this, we do not relieve Turkey of responsibilities, which has the primary responsibility for what happened at Crans Montana. Turkey, with its intransigence, did not enable the opportunities for a solution that have been presented over the years to be utilized. However, we have to be honest: neither did our side make use of all the possibilities that existed in the talks due to the proposals put forth by the UN Secretary-General, the European Union and, in general, the international community. We did not have any illusions that in Crans Montana we would arrive at a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. But we ought to have made every effort to take a decisive step forward. If we did not do that at least, we shouldn't allow the procedure to collapse.

What is important now is not to give up. We must keep the hope alive. **Day after day the occupation and its consequences are being consolidated. The presence of 40,000 occupation troops and the de facto parti-**

**tion are continuing. The abhorrent Treaties of Guarantee and Alliance remain valid. The refugees are still waiting to return to their homes and properties.** At the same time, we have noted with great concern the statements made by Turkish FM Cavusoglu that a solution must be sought outside the UN framework. At the same time, in the Turkish Cypriot community views are developing arguing for the need to abandon the solution of Federation and take initiatives to upgrade the pseudo-state. We hear information about the opening the enclosed city of Varosha, further support being provided to the Compensation Committee and the "lifting of the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots". These developments distance us even further from the solution.

It must be clear to all of us that Turkey has been pursuing a deliberate and consistent policy since 1974 to date. It is absorbing the occupied territories on many levels and by various means. It develops policies that deepen the Turkish Cypriot community's dependence on Ankara and nullify it. After more than 50 years of separation and over 40 years of living apart the Turkish Cypriot community is now facing new, even more intense and dangerous dynamics. Life and developments have shown that the

“The day after of the Crans Montana Conference on Cyprus finds the landscape disturbingly bleak. What we can say with certainty is that the main goal has not been achieved, nor was the substantive step forward taken. Instead, we have moved away from the solution. The main reason why a solution to the Cyprus problem has not been achieved so far is undoubtedly the long-standing Turkish intransigence and its expansionist interests. Unfortunately, in Crans Montana, our side failed to make use of the room that existed in the negotiations because of the proposals submitted by the UN Secretary-General, the European Union and, in general, by the international factor.”

Statement of the Central Committee of AKEL on the Cyprus  
12th July 2017





# ΔΥΝΑΜΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΛΑΟ



occupied territories are being incorporated every day in Turkey at all levels. **The Turkish Cypriot community is currently facing the real political and cultural danger of extinction.**

The resistance and wider social opposition of the Turkish Cypriots against Ankara's various impositions is real and growing. However, no one can guarantee its effectiveness, given the existing balances between a small community and Turkey. On the other hand, due to the political and economic deadlocks, there seems to be a peculiar Turkish Cypriot nationalism emerging in the Turkish Cypriot community which distances itself both from Turkey and the Greek Cypriot community. As long as the Cyprus problem is not solved, these voices will grow stronger and because of their reactionary character they will exacerbate the problem, rather than solving it. I have already mentioned previously which views are developing in the Turkish Cypriot community.

It is reasonable and to be expected that Turkey will seek that we abandon our goals. But we should not do Turkey a favour. We must insist on the solution of the Cyprus problem; a solution that will end the occupation and colonialization of the occupied areas and that will be based on the United Nations Resolutions, the High-Level Agreements, International and European Law; a solution that will demilitarize Cyprus and exclude any rights of interventions and guarantees from foreign powers; a solution that will reunite the land, the people, the institutions and the economy;

a bicommunal, bizonal federal solution with political equality as described in United Nations texts; a solution that will lead to a united state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship.

**"The best solution for the Cyprus problem is partition. And let me tell you that if I had the US Sixth Fleet at my disposal I could solve it by tomorrow", said high-ranking US diplomat Acheson in 1964. It is important to recall this position today because if some people today have concluded that partition is the best solution or if they are proposing supposedly "new strategies" that will eventually lead us to partition, we should remind them that this was from the outset the goal of Cyprus' enemies. This was, from the very beginning, the goal of the imperialists and Turkey.**

Our goal is to transform Cyprus into a united state that will be a beacon and an example of the harmonious co-existence of its inhabitants, for the whole world. AKEL will not cease to support the efforts for a solution, for reunification and peace. We will not stop building a little by little the prospect and hope of our people for our common future. The progressive Turkish Cypriots were and will remain our natural allies in the struggle for the reunification of our country. I wish a new day will dawn soon for Cyprus, the day of peace. If only we were able to throw into the dustbin of the history once and for all the partitionist plans, petty-party expediencies, neo-fascism and the ultra-right before - this time irreparably - they harm the whole of Cyprus.



“If the Right and the extreme-right in Cyprus fail once again to understand the anguish and aspirations of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to live peacefully in their common homeland, they will cause irreparably damage this time to the whole of Cyprus. As AKEL we will continue to work with all our strength for the dawn of the day when the **reunited federal Cyprus** will be a beacon and example for the world;

for the day when it will represent a modern model of harmonious coexistence of two communities of different nationality, language and religion who will be co-managing their common state; for the day when Cyprus will be a country that will have managed to get rid of the armies and channel all its forces and resources towards social investment and economic growth.”



# 43 years

since NATO's double  
crime against Cyprus

**15th July 1974**

Fascist coup of the Greek junta and  
EOKA B against President Makarios

**20th July-14th August 1974**

Barbaric Turkish invasion

**O**n the 15th July 1974 the NATO-engineered fascist coup d'etat was executed by the Greek junta and its organs in Cyprus, namely the armed ultra-right, nationalist and anti-communist underground EOKA B organization.

It was the climax of the long NATO conspiracy against the democratic and non-aligned Republic of Cyprus headed by President Makarios who with the support of all the democratic and patriotic forces rallied in a broad front of resistance with AKEL at the forefront refused to yield and suspender Cyprus to NATO and its plans for partition and its transformation into an unsinkable aggressive launching pad for NATO imperialism and local reaction.

The plans for the dissolution of the Republic of Cyprus and partition of our country were finalized and agreed at the 1971 Lisbon NATO Summit between the Foreign Ministers of Greece and Turkey. The coup was subsequently followed 5 days later - in line with the NATO plan - by the Turkish invasion and occupation of 37% of the territory of Cyprus which is still continuing to this day with the tolerance of certain sections of the international community, namely NATO and the ruling circles of the EU.

**AKEL was at the forefront of the Democratic Resistance, before and during the coup.** Many comrades were arrested, tortured and experienced untold suffering. Many comrades sacrificed their lives in the fight against fascism. Others were brutally murdered and executed. We pay tribute to our Heroes and Martyrs and strive to vindicate their sacrifices.

In the Turkish invasion that followed on July 20, 1974, many other comrades made the ultimate sacrifice, fighting bravely - although betrayed - the might of the NATO-Member Turkey war machine. Many others are on the list of missing persons. The result of the NATO double crime com-

mitted against Cyprus and its people, against the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus had disastrous results the wounds of which have still not healed.

The occupation of 37% of our country is still continuing. The twin crime led to thousands of dead, wounded and war-stricken people. It led to atrocities committed mainly by the Turkish invading army, but also by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot fascists and chauvinists. The invasion resulted in the uprooting of 200,000 Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who became refugees in their own country, to the separation of our people and division of our country. **The 2000 missing Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriot persons and the plight of their relatives is probably the most painful page of the tragedy;** the remains of 1000 were not found so far, a large number of remains are under the lengthy DNA identification process while around 600 were identified and returned to the families to be finally put to rest. The number of the enclaved people in the occupied areas is declining. The presence of 40,000 Turkish troops is continuing. **The ongoing deliberate policy of Turkey to alter the demographic character of the occupied areas through their mass colonization with the influx of Turkish settlers, is threatening both the very identity and existence of the Turkish Cypriot community and the Greek Cypriots.**

The People's Movement of the Left of Cyprus, headed by AKEL organized a series of mass events and meetings to pay tribute to heroes and martyrs of the Cypriot people who fell in the struggle for Democracy and Freedom, to condemn the imperialist crime and to affirm the continuation of the struggle to end the occupation and reunify Cyprus so that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can live together in their common home in peace. These events culminated in the mass militant march of the youth organization of AKEL EDON which ended with at the mass meeting of 14th July 2017 in Nicosia.





“... not everyone from abroad played the same role in the twin crime committed against Cyprus. On the one hand, the Soviet Union was defending the Republic of Cyprus, while the US and NATO on the other hand were elaborating plans for its dissolution and our country’s partition.”



“ On the one hand AKEL, together with the overwhelming majority of the Cypriot people, rallied around Makarios' non-aligned policy. They were devoted to the vision of the Republic of Cyprus constituting the common home of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, based on peaceful coexistence. On the opposite stood EOKA B, conscious fascists who were executing the Greek junta's orders, subverting and conspiring against Cyprus like a serpent. On the other, the thousands of honest patriots who, sacrificing their very own lives, defended the Republic, Democracy and our homeland. On the opposite side, **the miserable minority of those forces and circles who were acting as warriors with waving Kalashnikovs in the air, but when the Turkish army entered the Kyrenia region, they ran to hide in the Troodos Mountains the same time as they were sending the people of the Left to the front line without weapons. At the same time as they were commanding our betrayed people to be executed, certain “super-Greek” coupists dressed up as doctors and nurses and hid in hospitals to avoid enlisting to fight in the front line of battle.”**



“ The coupists remained unrepentant even after the consequences of their crime had been manifested. Others remain unrepentant to this very day, without even making a single apology for their actions. They even wave an accusing finger at us, delivering patriotic lessons to us. Most of them have passed from the period of the Kalashnikov to the political party that housed and accommodated them, namely the ruling DISY Democratic Rally party, but also others and from there to all kinds of posts: parliamentary, Ministerial and others. If indeed somebody asks them some inconvenient questions about 1974, their memory suddenly fails them. They can't remember a thing. They have forgotten everything. **We do not forget! Who can forget that the blood shed to prevent fascism and the invasion was red and was ours too? Who can forget so many sacrifices for our homeland? “**





“The more than four decades that have passed since the treacherous coup d’état and barbaric Turkish invasion hasn’t healed the wounds quite simply because the actions and days of the coupists inflicted on our country the severest of wounds that are still bleeding, namely the occupation.”



### “Cyprus belongs to its people”

EDON youth in a symbolic event in front of the division line on the anniversary of the Turkish invasion

“ Turkey's invasion was the culmination of the conspiracy against Cyprus which was organized and guided by the CIA and NATO, who had obedient servants at their disposal in Athens and Cyprus. Without the treacherous activity of the Greek junta, Grivas and armed underground EOKA B organization, the foreign forces could not have fulfilled their plans for the dissolution of the Republic of Cyprus and the handover of half of Cyprus to Turkey. This is the historical truth that cannot be obscured or deleted.

The Turkish invasion of Attila caused havoc and brought destruction. Thousands of dead, wounded, war-stricken people, missing persons, enclaved people in the occupied areas and uprooted refugees. We honor the memory of the fallen dead, who, though betrayed, resisted the Turkish Army of Attila and defended with their very lives the independence of Cyprus.

AKEL C.C Declaration on Turkish invasion anniversary



Laying of wreaths at the graves of the antifascist resistance heroes and martyrs on the anniversary of the fascist coup

“ Defending historical truth is the minimal honor to those who gave their lives to defend democracy and to every victim of the treason committed, but also the only guarantee that the same mistakes and tragedies will not be repeated in the future. Forty-three years after the treason, its results are still engraved on the body of our homeland and the wounds are still open. The crime committed, for which no one has ever been punished, continues to determine the lives of the people of Cyprus to date. Turkey still occupies 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. The wounds of the missing persons, the enclaved people in the occupied areas, the refugees and war-stricken remain open. The threat of new woes and disasters continue to hang over Cyprus. All this would not have been the case had the fascist coup not taken place.

The responsibilities of those who prepared - politically and ideologically - organized and carried out the coup are grave and enduring, as are the responsibilities of all those who welcomed and supported it morally and politically. The passage of time does not write off these responsibilities.”

AKEL on the anniversary of the fascist coup of the Greek junta and EOKA B





“The many years of unsuccessful efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem, Turkey's military superiority, its powerful NATO patrons and allies, Turkish intransigence, the frustration with the mistakes and prevalence of expediences or extreme approaches in the Greek Cypriot side, in no way should lead us to abandon the struggle for the reunification of our island.

On the contrary, no matter the difficulties and obstacles in our way, it is our minimal duty towards our heroes who sacrificed their lives for the defense of democracy, independence and freedom of Cyprus, never to compromise with the occupation and partition.

Looking towards the generations to come, aware of the heavy responsibility towards our homeland and people, it is imperative that we do not lower, but keep up high the flag of the reunification and liberation of our island.

The debt to those who have fallen, but also the heavy responsibility towards future generations, demands that we continue the struggle to heal the wounds in the body of Cyprus and to at long last lead our island and people to a secure and prosperous future.”

Yiorgos Loucaides, member of the Political Bureau of AKEL, at the event of Remembrance and Honour for the 4 Heroes of Ayi Yianni working class neighborhood in Larnaca

“...we honour and pay a humble due tribute to Yiorgos Hadjistefani, Achilleas Kourtellis, Yiorgos Charalambous and Andreas Theodosiou. Four heroic comrades who resisted, together with other democratic citizens, the tanks and the foreign-inspired coupists of the Greek Junta and EOKA B, who sacrificed their lives defending Democracy, elected President Archbishop Makarios, democratic legality and the constitutional order.”



# The July 1974 fascist coup: one aspect of the imperialist conspiracy

By Nikos Kouzoupis, member of the C.C. of AKEL



**43** years have passed since the Black Summer of 1974 when the imperialist conspiracy against Cyprus and its people, aiming at the dissolution of the Republic of Cyprus, the destruction of Cyprus independence and violation of our island's territorial integrity, was completed.

The Cypriot people's resistance and the people's rallying around Archbishop Makarios, the elected President of the Republic of Cyprus, who was pursuing a non-aligned policy, was an obstacle to the realization of the American-NATO subversive conspiracies and plans. AKEL and the Left in general were a decisive factor in the Cypriot people's unity, but also the only unifying link between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, a fact accumulating hatred and intolerance against it from both the Greek Cypriot ultra-right wing and Turkish Cypriot chauvinist elite. 1974 is a key point in the Republic of Cyprus' history, which though completing a 14-year turbulent period of armed conflicts, subversive plans and conspiracies, simultaneously turned a new page, which for 43 years remains open with the de facto partition and occupation unfortunately consolidated and ongoing not only on the ground, but also in people's minds under the cover of nationalist slogans, which some in both communities are using.

American-NATO imperialism, because of its failure to divide Cyprus in the 1960's, promoted the "Strategy of Tension" dogma, on the basis of which the illegal organization "National Front" was created by the Athens junta. The failure of the assassination attempt against Makarios in March 1970 and the dissolution of the "National Front" leads to new plans against Cyprus

and its people that were elaborated on the sidelines of the NATO Spring Summit held in Lisbon in June 1971 during the meeting between the then Foreign Ministers of Greece and Turkey. The so-called "Lisbon Plan" aimed at "closing" the Cyprus problem based on an agreed solution between the two NATO "Mother countries" - Greece and Turkey. However, the Junta's failure to impose its views on the Makarios Cyprus government brings to the fore the "Strategy of Tension", which took on new dimensions with secret Grivas' mission to Cyprus (September 1971), who founded the subversive, illegal and terrorist EOKA B organization.

The Athens junta was increasingly using Grivas and EOKA B, which it funded and armed so as to continue its subversive and terrorist actions by blasting police stations, kidnapping political figures, murdering democratic citizens, planning and attempting to murder Makarios with the ultimate goal of undermining and overthrowing the legitimate government. EOKA B leader Grivas prepared at least three plans for the coup d'état in Cyprus - "APOLLON" (September '72), "VICTORY" (July '73) and "SLING" (December '73).

For sure, the Junta's role in the dissolution of Cyprus independence was catalytic and aimed precisely at creating the conditions for Turkey's in-

vasion. According to statements, the general plans to execute a coup in Cyprus were formulated and discussed by the Junta leadership in Athens at least 23 months before July 1974, while since April of the same year there had been information about a coup d'état with the involvement of Turkey too.

However, the responsibility of EOKA B and its leader



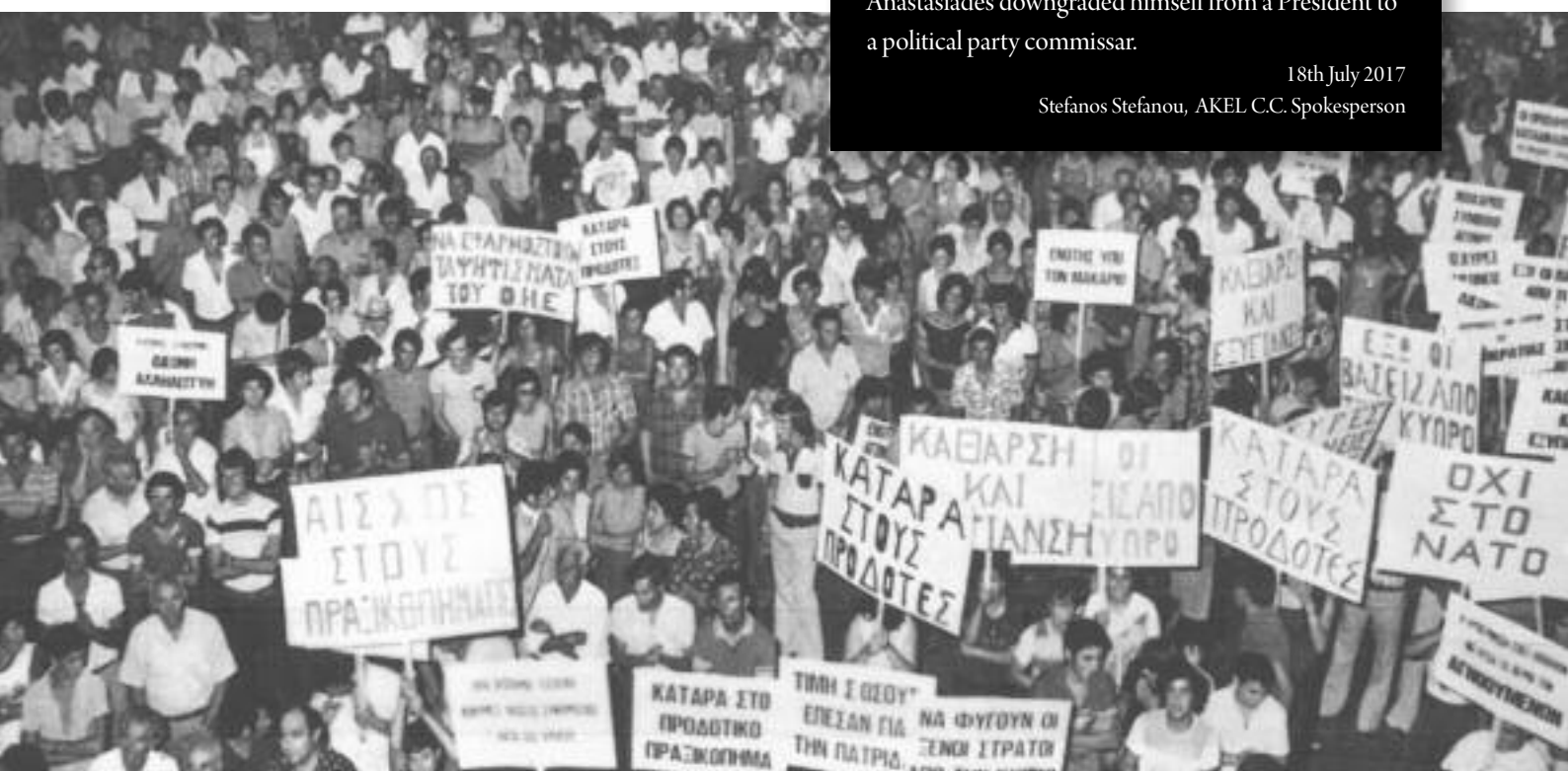


## The President yet again refuses to denounce EOKA B role in the coup and destruction of Cyprus

“Neither yesterday too did the President of the Republic, Mr. Anastasiades, make any reference to the role of EOKA B during the ceremony for the unveiling of the Monument dedicated to the Heroes of the Resistance to the coup d’état. When the names of the victims who were murdered by EOKA B were read out at the ceremony in question, the President yet again made no mention at all to EOKA B’s subversive and terrorist activity, as well as to its catastrophic role in the destruction of Cyprus. When unveiling the Monument, the President of the Republic should have rose above his petty-party beliefs, respecting the historical truth and, above all, the relatives of the heroes who were present at the event. Unfortunately, Mr. Anastasiades downgraded himself from a President to a political party commissar.

Stefanos Stefanou, AKEL C.C. Spokesperson

However, the non-fulfilment of the imperialist plans provided for in the “Lisbon Plan” is above all due to the resistance of the Cypriot people, who although betrayed fought, resisted and survived the 1974 tragedy. Another important factor was the coupists’ failure to assassinate the elected President Makarios, who was a symbol of the legality and continuous recognition of the Republic of Cyprus. The ongoing support of the international community and anti-imperialist solidarity movement towards the struggling Cypriot people had a defining bearing on the safeguarding of Cyprus independence and in the failure of the imperialist plans for the partition of Cyprus.







# Greek Cypriots -Turkish Cypriots Common homeland - Common struggle

## Bicommunal meeting for the Solution and Reunification

AKEL participated actively in the mass bi-communal meeting to support the Solution and Reunification, which was organized by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot trade unions and other organizations. The aim was to send a strong message of peace in view of the negotiations on the Cyprus problem that were reaching a climax in Crans Montana, Switzerland. The mass gathering took place in the buffer zone of the historic Ledra Street in Nicosia. Many Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots filled the area to convey their own message of peace.



## Debate on Cypriot dialects at EDON's 30th Youth Festival

On 6th July the Youth Organization of EDON held a bi-communal discussion on the theme "Common Culture - Cypriot Dialects" within the framework of the 30th Pancyprian Festival of Youth and Students held annually. Keynote speakers in the discussion were Iakovos Hadjipieri, the author of the first common dictionary of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot dialect and the Lecturer of Greek literature Özgen Özyönüm. The common influences of the two dialects, which constitute an integral part of Cypriot culture, were highlighted in the debate. The discussion took place at the Bicommunal Stand of the Festival which is devoted to the common struggle of the two communities for peace and reunification. Progressive Turkish Cypriot Youth Organizations also took part in the same space.





## Workers Day 1st May – Mass mobilization in the Buffer Zone

The central Worker's May Day mobilization organized jointly by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot trade unions took place this year too at the symbolic venue of the Cetinkaya Stadium in the UN-patrolled Buffer Zone in Nicosia. AKEL, as always, actively supported central, district and local May Day events held throughout the island. Workers May Day was celebrated jointly by Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots up until 1958 when chauvinist circles through force imposed a separation in the trade union movement and, more generally, in the joint political actions of the two communities. As of May 2014 Workers Day is celebrated again jointly in the Nicosia buffer zone.



## AKEL Bi-communal Culture Festival

On 21st May, AKEL organized the First Bi-communal Culture Festival, which provided an opportunity for Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot artists to present their cultural work. The Festival highlighted that culture is a common arena of joint action and cooperation between the two communities. The organizations of the People's Movement of the Left and numerous NGO's participated, projecting their rapprochement activity. Hundreds of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot of all ages took part in the Festival.







February 2018

# Presidential Elections in Cyprus

## The presidential system of the Republic of Cyprus

The Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus provides for the separation of the three state powers. The executive power is exercised by the President of the Republic (PR) and Vice-President (VP) of the Republic with an 11-member Ministerial Council, the Legislature by the House of Representatives and the judiciary by the courts. The PR is not only the Head of State, but also the Head of the Government. The House of Representatives cannot overthrow the President before his term expires. The PR, inter alia, appoints and dismisses Ministers, independent officials and judges of the Supreme Court. The Constitution gives the President, as well as the Vice-President, a right of veto with which he/she can obstruct any law approved by the House from coming into force.

The presidential system provides for a Greek Cypriot PR elected by Greek Cypriots and a Turkish Cypriot VP elected by the Turkish Cypriots in a separate election. However, **with the 1963/64 bi-communal clashes and the withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriots from the state, the position of Vice-President, like the seats of the Turkish Cypriots in Parliament, remain vacant.**

The PR is elected directly by the people for a five-year term and there is no limit in the number of terms of office. A President is elected when a candidate receives more than 50% of the valid votes. If no candidate gets 50%, the election is repeated the following week between the two candidates who have received the biggest percentages.

**T**he Presidential Elections are one of the main areas where AKEL's policy of alliances is expressed in the concrete conditions of Cyprus and the stage of struggle - national liberation - that our people is currently waging. These alliances are based on the formulation of common policies and programmatic positions, first and foremost with regards the strategy, tactics and handlings on the Cyprus problem, as well as in the preparation of pro-social proposals on socio-economic policy. This concept of AKEL was expressed throughout the history of presidential elections in Cyprus.





# History of Presidential Elections in Cyprus

## 1960-1977: Archbishop Makarios

In the first presidential elections in Cyprus held in December 1959, the **first PR elected was Archbishop Makarios, who secured 66.29% as against 32.92% of Ioannis Clerides supported by AKEL.** At the same time, elections were also held for the Turkish Cypriot VP and Fazıl Küçük was elected unopposed. The second presidential election scheduled for 1965 was postponed due to the 1963-1964 intercommunal clashes, with the House voting for President Makarios' term to be extended for three years.

The next elections were eventually held on 25th February 1968 in the environment created by the Junta coup in Greece, the intensification of NATO conspiracies for the promotion of partitionist plans and the exaltation of the extreme right insisting on Enosis, Union of Cyprus with Greece. On the contrary, Makarios proclaimed the policy of the feasible, namely the defence of the independent, united and non-aligned Republic of Cyprus and the definitive abandonment of the vision Enosis. On this

basis, **AKEL supported Makarios**, who crushed the Enosis right wing candidate by winning over 96%.



The next elections were scheduled for February 1973, in the climate created by the terrorist activity of the fascist EOKA B underground organization of Grivas and the undermining of the Makarios government by the Greek Junta. Even so, the overwhelming majority of the people rallied around Makarios and thus left no room for the extreme right. The single candidate was Archbishop Makarios, who, unopposed, was re-elected for a third consecutive term. The election was marked with a huge popular rally.

## 1977-1988: Spyros Kyprianou

With the death of Makarios in August 1977, three years after the coup and Turkish invasion of 1974, the then Speaker of Parliament, Spyros Kyprianou, was elected unopposed for the remainder of the presidential term. In the elections scheduled for February 1978, Spyros Kyprianou was re-elected as PR unopposed after the Right candidate Glafkos Clerides withdrew his candidacy.

In the 1983 presidential election, **Spyros Kyprianou was re-elected to the presidency, supported by AKEL and DIKO**, the party he founded. Kyprianou received 56.54% of the votes, compared to 33.93% of Glafkos Clerides, who was backed by DISY (the party of the pro-NATO Right that had in fact given shelter to the coupists) and 9.53% of Vasos Lyssarides of socialist EDEK.



## 1988-1993: Yiorgos Vasiliou

AKEL's serious disagreements with Spyros Kyprianou's handling of the Cyprus problem led to the suspension of the AKEL-DIKO co-operation. In the 1988 elections, **AKEL backed the independent Yiorgos Vasiliou** as a candidate for the renewal of political life, democratization, meritocracy and the determination to promote the solution of the Cyprus problem. Yiorgos Vasiliou managed to pass into the second round, defeating the right-wing candidate Glafkos Clerides with 51.6% against 48.4% and became the third PR.



## 1993-2003: Glafkos Clerides

The 1993 presidential election was dominated by the issue of the then UN Secretary-General Ghali "Set of Ideas" on the solution of the Cyprus problem, which were considered by both President Vassiliou and AKEL as a basis for a solution to the Cyprus problem. **AKEL backed Yiorgos Vasiliou**, who in the first round received 44%. However, things were reversed within a week. DISY Glafkos Clerides forged an alliance with DIKO, pledging to "bury" the Ghali "Set of Ideas", while Socialist EDEK called for a conscience vote. Thus, by a marginal percentage of 50.31% as against 49.69% for Vasiliou, the Right came to power for the first time with Glafkos Clerides elected President.

The 1998 pre-election campaign was dominated by the issue of the Russian S-300 missiles bought by the Cypriot government, but Turkey and the Anglo-Americans were pressing for their non-deployment on the island. Clerides and the Right by building up a missile mania and nationalism, secured their re-election. **The candidate supported by AKEL and DIKO, former Foreign Minister Yiorgos Iacovou**, won 49.18% in the second round. But, the missiles with which Clerides secured his re-election never reached Cyprus.





### 2003-2008: Tassos Papadopoulos

After a decade (1993-2003) of right-wing rule, serious challenges mounted on the Cyprus problem and the economy. The neo-liberal economic recipes undermined the previously strong welfare state, while corruption and favouritism were rampant. The election's central issue was the plan UN SG Kofi Annan had submitted on the Cyprus problem and the management of its negotiations. Through the cooperation forged between **AKEL, DIKO, EDEK and the Ecologists**, the then President of DIKO, **Tassos Papadopoulos**, was elected from the first round with **51.51%** and became the fifth, in turn, PR. The Papadopoulos government was the first in which AKEL participated with its cadres in the Ministerial Council.

### 2008-2013: Demetris Christofias

The critical nature of developments on the Cyprus problem, following the rejection of the Annan Plan in the 2004 referendum, and the different approaches with Tassos Papadopoulos on the handling of the Cyprus problem, led **AKEL to the decision to contest the 2008 Presidential Elections with its own candidate for the first time in its history** with its then General Secretary Demetris Christofias under the slogan "For a just solution – a just society".

In the second round, **Demetris Christofias, supported now by DIKO and EDEK, who had supported Tassos Papadopoulos in the first round, prevailed with 53.36% against 46.64% of DISY candidate Yiannakis Katsoulides**. The election of AKEL's General Secretary to the presidency was a historic milestone for AKEL and Cyprus, as well as for the efforts to reunify our island.



### 2013-2018: Nikos Anastasiades

The 2013 presidential elections took place within the context of the economic crisis and the destructive war that the Christofias government came under in the devastating attacks waged by the entire opposition, mass media, big business and the church hierarchy. AKEL supported the independent candidate, and then Health Minister in the Christofias government, Stavros Malas. DISY and DIKO joined forces to support the candidacy of DISY leader Nikos Anastasiades, while EDEK supported former Minister Yiorgos Lillikas.

In the first round, Stavros Malas received 27% as against 45% of Anastasiades. In the second round, Lillikas and EDEK, who together got 25% in the first round, decided to vote neither for Malas, nor Anastasiades. The final result was the **election of the leader of the Right Nikos Anastasiades to the presidency with 57.48% as against 42.52% of Stavros Malas**.





## 2018 Presidential elections AKEL enters in a dialogue with **Stavros Malas**

**T**he Central Committee of AKEL in its session on the 24th July decided to enter into a dialogue with Stavros Malas to explore the possibility of programmatic cooperation with him in view of the Presidential Elections. The Central Committee authorized the Central Secretariat of the Party to promote the implementation of the decision. The possible support to the candidacy of Stavros Malas will be finalized at an Extraordinary Pancyprrian Congress of the Party to be held after the discussion in the Local Party Groups that will precede.

**Stavros Malas was the candidate AKEL backed in the 2013 Presidential elections.** In these elections he managed to pass to the second round where he won 42,5% of the votes as against 57,5% of the current right wing President Nikos Anastasiades. Stavros Malas was an **independent candidate and former Minister of Health in the Demetris Christofias gov-**

**ernment. He is 50 years old and works as a geneticist at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics.**

The General Secretary of the C.C. AKEL Andros Kyprianou speaking on the issue pointed out that “Stavros Malas fulfills the criteria that AKEL set”. As regards the criteria mentioned he noted that “...on the Cyprus Problem the candidate must have the political will and express such positions, that will enable him to work constantly and immediately after his election **to exhaust all the possibilities for the achievement of a solution...**

On socio-economic issues AKEL insists on a policy in favour of **people’s interests and the redistribution of the national wealth...** The candidate should be in a position to implement progressive reforms in society, to combat interwoven interests and corruption, as well as to be able to get elected”.





DISY - Nicos Anastasiades government 2013 - 2018

# Social policy measures serving the plutocracy

As we approach the end of the Anastasiades government's term of office, the government is celebrating its so-called "success story", claiming that it has fulfilled its goals of recording positive growth rates, strengthening social cohesion and improved economic indicators. Looking back at the results of its policies, we conclude that the Anastasiades administration, even after the formal exit from the Memorandum it agreed with the Troika, remains committed to its deeply reactionary neo-liberal ideology.

It continues with no inhibitions to follow the logic of vicious austerity imposed on the many and on the other privileged treatment for the select few, thereby increasing inequality and poverty.

As regards the labour market, the government claims to have tackled unemployment and created new prospects for the labour market.

According to official figures released:







Pensioners  
have lost about

**30%**  
of their income  
due to the cuts imposed  
on benefits and allowances

**5.2**  
ratio between  
the income of the richest 20%  
to the poorest 20%  
of the population

The percentage of the population  
unable to meet the  
**repayment of loans**  
and other financial obligations has  
**more than  
doubled**

**28.9%**  
244,000 people  
confronted with  
**poverty and  
social exclusion**

**15.4%**  
facing  
**serious material  
deprivation**

## The poor poorer and the rich richer

The deterioration in working conditions, the increase in temporary and part-time employment and the severe reduction in wages seem to be the main factor behind the growth in inequality, which has led to increased profitability for large companies and mounting inequalities. Cyprus currently has the worst percentage rate of widening income gap across the EU, while it also holds one of the worst positions in the Eurozone in terms of income and social inequality, with the gap between the rich and poor widening constantly.

## Social protection adapted to the philosophy of austerity

In the field of social policy, the Anastasiades government has attempted to portray that everything is going well and that social justice has also been promoted through the so-called “revolutionary reform” of the Minimum Guaranteed Income. What is really taking place is that the support provided regarding acute poverty through the provision of funds come from reductions and cuts imposed on the small-middle strata and poor sections of the population.

Official figures illustrate the government's derisory social policy as the operation of social protection and social care services is limited, a fact that certainly does not lead to social justice and a fair redistribution of the wealth produced. Quite the reverse, this policy leads to growing inequalities. In effect, benefits are granted, without however at the same time the state intervening to provide care or other forms of social protection. At a time when social care services desperately need to be strengthened, the government allows centres to fade away, while the closing down of their

operation is being attempted, thus paving the way for private interests. Of course, the government's philosophy arguing that benefit policies are equivalent to social policy does not meet the real needs and challenges of the economy and society. According to official EU data, Cyprus holds one of the last positions in the table on health and social protection expenditure and is ranked as the lowest with regards spending on long-term care. Furthermore, the Anastasiades government has proceeded to the abolition/cuts in housing plans for young couples, the programs providing support to the displaced refugees from the 1974 war, as well as the abolition or cuts in student benefits.

Projecting the greatly advertised “exit” from the crisis, the DISY-Anastasiades government, achieved what its neo-liberal philosophy stands for: serving the plutocracy's interests by putting profits before people and shifting the burden of the crisis on to the backs of the middle and popular strata of society. Adhering to the dogma in favour of “minimal state intervention”, the results of the neoliberal austerity policies have led to wage reductions, the deregulation of labour relations and the dismantling of the welfare state.

# “By combating the root cause of the problem, we can guarantee the continuation of life on the planet in complete harmony with nature”



“ This year's World Environment Day is marked by the negative consequences of the neo-liberal policies at an international and local level that have a damaging effect on the environment.

The culmination of political and economic arbitrariness is reflected in the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on climate change. **AKEL expresses its deep concern and denounces the US withdrawal from this minimum agreement with non-binding terms.** The dramatic climate changes and increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena, the rise in global warming and sea levels and so many other developments occurring every day around us are continuously sending out their own danger signals.

The negative developments in the field of the environment are accom-

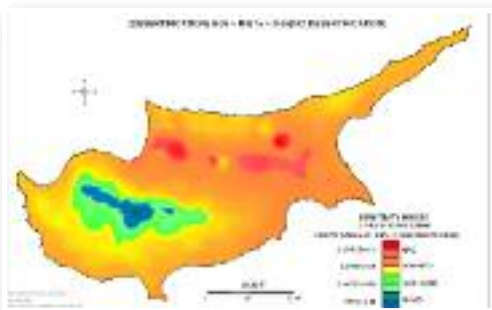
panied by very destructive developments in the economic and social sphere, which exacerbate and fuel these problems. The conditions of poverty experienced by at least half of the earth's population, the socio-economic inequalities in every part of the world, the lack of drinking water and food, the ongoing conflicts and wars are all manifestations of a system that for the sake of profit is destroying both humanity and the environment.

AKEL does not believe that this unacceptable situation is unavoidable, but instead considers that by combating the root cause of the problem, we can guarantee the continuation of life on the planet in complete harmony with nature.”

AKEL on World Environment Day  
5th June 2017



In view of the World Environment Day, an information and awareness campaign was organized in three cities in Cyprus, by the Environmental Bureau of the CC AKEL



“ The scenarios as regards Cyprus' environmental perspective are truly a nightmare, given that our country is among those facing the big danger of desertification. Consequently, Cyprus must actively participate in the global effort to end the continuation of environmental destruction and fight for policies that ensure sustainable development to be adopted and implemented.”



“ The policies with regards the protection of the environment have also fallen victim of the destructive austerity policies which the Anastasiades - DISY government are implementing. It is characteristic that one year after the devastating fires in the Solea valley region, the government has not allocated the necessary resources so as to have sufficient personnel and equipment, while the roads and fire protection zones remain unmaintained.”



## Meeting with Turkish Cypriot Environmental Organisations

The Environmental and the Reapprochement Bureaus of the C.C. of AKEL organised an open discussion on Wednesday, 12th April, at KTOS headquarters in Nicosia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the environmental challenges arising on the both sides of our island, and find a way of cooperation. The issue of demographic and environmental degradation of occupied Cyprus is a matter that concerns all Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The meeting was coordinated by Chrystanthos Zanettos, member of the political Bureau of CC AKEL. The main issues of discussion centred around the issue of population and environmental degradation, a topic that concerns all Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Our struggle is political and environmental. It is a struggle that demands the cooperation among Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.



For us, for AKEL this is a great concern. The April meeting was the start of a cooperation to jointly highlight environmental issues of our country and give solutions there and where we can.

Environmental and European Affairs Bureaus takes action against CETA

## CETA threatens the environment

The EU-Canada economic and trade agreement, known as CETA, was adopted by the European Parliament (EC) and it was going to be implemented last April. AKEL and our Group of the European United Left-Nordic Green Left (GUE / NGL) voted against the deal, which will put corporate profits over people, governments and the environment. The agreement negotiates the rights of governments and societies in exchange for providing multinational companies with access to more markets, violating labour and environmental standards. It aims to liberalize trade in areas such as public services, public procurement, intellectual property rights,



food and agriculture, and health without strict rules.

While the climate emergency requires strong and international action and coordinated policy, the CETA avoids environmental concerns that are key issues of our century.

AKEL has long outlined the dangers from the impact of CETA, especially on a small country like ours. AKEL's MEPs voted against the deal, unlike other Cypriot MEPs who voted for it. AKEL will continue its efforts at a national level in order to stop the implementation of the agreement.



AKEL awarding Environmental Movements for their contribution and actions to promote environmental protection

# Any form of militarization of Cyprus' cooperation with Israel is dangerous both for Cyprus and peace in the region



## 50 years of the occupation of Palestine AKEL on the side of the Palestinian people

This year marks the 50th anniversary since the Six Day War of 1975 and the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine. 50 years of ongoing violations of International Law and every human right of the Palestinian people. Israel isn't the only one responsible, but also the international community that sheds hypocritical tears and continues to keep silent about Israel's illegal actions.

In Cyprus, we know very well what war, occupation and refugees mean, as we also know very well the importance international solidarity has for the continuation and success of the struggle for liberation. That is

why the Republic of Cyprus and the people of Cyprus have consistently taken a consistent stand based on principles and supports the struggle of the Palestinian people, with AKEL, of course, at the forefront of solidarity mobilizations and events.

However, the election of the right-wing DISY government in 2013 had an impact on Cyprus's foreign policy as well. On various occasions, the Anastasiades government, using the energy cooperation between Cyprus and Israel as a pretext, has demonstrated a one-sided approach in support of Israel.

A recent example of this policy was the fact that last June a major military exercise of the Republic of Cyprus and Israel was held on Cypriot territory with the participation of 400 members of the Israeli army special forces about which both the Cypriot and Israeli governments refused to disclose any information. This exercise was presented by pro-government media as "upgrading Cyprus' geopolitical role" and as a protection of Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone from Turkish aggression. However, according to the Cyprus State TV channel, this exercise "is not related to the protection of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cypriot Exclusive Economic Zone", but **that the territory of the Troodos mountain range is being used because it has similarities to the topography and climate of southern Lebanon and southern Syria.** It should also be noted that the Israeli army's mobility on the border of its neighbouring countries has recently been strengthened.

AKEL was the only Cypriot party which came out against the military exercise of the Republic of Cyprus and Israel, underlining the dangers it poses. AKEL pointed out in the strongest possible terms that regional and mutually beneficial cooperation with all the countries of the region is welcome, but any form of militarization of the coop-

**“Last June a major military exercise of the Republic of Cyprus and Israel was held on Cypriot territory with the participation of 400 members of the Israeli army special forces “**

eration of the Republic of Cyprus with Israel is dangerous, both for Cyprus and peace in the region. AKEL has called on the Anastasiades government to "explain to the people why it is proceeding to such actions, and if it takes into account the dangers this harbors". Furthermore, AKEL called on the government to "inform the House Defense Committee about the feasibility and nature of this exercise."

For AKEL, the government's decision to carry out this exercise does not serve neither the positions of principle, nor our country's interests. AKEL stresses that Cyprus' role is upgraded and enhanced when it operates as a bridge of peace and cooperation among the peoples of the region, and not when it becomes a firing range for foreign armies.

AKEL expresses its opposition to this exercise, which not only does not serve our country's interests but involves it in dangerous war plans, alongside an Israeli army that has been an occupying power for 50 years on the Palestinian territories. At the same time, it sends out wrong messages to the Arab world and a number of neighboring countries with which Cyprus has always had excellent rela-





“...last March the House of Representatives of Cyprus, with **only AKEL voting against, ratified the Cyprus-Israel Armed Forces Agreement** which is a military cooperation agreement. This type of military co-operation agreement regulates the presence of the armed forces of a foreign country on the territory of another country. Even though the other opposition parties admitted that the deal was indeed harmful and to the benefit of Israel, they voted together with the ruling DISY in favor of the agreement. AKEL had strongly expressed back then too its opposition to the militarization of co-operation with Israel, stressing that "Cyprus cannot and should not enter the dangerous logic of competing "regional alliances".

tions with. This decision follows the erroneous messages that were conveyed earlier when the Anastasiades government abstained from initiatives taken even by the EU itself on the Palestinian issue, or when the ruling DISY party was projecting Cyprus as a "shield of Israel" and an "outpost of the West" - against whom?

The cultivation of the concept of the formation of an anti-Turkish axis between Cyprus and Israel and other countries may seem attractive to the nationalist audience in Cyprus, however, as it has been repeatedly demonstrated neither Israel, nor any other country, is going to clash with Turkey for the sake of Cyprus. The messages that are being transmitted in connection with the Israeli-Turkish energy plans should long ago have shattered whatever illusions existed. It would be preferable if instead of inviting Israeli commandos for exercises to Troodos, the Anastasiades government were to focus on changing the positions expressed by high-ranking Israeli officials who have welcomed Turkish actions within the Republic of Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone and who are planning, together with Turkey, the passage a natural gas pipeline, by-passing Cyprus and the Cyprus problem.

The Ministry of Defense issued a statement (13.06.2017) following AKEL's accusations, but instead of replying to AKEL's questions, it claimed that such statements provoke dangers to Cyprus. It even claimed that the House Defense Committee was aware of the exercise, something that was not the case. Unfortunately, the other opposition parties are also compiling together with the government and pro-governmental media

presenting such exercises as "upgrading the geopolitical role of Cyprus" and "shielding Cyprus with strong allies". Indeed, the neo-Nazi ELAM party issued a statement accusing AKEL of identifying itself with Turkey. This scene was repeated last March as well when the House of Representatives of Cyprus, with only AKEL voting against, ratified the Cyprus-Israel Armed Forces Agreement which is a military cooperation agreement.

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dangerous logic of competing "regional alliances".

AKEL adheres to this position of principle because this is what the interests of our country and the cause of peace in our region demand. This also what international solidarity with the struggle of the heroic Palestinian people demands.

AKEL will continue through events and demonstrations to enlighten Cypriot society, with initiatives in the House of Representatives and the European Parliament It shall continue to staunchly be on the side of the Palestinian people, until the final vindication of its struggle for the establishment of an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital.



“...this exercise not only does not serve our country's interests but involves it in dangerous war plans, alongside an **Israeli army that has been an occupying power for 50 years on the Palestinian territories.** At the same time, it sends out wrong messages to the Arab world and a number of neighboring countries with which Cyprus has always had excellent relations with. This decision follows the erroneous messages that were conveyed earlier when the Anastasiades government abstained from initiatives taken even by the EU itself on the Palestinian issue, or when the ruling DISY party was projecting Cyprus as a "shield of Israel" and an "outpost of the West" - against whom?



“it is no coincidence that in addition to the declaratory nature of the Treaties on the subject of EU militarisation, active steps are currently being taken in order to enhance military capabilities of the EU.



## Towards an ever closer (military) union

by Aristos Damianou

Member Politbureau CC AKEL,

Member of Parliament representing AKEL – Left - New Forces  
at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on EU's CFSP/CSDP

Over the past decade the EU has widened its political focus in order to increase its scope of competencies from the economic and fiscal areas to those of military and paramilitary capabilities; always in close collaboration with NATO. After all, the founding Treaties after Lisbon make provision for the latter right of NATO member states notwithstanding the Berlin Plus arrangements.

It is no coincidence that in addition to the declaratory nature of the Treaties on the subject of EU militarisation, active steps are currently being taken in order to enhance military capabilities of the EU. Probably not at the speed that decision or policy makers that adhere to the idea that the EU must evolve into a regional organisation which possesses a military nature would have liked, but still at a speed and with a determination that is highly alarming.

Indicative of the intentions are the conclusions on Security and Defence in the context of the EU Global Strategy, adopted by the Council on 18 May 2017 whereby the Council of the European Union reiterated its “commitment to strengthen the EU’s rapid response toolbox including notably the EU Battlegroups, in support of the EU Level of Ambition”. To this end the Council agreed to reinforce the preparation of the EU Battlegroups by enhancing financing “in order to facilitate political decision – making on [their] deployment”.

“Indicative of the intentions are the conclusions on Security and Defence in the context of the EU

**Global Strategy**, adopted by the Council on 18 May 2017 whereby the Council of the European Union reiterated its “commitment to strengthen the EU’s rapid response toolbox including notably the EU Battlegroups, in support of the EU Level of Ambition”. To this end the Council agreed to **reinforce the preparation of the EU Battlegroups by enhancing financing “in order to facilitate political decision – making on [their] deployment”.**



“Last June, building on earlier Council decisions on its EU Global Strategy in the area of security and defence, the Council adopted a decision establishing a “**military planning and conduct capability within the EU military staff**”. As the High Representative Federica Mogherini noted “the establishment of the military planning and conduct capability is a very important operational decision to strengthen the European defence. It will contribute to make the non-executive European missions more effective and to improve the training of soldiers of partner countries, to guarantee peace and security”.



The latter sounds a bit like the “exporting democracy” dogma of the USA. It is worth to mention that the EU maintains three Training Missions. In Somalia since 2010, in Mali since 2013 and in the Central African Republic since 2016. Obviously, having resolved its internal security problems, the EU is now willing and able to provide security and military training solutions in other continents...

It is evident that the EU is moving in the opposite direction to that envisaged by the Left and other progressive forces. Neoliberal-antipopular economic policies meet neoconservative-populist military and security policies. And of course in every single policy paper or decision of the EU dealing with strengthening the EU’s military capabilities no mention is made and no attention is given to the most burning of issues; the urgent need for the fundamental change in the socio-economic and political environment that will shift the balance in favour of the peoples, nations and peace rather than multinational and corporate capital and warmongering.

Furthermore, a series of political decisions and actions over the past few years, in particular with regard to foreign policy, i.e. the handling of invasions followed by civil strife, calls for a revaluation of the correctness and

of the effectiveness of policy – making at the highest political level; that of the Council of the European Union. It is more than apparent that decisions are not taken on the basis of what is right for the peoples in the various regions affected but rather on the basis of what is beneficial to the core of decision makers in Brussels, Berlin or Washington.

Unfortunately, the core decisions of the EU bodies, albeit not without criticism are repeated, more often than not, in the Conclusions of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and on Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP), held twice a year by the EU Presidency.

Let me be clear. The EU is lacking in democratic and in accordance with the rule of law policy formation and decision making. What is long overdue is a change from the foundations. A generic reconstruction and revisiting of the applied politics that will tip the balance of power. By taking it away from a bunch of convenient bureaucrats and a small number of ruling governments and handing it back to the peoples of Europe. That is the only prospect that may bring peace, real security and stability in Europe and in our wider region; which has as a necessary precondition the prevalence of international law over military force.





# Peace with Justice in Cyprus and the World

On Saturday 8th July 2017, the Regular Congress of the Cyprus Peace Council convened in Nicosia under the slogan "Peace with Justice in Cyprus and the World".

The Congress was attended by the former President of the CPC Donis Christofinis, the General Secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth WFDY Jose Angel Maury De Toro, the Vice-president of the Women International Democratic Federation (WIDF) Skevi Koukouma and the Ambassador of the Cuban Revolution and daughter of the legendary revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara, Aleida Guevara March. Greetings were sent to our congress from the World Peace Council, as well as the peace movements from Cuba, Greece, Turkey, Syria, India, Nepal, Brazil, South Africa and the United States.

Congress representatives assessed, on the basis of the Action Report submitted, the Movement's activity since the previous Congress and set out objectives and goals until the next Congress in the context of the ongoing political developments in Cyprus and the world.

As the Declaration that was unanimously approved by the Congress notes, the Cyprus Peace Council aiming at the development of the peace-loving, anti-imperialist, anti-war sentiment, but also of the sense of solidarity among the Cypriot people, addresses a call to its members, but also to all those people sensitive to the promotion of peace in Cyprus and the world, to support the efforts underway to upgrade

its role for a more effective intervention by the movement.

By doing so, the Declaration notes that the struggles are strengthened for a peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem, for freedom and the reunification of Cyprus under conditions of permanent peace and security, for the complete demilitarization of Cyprus, ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, for de-nuclearization and disarmament, the dissolution of the imperialist machine of NATO and an end to the imperialist wars, for cooperation with fraternal peace movements within the ranks of the World Peace Movement, for the promotion of peace in Cypriot society in cooperation with personalities from the fields of culture, education, the mass media and medicine. In addition, the Congress adopted a resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres.

Finally, the Congress elected a new General Council, consisting of 72 members. During its first session, the General Council elected the President, General Secretary and the new Secretariat of the CPC. Stelios Sofokli, civil engineer and Visiting Lecturer at Neapolis University Paphos, was elected as the new President of the CPC and Fanis Christodoulou as the new General Secretary. The other members of the Secretariat are Charis Pashias, Central Organizational Secretary, Marios Michailidis, Treasurer Pieris Pieri, Konstantinos Anaxagorou, Christos Nikolaou, Mohamed Siapan, Giorgoula Zenonos, Severos Koulas and Dimitris Palmyris as members.



**Stelios Sofokli**, civil engineer and Visiting Lecturer at Neapolis University Paphos, the newly elected President of the Cyprus Peace Council







## Anti-NATO mobilization

# "Neither Cyprus in NATO Nor NATO in Cyprus"

The Cyprus Peace Council, responding to the World Peace Council's call for anti-NATO actions in its member countries, ahead of the NATO Summit in Brussels on 25-26th May, organized an anti-NATO meeting under the slogan "Neither Cyprus in NATO - Nor NATO in Cyprus" on Friday, 26th May in Larnaca.

Powerful messages were transmitted against NATO with the dissolution of the Alliance the key demand of the event. Andreas Vyras, Mayor of the city of Larnaca and Stelios Sofocli, on behalf on the Secretariat of the Cyprus Peace Council, were the keynote speakers at the meeting. By demonstrating its vicious face, the NATO imperialist machine is redrawing borders through the wars it is waging, controlling energy production and the routes of channeling energy resources with the sole purpose of increasing the profits of a handful of multinational companies. The people of Cyprus have every reason to demand the dissolution of NATO's war machine, as the wounds of the 1974 twin crime committed, namely the coup and invasion, remain open; a crime planned and organized by NATO headquarters.

“... We must strengthen our actions and coordination with the peace movements and progressive forces of the EU countries in order to combat the ever-deepening EU-NATO coupling and synergy; to demand the demilitarization of the EU and of its foreign policy. We demand the dismantling of any interventionist mechanisms and the promotion of measures to generate social development and growth. Today's event must give an impetus to stepping up our efforts for an enlightenment campaign in societies, but also for the militant mobilization of the peoples. Together, we can and must dissolve NATO, as well as the system that gave birth to it and perpetuates it.”

Neoklis Sylikiotis,

Member of the Political Bureau and AKEL Member of the European Parliament



## International Meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties

# Unity in action

by Vera Polycarpou  
Head of the International Relations Bureau,  
Member C.C. AKEL

At the end of July 2017 we received the information that the ultra-right organization “Defend Europe” was “upgrading” its hideous activity in the Mediterranean having chartered a ship in Djibouti. The aim of this racist organization is to disrupt maritime rescues of refugees and migrants in danger while crossing the Mediterranean. At a time when the Mediterranean Sea has become a chilling tomb for thousands of people fleeing wars and extreme poverty in search of safety and a future, the ultra-right organization aims to swell the number of victims. They have already targeted NGOs that are actively saving human lives, particularly off Italy’s south coast. Having entered the Mediterranean Sea, their ship entered the occupied port of Famagusta in Cyprus, the crew was originally arrested but was allowed to sail off. Thanks to an exchange of information and coordination antiracist NGOs and forces of the Left kept track of this ship, denouncing this ultra-right organization and its aims. The cities of Ierapetra in Crete and Catania in Sicily have declared that they would not permit this ship entrance to their ports.

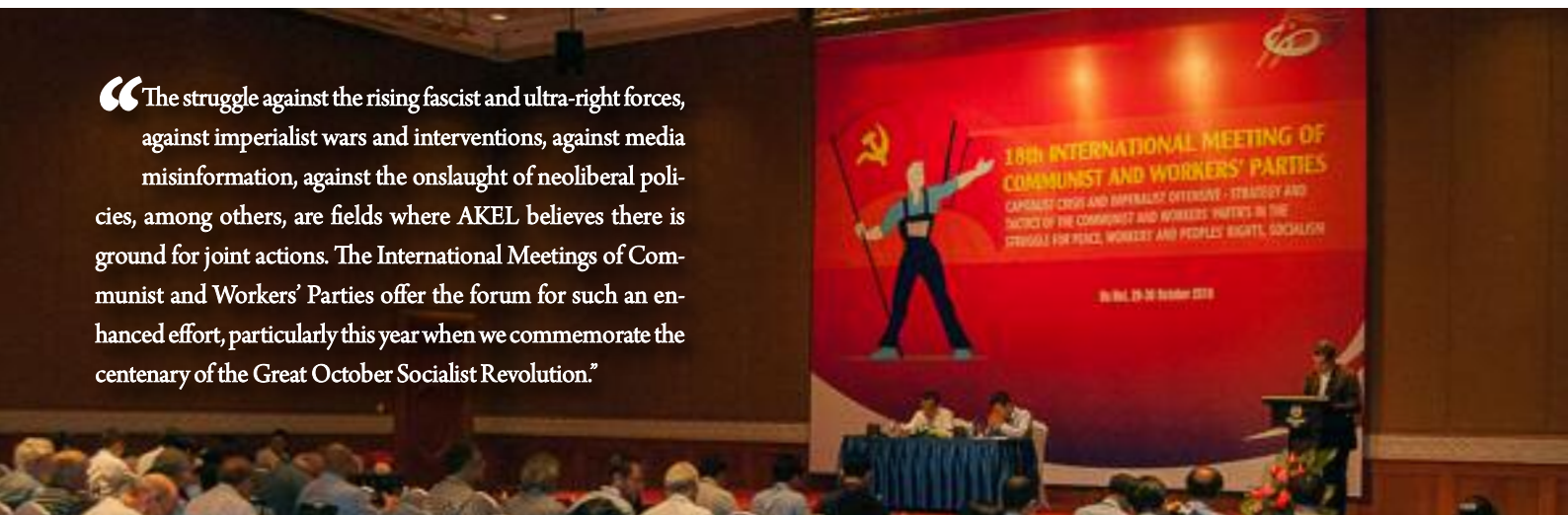
As these lines are being written the next moves of this reactionary organization are not fully known, hence, we should all be on alert as their de-

clared racist goals are “to defend EU borders” and “rescue Europe by stopping illegal immigration”. We all know that the next target after the “illegal migrant” can very well be a worker, a trade unionist ...

The extreme-right wing and fascist forces and organizations are a growing threat in Europe, as is the notorious case of Ukraine; but not only in Europe. One cannot turn a blind eye to the situation in Venezuela where increasingly fascist groups financed from abroad try to terrorize the people aiming to overthrow the legal Government and to put an end to the Bolivarian Revolution, a process that gave national sovereignty and control over rich oil resources back to the Venezuelan people. Despite any possible shortcomings, weaknesses or mistakes, the process started by President Chavez in 1998 has given a better life to millions of Venezuelans. What is also certain is that this very process has deprived the US of a big source of cheap oil and of an obedient ally in South America, a region of growing strategic importance in the US plans for world domination.

The open war of the US against Venezuela, which is echoed also by the European Union, is part of a broader plan to reverse the left-progressive

“The struggle against the rising fascist and ultra-right forces, against imperialist wars and interventions, against media misinformation, against the onslaught of neoliberal policies, among others, are fields where AKEL believes there is ground for joint actions. The International Meetings of Communist and Workers’ Parties offer the forum for such an enhanced effort, particularly this year when we commemorate the centenary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.”





turn taken in a number of countries in South and Central America. In certain cases they used constitutional coup d'états, while in others more overt interventions of destabilization. Cuba has been the main target for almost six decades. Clearly, the Media are playing a major role in all these and other cases, spreading a distorted "virtual" reality which is unquestioned by the major establishment media outlets. Citing these "sources" national media reproduce the lies and create a completely distorted picture as part of a global war to isolate in this case Venezuela, but it is true for many other countries too.

Coming back to the Mediterranean, clearly, the US-NATO imperialist operations are responsible for the destruction of the livelihoods and the uprooting of millions of people from Africa and the Middle East, who reach the Mediterranean coast in hope of salvation. The only way to convince people desperately seeking safe heaven to stop their dangerous exodus is to put an end to the interventions, wars and distraction, to allow real and sustainable socio-economic development.

Syria is still bleeding, part of the plan to create a "constructive chaos" in the "Greater Middle East"; so is Iraq and the obscure for the mainstream media Yemen. And Palestine? When do these same media remember Palestine, which is suffering under Israeli occupation for over 50 years now? Only when there is bloodshed! And then mostly in a distorted way! And the other occupation, that of 37% of Cyprus by Turkey since 1974?

At numerous meetings of national, regional and international level representatives of Communist and Workers' parties have repeatedly asserted the extremely difficult, hostile environment under which many peoples or large sections of popular strata have to struggle for a living. To a large extent we also have converging views as to the causes of the situation – the cruelest face of capitalism and the imperialist criminal being committed acts all over the world - and as to the need for a common struggle against these causes.

For us in AKEL unity in action is the way ahead. In the face of the growing offensive against peoples' socio-economic and political rights, against the

**“We are all well aware of the fact that our parties may be coming from different backgrounds and traditions, that the realities of our countries and hence the tasks may be different and that our sensitivities may be different. But we also have a lot in common that we can build on.”**

freedom, national sovereignty and dignity of peoples, against organized struggle, against the communist ideology, we need to rise to the challenge. We are all well aware of the fact that our parties may be coming from different backgrounds and traditions, that the realities of our countries and hence the tasks may be different and that our sensitivities may be different. But we also have a lot in common that we can build on. We believe that we can and should rise above the differences and build unity through action, with mutual respect and in no case interfering in the internal affairs of each other.

The struggle against the rising fascist and ultra-right forces, against imperialist wars and interventions, against media disinformation, against the onslaught of neoliberal policies, among others, are fields where AKEL believes there is ground for joint actions. The International Meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties offer the forum for such an enhanced effort, particularly this year when we commemorate the centenary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.



## • international activities



### Meeting of the Modern Left Parties in Cyprus

On 11th April AKEL hosted the Meeting of the Modern Left Parties, which was held for the first time in Cyprus. The meeting, which convenes annually in recent years, is attended by several European left parties. The main issues discussed at the meeting were the struggle against the extreme right and the role of the Left in governance. During the meeting, the representatives of the 10 foreign parties participating in the meeting were briefed on the developments surrounding the Cyprus problem by the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL A.Kyprianou.



### International Seminar of the

### Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia

### “The legacy of the October Revolution in the struggle for peace and the tasks of communists”

AKEL participated in the International Meeting organized by the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia on 31st May and 1st June. AKEL was represented by Yiorgos Koukoumas, member of the Central Committee and International Relations Department of AKEL. The meeting took place on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution, focusing on the legacies of the Revolution in the struggle for peace and on the current tasks Communists face. Communist and Workers Parties from Europe participated in the meeting.



### Die Linke Congress

AKEL participated in the Die Linke (The Left) Party Congress on 9-11th June in Hannover. AKEL was represented by Chrysanthos Zannettos, member of the Political Bureau of AKEL and AKEL Famagusta District Secretary.



### 14th Congress of the South African Communist Party

Vera Polycarpou, Head of the International Relations and European Affairs Bureau and Member of the Central Committee of AKEL, represented the Party at the 14th Congress of the South African Communist Party, held on 10-15th July in Boksburg.



## 15th Congress of the Communist Party of Venezuela

Vera Polycarpou, Head of the International Relations and European Affairs Bureau and Member of the Central Committee of AKEL, represented AKEL at the 15th Congress of the Communist Party of Venezuela, held on 22-25th June in Caracas. Vera Polycarpou also participated in the international ideological seminar on 21st June, which was organized for the foreign delegations to the PCV Congress.

The PCV Congress convened in the midst of the difficult political conditions for the country, as the attacks and provocations against of the Bolivarian Revolution - which is supported by the PCV - are intensifying as a result of the ongoing imperialist interventions and the prolonged political instability caused by the subversive actions of the extreme-right opposition. AKEL's presence at the Congress is a demonstration of its solidarity towards the struggle of the PCV and the Venezuelan people for social progress.



## Official visit of the Japanese Communist Party to Cyprus

At the invitation of AKEL, a delegation of the Japanese Communist Party paid an official visit for the first time to Cyprus on 19-21th June. The JCP delegation consisted of Yasuo Ogata, Vice Chairperson, Executive Committee Chairperson and Chairman of the International Commission of the Party, and Hiroshi Yonezawa, a member of the JCP's International Commission.

The representatives of the Japanese Communist Party had official con-

tacts and meetings with the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL, the President of the House of Representatives, the Deputy General Director of the Foreign Ministry, the General Secretary of the Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO), the General Secretary of the Progressive Women's Movement of POGO and Vice-President of the Women's International Democratic Federation (FDIF), the President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), the Youth Organization EDON and the Board of the "Prometheus" Research Institute.





## Mass events on the occasion of Aleida Guevara's visit to Cyprus

### Cyprus-Cuba: friendship, solidarity, resistance

At the invitation of the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association, Dr. Alexa Guevara March, daughter of the legendary revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara, visited Cyprus from 29th June to 10th July. Aleida Guevara is a pediatrician distinguished by her participation in humanitarian solidarity missions, while she is also active internationally as an ambassador of the Cuban Revolution, its achievements, but also of the struggle to end the ongoing US blockade against Cuba.

Aleida Guevara's visit, who visited Cyprus back in 1997, coincided with the **25th anniversary of the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association and the 50 years since Che's murder**. The visit in fact took place just a few days after President Trump's announcements against Cuba with which the steps taken in previous years were annulled. AKEL subsequently addressed a call for the events scheduled to take place on the occasion of Aleida Guevara's visit to be transformed into meetings to denounce US policy against Cuba by conveying a message of solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.

The visit began with a humble event the José Martí Monument in Nicosia. The José Martí monument in Nicosia and the statue of Makarios at the port of Havana are symbols of Cyprus-Cuba friendship. Highlights of the visit included, inter alia, the mass event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association, the awards for the Poster Competition on the 50 years since the murder of Che, the unveiling of a monument dedicated the Cuban Revolution at the Local Club of the People's Movement of the Left in the Municipality of Tseri and the inau-

guration of the permanent gallery of the late painter Michalis Kyrlitsias.

Aleida Guevara also had meetings with the leadership of AKEL and the class trade union federation of PEO, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health, the Kykkos Bishop Nikiforos, the Mayors of Nicosia, Larnaca, Yeri, Deryneia, Tseri and Peyia. Aleida Guevara addressed the thousands of young people participating in the 30th Festival of Youth and Students of EDON, also speaking in the debate held at the Festival on the life and legacy of Che and visiting the Youth and Children's Camps of EDON and PEO. She also participated in events co-organized by the Women's Movement of POGO in Deryneia and the Embassy of Venezuela in Limassol and gave a lecture on Health and Medical care in Cuba and visited the pediatric clinic of the Makarios Hospital in Nicosia. During her visit, Aleida Guevara also gave numerous interviews to the Cypriot mass media and newspapers. A powerful, emotional and symbolic message was conveyed through her pres-

ence and the laying of wreaths at the monument dedicated to the anti-fascist democratic resistance of Cyprus and President Makarios and to all those who died fighting fascism in the coup and the Turkish invasion in 1974.

The visit was an opportunity to organize a series of events in various cities of free Cyprus on the Cuban Revolution which at the same time gave an impetus to the Cypriot solidarity movement with Cuba and to Cyprus-Cuba friendship.





## Cyprus-Cuba friendship has deep roots

The friendship between the two countries and peoples dates back to the period of the Non-Aligned Movement, of which both Cyprus and Cuba, under the leadership of Makarios and Fidel respectively, were founding members. Cyprus was the first country to send a ship to Cuba, thus breaking the naval blockade imposed by the US. At a diplomatic level, Cuba was a consistent supporter of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. Cyprus has been supporting the Cuban struggle over time to end the blockade imposed by the US and every foreign aggression against its sovereignty for half a century. The opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Havana in 2009 and the visit of the former President of the Republic Demetris Christofias to Havana - the first ever Head of an EU member state to visit Cuba - gave a new impetus to the friendship and cooperation between Cyprus and Cuba.



“My first message is a message of solidarity from the Cuban people. We are always there on the side of those who need us. You can rely on us. And the second message: Don't forget who are Greek Cypriots, who are Turkish Cypriots, but the Cypriots should be Cypriots. It doesn't matter if your ethnic origin is Turkish or Greek. It is a piece of land and it is Cyprus. Those who were born here are Cypriots, and so you have to have equal rights and above all you have to have unity among you. If we don't manage to have this unity, they will not take us into account. This unity is very important so that you have the power to change this reality.”

Aleida Guevara

“Cyprus has always been in solidarity with Cuba, the people of Cyprus as a whole. We share a common destiny as small states, as islands, even from afar, in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, respectively. The Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association is fully aware that Cuba needs more than ever before international support and solidarity, given that the goal of Western imperialism is the overthrow of the Cuban Revolution. Even Fidel's death has been exploited by these same circles and forces to convey the message that this supposedly marks the end of the Revolution.”

Stella Nicolaou  
President of the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association



“Cuba is not only a symbol of socialism. It is also a symbol of patriotism, internationalism and humanism. That is why the defense of Cuba and the Cuban Revolution is - AKEL believes - the duty of every democratic and progressive citizen.”

Stefanos Stefanou  
MP, Member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. Of AKEL



“Our love for Cuba and the Revolution is not abstract. It is not limited to its symbols we hold with pride. Our love for Cuba must first of all be expressed through our practical solidarity with its struggle. We call on the US to respect the sovereignty and independence of the Cuban people, who is the only one entitled to decide the future of its country. The United States – let alone Donald Trump - is the last country in the world to give lessons about democracy and human rights.”

Skevi Koukouma  
AKEL MP, General Secretary of the POGO Women's Movement





Against the imperialist intervention

# Solidarity with Bolivarian Venezuela!

**T**he escalation of the US aggression against Venezuela, its government and people is inciting bloody clashes in the country. We are witnessing yet another attempt to enforce a new “colour revolution” or “Maidan” aiming at the overthrow of a government not to the liking of the US. Their goal is, on the one hand, to put the rich oil resources and reserves again under their control so as to ensure their looting as in the past and on the other hand, to destroy the manifold advances achieved on all fronts and to undermine the countries of the “Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of America” (ALBA).

Since the election of Hugo Chavez in 1998, the US has targeted the country, beginning with the failed 2002 military coup. It should be recalled that since 2008, the US has redeployed the 4th Fleet of the Southern Command in southern and Central America, while they have also been building up a network of military bases, especially in Colombia, which is aggressively positioned against Venezuela. In addition, Obama’s Executive Order signed on 9th March 2015 described the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as “an unusual and extraordinary threat to US national security and foreign policy”, while in December 2014 the US Senate approved the imposition of sanctions against the Venezuelan people and government until 2019.

Today, the US and right-wing opposition have intensified their destabilization operation through a coordinated misinformation campaign, with the involvement of paramilitary forces from Colombia in anti-government demonstrations, but also through the concerted and organized effort to promote economic chaos by promoting the economy’s financial blockade, provoking artificial shortages of essential goods, hoarding and price speculation, widespread sabotage and the destruction of services and infrastructures.

These actions exacerbate the economic difficulties which are due to the sanctions imposed on the country and the big drop in oil prices. Dual institutions are also being formed to prepare conditions for foreign inter-

vention. This is reminiscent of the destabilization strategy implemented against the Allende government in Chile to prepare the ground for the 1973 coup. Furthermore, in April 2017 Admiral Tidd Head of the United States Southern Command revealed a disposition even for a US military intervention in Venezuela.

This destabilization operation and economic war is part of a wider US counter-offensive to roll back the many gains and advances made by sovereign, democratic and progressive governments in the region, but also the very process of integration and regional cooperation which objectively undermine US imperialist hegemony. They can’t accept that in a number of countries the subservient pro-American right-wing was defeated in elections and that the way for progressive changes and their disassociation from the US was paved.

We mustn’t forget that together with local reaction the US overthrew the elected leaders of Honduras (2009) and Paraguay (2012), succeeded in removing Rousseff in Brazil (2016), attempted to impose coup d’états in Bolivia (2009) and Ecuador (2010), while at the same time the blockade and subversion of socialist Cuba is ongoing.

**AKEL denounces the policy of the United States, as well as the involvement of the EU and OAS. Fundamental principles of International Law, the respect for the sovereignty of states, the non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, the right of every people to decide their country’s path is being flagrantly violated. AKEL expresses its full and unreserved solidarity with the people and Government of President Maduro, with the Communist Party of Venezuela and the left progressive forces, who are defending the Bolivarian process, peace, sovereignty and national independence and the social gains achieved.**