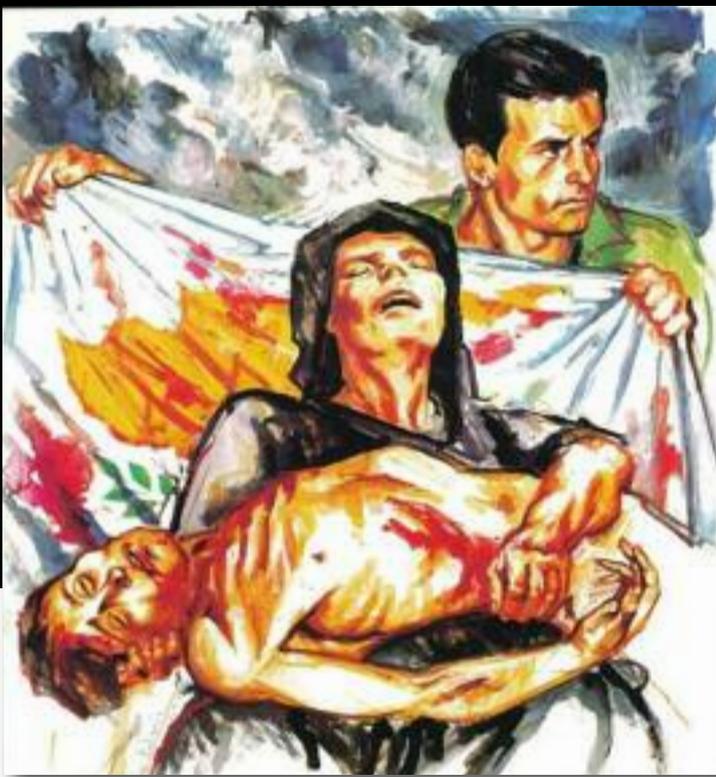


AKEL Bulletin

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Marching
on the path of
Peace



44 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

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

On 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 refusing 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 be-

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 aspect of the tragedy;** the remains of 1000 have not been found so far, a large number of remains are under the lengthy DNA identification process, while around 600 were identified and their remains 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 the 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 18th July 2018 in Nicosia.

paintings by Michalis Kyrlitsias



“Every year on such days, the Right and the ultra-right feel very uneasy and uncomfortable. That’s why they create a smoke screen with their aphorisms in the discussion. “Everyone bears responsibilities for 1974”. “Makarios was also to blame”. “There was violence and anti-violence.” All these claims are nothing but an insult to the memory of the dead and brutally falsify our country’s history. However, no matter how hard they try, no one forgets, nothing is forgotten. There is no treachery without traitors, no crime without criminals. Every time the Right wants to cover up its anomalies, ideological obsessions and dogmatism, it argues that “we are all to blame”. It says that the responsibilities are longstanding and shared. It insists on seeking to impose its own narrative as the official narrative and version of events. The truth is different. We did not all play the same role in the summer of 1974. We haven’t all played the same role since then.

On the one hand, AKEL together with other parties, as well as the overwhelming majority of the Cypriot people, rallied around the non-aligned policy pursued by Makarios. On the other hand, there were a handful of EOKA B conscious fascists. On the one hand we had thousands of honest patriots who shed their blood for democracy and freedom. On the other, we had those who had sold out to the Greek junta.

On the one hand, there was Grivas and EOKA B, who despite the fact that they knew the coup d’état would give Turkey the pretext to invade, designed and consciously executed it as soon as they found the opportunity. On the other hand, AKEL, which, despite having prevented - as a result of the militant rallying of the people around Makarios - the planned coup in 1972 wasn’t complacent. AKEL was constantly warning about the criminal plans being hatched against Cyprus. AKEL proposed the creation of a People’s Militia that would have operated as the opposing pole to EOKA B, but also the National Guard which was under the control of the Greek Junta. Unfortunately, AKEL was not listened to.

Today, on the one hand there are thousands of Greek Cypriots struggling for the reunification of our country; who are adamant that our people can live in freedom and united, and on the other, there are those forces and circles who want to concede half of Cyprus to Turkey. If only patriotism and logic will prevail this time and not nationalism, intolerance and phobias.”

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



“ The Turkish invasion of 20 July 1974 was the second part of the NATO crime committed against Cyprus after the fascist coup d'état by the Greek Junta and EOKA B on 15 July. The Turkish army invaded the island and its hordes murdered, captured, raped, looted and uprooted Greek Cypriots. Subsequently, the occupying power began the colonialization of the occupied areas and set up the illegal regime of the pseudo-state by implementing a policy of assimilation of the Turkish Cypriots and the occupied territories, so that partition and the presence of Turkey on the island could be finalized once and for all. NATO, the Turkish army, the Junta of Greece and EOKA B will forever go down in history and our people's conscience as the culprits of the Cypriot tragedy.

The 44th anniversary of the Turkish invasion finds our homeland still divided and under semi-occupation. **Despite the repeated disappointments that the people of Cyprus have experienced in the attempts to resolve the Cyprus problem, AKEL reiterates that none of us must give up the struggle for liberation and reunification. Any thoughts that the Greek Cypriot community could accept - or compromise implicitly - with a "two-state solution" on the island are dangerous and suicidal.** Such a development would legitimize the 1974 crime and will not relieve us of the occupation troops and colonization, nor rid us of Turkey's aggression. Such a development would mean the gradual extinction of the Turkish Cypriot community and a future of permanent uncertainty and militarization for the Republic of Cyprus that would find itself bordering with Turkey itself. This is the warning AKEL issues in every direction on both sides of the barbed wire of division, both inside and outside Cyprus.”

AKEL Declaration on the 44th anniversary of the Turkish invasion



The POGO Women's Movement at a symbolic event of memory and honor lays flowers at the tombs of the fallen during the resistance to the coup and Turkish invasion of 1974.



Limassol

Limassol was the district of the Resistance, given that that's where the resistance to the coup was organized to a greater extent, while in the pre-1974 years mass mobilizations against the terror of EOKA B had taken place. AKEL Limassol militants and members became targets of EOKA B. On the day of the coup in various parts of Limassol, battles took place between the coupists and the democratic forces.

In the photos from the events in Limassol: the AKEL District Secretary and MP Yiorgos Georgiou addresses the event to **name a park honor of the heroes Andros Iordanou and Andreas N. Ioannou who were killed in the coup and invasion.** The former Mayor of Limassol, Andreas Christou, was the main speaker at the memorial event which was held at the monuments to the Resistance Heroes at the cemetery of Ayios Nikolaos. The President of the Association of Democratic Resistance Fighters Tasos Savva laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Resistance in Limassol.



In an effort to promote the democratic memory of history, the Prometheus Research Institute, in collaboration with the Pancyprian Association of Democratic Resistance Fighters organized a **Historical Walk** in the city of Limassol with accounts by resistance fighters of the events of those days: the armed resistance and the people's reaction, the arrests and torture by coupists, the sacrifice of our heroes.



Larnaca

In Larnaca, the focal point of the annual meetings denouncing the twin NATO crime committed in 1974 is the mass event to honor the Four Heroes of the working class neighborhood of Ayi Yianni in Larnaca. On 15 July 1974, AKEL militants, supporters of the mass organizations of the Left and democratic citizens took to the streets to resist the fascist coup in the morning. The "4 of Ayi Yianni", as they are known, were murdered by the coupists who were lined up on a rooftop apartment building in the city centre.

"Today we honor and pay tribute to comrades Yiorgos Hadjistefanou, Ahileas Kourtelis, Yiorgos Charalambous and Andreas Theodosiou. Four heroic figures who resisted with other dem-

ocratic citizens the coupists of the Greek junta and EOKA B. Yiorgos Hadjistefanou 46 year old construction worker and member of AKEL. Andreas Theodosiou, just 14 years old, school pupil and member of EDON. Ahileas Kourtelis, 24 years old, member of EDON. Yiorgos Charalambous 17 years old and member of EDON. On 15 July 1974 the 4 Heroes did not shrink when facing the danger to their lives from the criminal actions of the coupists. They poured out on to the streets of Larnaca to join their own voices with those of other democratic citizens. Their act of resistance was a conscious act stemming from the principles and values they learnt within the ranks of AKEL, EDON and the mass organizations of the Left", **Christos Christofias the General Secretary of EDON** pointed out.

“We shall continue to demand the speedy withdrawal of all the occupying troops, the demilitarization of Cyprus and the immediate end of guarantees and intervention rights”

The Cyprus problem

at the centre of the Plenary of the C.C. of AKEL

The Central Committee of AKEL, at its plenary session on 11 July 2018, discussed the Cyprus problem as it has evolved after the collapse of the Crans Montana conference and in view of the imminent visit of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to find out whether there is room for a resumption of the negotiation procedure. At the same time, the C.C. of AKEL assessed the new international, regional and internal given conditions which affect the Cyprus problem. The discussion in the C.C. of AKEL was conducted within the context of the decisions approved for the further elaboration of the Party's policy issues.

The Central Committee of AKEL made a reassessment of the Anastasiades government's actions on the Cyprus problem since 2013. (...) Having gone through an unproductive fruitless twelve-month period and with the tension in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus escalating, it is imperative that the arrival of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Cyprus in the coming period marks the resumption of direct negotiations. The prerequisite for such a development, according to the UN Secretary-General, is the demonstration of the necessary political will on the part of the parties. Mr. Guterres is not content with this general position, but stresses that, for the negotiations to be meaningful, they should continue from the point where they had remained at Crans Montana. That is to say, with the existing convergences achieved, the Guterres Framework, the mechanism for the implementa-

tion of the solution and with a package negotiation, just like at Crans Montana. The UN Secretary-General in his latest Report calls for a very clear and formal response to this issue.

Mr. Anastasiades has to give clear answers to the UNSG's Special Envoy Jane Holl Lute. If he does, either the way for a strategic consensus will be paved which in turn will greatly facilitate the solution of the remaining outstanding issues, or Turkey will be exposed. If to the contrary he does not give clear answers, the tension will escalate at the risk of leading to a crisis, while in the meantime the current partitionist status quo will be consolidated at an accelerated pace.

It is historically proven that the absence of an ongoing negotiation procedure, especially in those cases where responsibilities were not attributed on Turkey and/or on the Turkish Cypriot side, as a rule led to new serious faits accomplis. The most recent negotiation procedure to find an overall comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem, which had been in progress for almost nine years, has entered into a dangerous deadlock. Turkey has already made a very provocative action, preventing the Italian EMI Company from proceeding to planned drillings within a delimited and licensed site. It is obvious that as long as the gap in the negotiations continues, the danger looms of new and perhaps irreversible faits accomplis.

AKEL will continue to support with consistency the solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the principles and the agreed framework of the solution. The rapprochement of the two communities contributes greatly towards achieving this goal. Especially in today's conditions, the role of AKEL is particularly by our Turkish Cypriot compatriots. We will make positive use of this appreciation, continue and intensify our contacts with all political and social forces within the Turkish Cypriot community who are seeking a solution to the Cyprus problem.

AKEL's position, the dedication towards the solution of our political problem far from serving political and party expediencies and considerations, is driven by genuine patriotism and the concern for the future of our country and people. Within this framework, AKEL will work tirelessly for the resumption of the negotiations as the UN Secretary-General sets out and for their positive outcome. We shall continue to demand the speedy withdrawal of all the occupying troops, the demilitarization of Cyprus and the immediate end of guarantees and intervention rights. At the same time we shall continue to warn about the devastating consequences of any partitionist solution.





“Cyprus and its people have no interest whatsoever in joining any camp and in particular the West’s camp”

AKEL denounces:

DISY renewed vows of loyalty to Euro-Atlanticism

The President of the ruling DISY party in his meeting with the US Ambassador (14.06.2018) felt the need to repeat the position that "we belong to the West". It's been a long time since we've heard this position.

The government and ruling forces began their presidency in 2013 by expressing this position, but they soon woke up to reality. After just two years they themselves ended up declaring that they are "disappointed with their partners", while they are still waiting for some substantial support to be expressed by them in the face of Turkey's aggression in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus. We, of course, weren't at all surprised by this development, as we know very well, just like the overwhelming majority of the Cypriot people do too, what the stand of the West is - and NATO in particular - towards Cyprus and our struggles.

Today, **DISY returns by making renewed vows of loyalty to Euro-Atlanticism. Evidently, the current US government of Donald**

Trump is even more sympathetic to them. Indeed just the day before yesterday the Anastasiades government took a shameful position for our country to satisfy Trump's government and Israel by abstaining on the resolution of the UN General Assembly in which 120 nations of the world are calling for the establishment of a mechanism for the international protection of Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

The question of course is: which foreign policy serves the interests of Cyprus? Cyprus and its people have no interest whatsoever in joining any camp and in particular the West's camp. Cyprus' interests are served by pursuing a multi-dimensional foreign policy based on the principles of peace and international law; by an international policy that promotes relations with all the states of the world and its presence in our neighborhood functioning as a bridge of peace and not as a military bridgehead and arena for carrying out NATO exercises.

Statement by AKEL C.C. Spokesperson Stefanos Stefanou,
15 June 2018

Our country is neither shielded, nor is Cyprus' geopolitical position strengthened when DISY becomes an apologist for Israel's crimes

The President of ruling DISY party stated yesterday at a meeting with the Israeli Ambassador that "*As victims of the Turkish invasion, we understand the right of the country of Israel to defend its territorial integrity.*" This statement follows earlier statements made by the President of DISY stating that "*Cyprus no longer considers Israel an aggressive country imposing its will through violence against the Palestinians, but rather as a small nation struggling for its survival.*"

DISY must clarify whether it considers the occupied Palestinian territories part of the territory of Israel and indeed whether it recognizes to the Israeli army the right to "defend" these territories, despite the murder of unarmed protesters. **When DISY justifies the occupation, colonization, violence and systematic violation of In-**

ternational Law by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people, one wonders how it subsequently attacks Turkey and Erdogan for committing the same actions against our own country and people?

Our country is neither shielded, nor is Cyprus' geopolitical position strengthened when the ruling party becomes an apologist for the crimes being committed by Israel. On the contrary, by acting in this way, DISY is sacrificing principles and ignoring the truth, undermining the international credibility of Cyprus and damaging longstanding relations with traditional friends of our country. Insistence on international law and solidarity is the shield of struggling peoples.

AKEL C.C. Press Office, 25 May 2018

Mass Pancyprian Peace March



We are marching on the path of Peace

Under the slogan "We are marching on the path of Peace" a mass Pancyprian Peace March took place on Sunday 10 June 2018 to the British Base at Akrotiri. The thousands of peace activists from all over Cyprus sent a powerful message for world peace to prevail.

Many thousands of peace activists on the 4.5 km march marched against the horrors of wars and imperialist interventions against the peoples. They raised their voices against the use of the British Bases as an aggressive launching pad against neighboring peoples. They demanded the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cyprus, the withdrawal of the occupying army of Turkey, the abolition of the British bases and the dissolution of NATO. They demanded peace in Cyprus, peace in the world. Before the start of the March, a mass meeting took place where the participants heard greetings, as well as a cultural program. The Peace March was addressed by the President of the Pancyprian Peace Council Stelios

Sofkli, the General Secretary of the World Peace Council Thanasis Pafilis, the Secretary of the Turkish Cypriot Primary Teachers Union KTOS Sener Elcin, the Vice President of the Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace Yiorgos Lambrakis, the representatives of the Syrian National Peace Council Samir Masad, Palestinian Peace and Solidarity Committee Hassan Mahareeq, Peace and Solidarity Committee of Israel Aida Touma-Sliman, British Peace Council Steve Johnson, former President of the European United Left (GUE/NGL) Francis Wurtz, former Yugoslav Foreign Minister Zivadin Yovanovic and the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou. The representative of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation CPPC Felipe Ferreira and Organization for Solidarity with the People of Asia, Africa and Latin America of Spain Jose Manuel Pineda Marin were also present and supported the March, while the peace movements of the Czech Republic and Turkey sent messages of support and solidarity.



“ We have gathered here today to raise our voices that we want peace. The horror of war is literally next to us. In Gaza, over a million people do not have even elementary human rights. Hundreds of thousands have been killed over the last eight years in Syria. Millions have been uprooted as refugees, including children. Meanwhile Yemen is being bombed continuously, with the horror of destruction and war haunting millions of people.



While all this is happening, the Anastasiades-DISY government instead of adhering to positions of principle, instead of projecting for the peoples of the region all that it should supposedly be projecting for the Cypriot people, it is focusing on other things. Right next to Cyprus, Syria is drowning in blood, but the government is sinking into a guilty silence. **When we called on the government to give a clear reply with regards the use of the British bases in Cyprus, it insisted that it isn't taking a position on the war in Syria. However the Anastasiades government went to Brussels and fully aligned itself with the US and British airstrikes on Damascus.**

AKEL stresses that the use of the British bases or other facilities on the island for military raids makes Cyprus an aggressive launching pad for waging attacks and therefore part of the war against Syria and its people. The Anastasiades government has the crucial responsibility to clarify that our homeland stays out of this war.”

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



Shortly before the start of the March, the renowned actor Stelios Kafkarides, read excerpts from the poem written by progressive Cypriot poet Theodosios Pierides “March of Peace”: *“And the great army of people is now as broad as our great land and deeper than our great sea, stronger than that new thunderbolt, the army is advancing. Peace is not awarded-it is won. Peace is a battle and a victory.”* The “Vasiltzia” Cultural Association’s children’s choir gave the signal for the Peace March to begin, singing songs of peace.





The 4.5 km March ended in front of the Akrotiri British base, from where fighter jets were taking off to bomb the neighboring people of Syria. Peace activists could see scattered around life jackets and an inflatable boat in front of the gates, a moving artistic intervention by cultural artist Christos Kakoullis. With this intervention, Kakoullis sent a message about the loss of thousands of people who have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in their effort to escape from the horrors of war. A cultural program followed with anti-war songs, while the resolution of the March was read out. At the end of the event, a delegation of the Peace March, headed by the President of the Pancyprrian Peace Council Stelios Sofoklis, delivered a resolution to the British Base of Akrotiri.



“The peoples of the wider region are witnesses to the tensions imperialist aggression is provoking daily, which is expressed in the waging of new wars and interventions. The continuous violation of International Law and of the UN Charter can be added to the existing unresolved international problems, as well as the catastrophic consequences which the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya have provoked. We demand an immediate end to the hostilities in the area.

We condemn the bloodshed and all the foreign interventions in Syria, and we demand respect for the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of the country. We express our solidarity with the people of Syria.

We demand that our region free itself from nuclear weapons and call for the convening of a UN Conference that will proclaim the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

We affirm that the peoples of our region have nothing to divide between them. Our common enemy is imperialism which generates wars, chauvinism and militarism. The struggle for the respect of International Law, for peace, for the recognition of the right of every people to determine the future of its country is the path of struggle which unites the peace-loving movements and peoples of our neighborhood.



Extracts from the Peace March Resolution on the situation in our region



“We are fighting for the abolition of all foreign military bases in the region, which act as a launching pad for raids. We denounce the use of the British bases in Cyprus for imperialist raids. We are fighting for their abolition and the complete demilitarization of the island.



“ Turkey's position on the Cyprus problem is partition. We will never compromise with this scenario. If other circles and forces have reconciled themselves with partition, if some of them in the back of their minds have compromised with the idea of a two state solution, they should say so honestly and very clearly to the Cypriot people. We are struggling and we will continue to struggle for peace in Cyprus. We will never accept to hand over half of our country to Turkey.

We will never consent to the legitimization of the crime that imperialism ordered to be executed in 1974 against our homeland. Generations and generations of Cypriots were nurtured with the ideal of common struggles of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Generations and generations of Cypriots struggled against imperialism and nationalism. Generations and generations of Cypriots were raised by the vision of peace. Today's March is yet another link in the chain that unites us with the future.

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

“ We denounce the aggression waged by the Turkish state both internally, as well as against neighboring states. We are struggling for a solution of the Cyprus problem that will lead to the termination of the Turkish occupation and division of Cyprus; to the liberation and reunification of the island and people of Cyprus; to the peaceful coexistence of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in their common homeland based on the agreed framework of bicomunal, bizonal federation.”



Greek Cypriots Turkish Cypriots

common country - struggle



Workers May Day in the UN Buffer Zone in Nicosia

As is the custom in recent years, the central May Day March of the Left trade unions and the Popular Movement ended at the Cetin Kaya Stadium, which is located in the UN Buffer Zone of Nicosia. A joint event with the Turkish Cypriot trade unions was held with speeches from PEO and DEV-IS and a cultural program. The two communities celebrated May Day together until 1958 before the actions of chauvinist forces led to bloody confrontations aiming at preventing mass common struggles that were growing. Since 2014, the two communities begun once more to commemorate May Day by organizing a common Workers Day event, with two central separate marches taking place on both sides of Nicosia, occupied and free areas, to subsequently converge in the main common event.



Graffiti for Peace

EDON within the framework of the bi-communal program "Reunite_cy" created a graffiti wall for peace on both sides of the divided capital of Nicosia. The graffiti sent out the message of peace in Cyprus with the word "Peace" in both Greek and Turkish. It was created by young artist Christos Kakoulis (CRS).



"I Cycle for peace"

EDON Youth Organization organized with Turkish Cypriot youth organizations a cycling tour within the framework of EDON's 2 week Rapprochement Campaign. Dozens of young people cycled on both sides of Nicosia - free and occupied - and together conveyed a message of common struggle for peace and reunification of Cyprus.



70th anniversary of the great 1948 strike mobilizations

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the great 1948 strike waged by miners and construction workers, PEO organized a series of commemorative events. Some of the events were co-organized with the progressive Turkish Cypriot trade unions. The 1948 struggles are of particular historical significance as they forged the mass character of the class-based trade union movement through the common struggles waged by thousands of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot workers.



Mass events in honor of comrades Kavazoglou-Misiaouli

AKEL and the mass organizations of the Left organized a series of anniversary events in memory and honor of the two heroes of Greek-Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot friendship - Dervis Ali Kavazoglou and Kostas Misiaoulis.

Dervis Ali Kavazoglou was a Turkish Cypriot member of the C.C. of AKEL and was assassinated on a mission together with his Greek Cypriot comrade Kostas Misiaoulis by the chauvinist Turkish Cypriot organization TMT on 11 April 1965.

The culmination of this year's events was the central event in the town of Dali, where the tomb of Kavazoglou is located. The event started with EDON's mass youth march involving Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth. The General Secretary of AKEL and Hasan Felek of Turkish Cypriot trade unions DEV- IS were the keynote speakers.

Bi-communal action against the opening of the nuclear power plant in Akkuyu, Turkey

AKEL together with other Greek Cypriot and Turkish organizations organized an anti-nuclear demonstration against the opening of the nuclear power plant in Akkuyu, Turkey. Akkuyu, where Turkey will build its nuclear power station, is located just a few kilometers from the coast of Kyrenia. This is an issue that must concern each and every one of us.

Nuclear stations are a very important issue since they do not only threaten the environment, but also the health and safety of residents in surrounding areas. A potential leakage poses a huge danger to both plant employees and nearby residents. However, the indirect consequences are equally considerable and dangerous. Contamination of the environment (air, soil, water) in the event of an accident won't just affect the area of Akkuyu. Radioactivity is transmitted by also affecting vast geographic landscapes.

On April 26th, at the end of the Ledra Street Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot protesters on Thursday linked arms across the U.N. controlled buffer zone dividing the capital Nicosia and held a banners reading "No to nuclear power" in Greek, Turkish and English.

The Nuclear Power Station planned for Akkuyu is just 90 km from the coast of Kyrenia!



Article by Athos Georgiou,
Head of the Health Affairs Bureau
of the C.C. of AKEL

Health - an inalienable social right

The health sector is vital for all the people. The interest the government shows in health matters also determines its interest for citizens. AKEL has acted as a catalyst for the adoption of the relevant bills to establish a National Health Scheme (NHS) and for the autonomy of state hospitals, despite the fact that the whole effort has been undermined by leading officials of the government and the ruling DISY party. In recent weeks, AKEL has organized numerous visits to all state hospitals. The situation is disappointing. Patients and healthcare professionals are asking us to act because the situation has reached rock bottom. Unfortunately, only the Government has the decisive say in solving the problems.

One year after the unanimous adoption of the bills, the only thing that has been done for the autonomy of hospitals has been the appointment of a relevant Board.

One year onwards, we conclude that the situation of state hospitals has been left to deteriorate by the government as they are being driven to collapse, despite the fact that according to the July 2016 agreement and plan state hospitals should have been strengthened and modernized to become the backbone of the health services in the NHS.

One year after the adoption of the Autonomy of hospitals Bill, we are still in the process of recruiting a Director-General of the State Health Services Organization, while hospitals have collapsed and the occupational burnout of all healthcare professionals is clearly evident. In the event state hospitals are left to continue in the conditions they are in for any longer, it would be like a bomb at the foundations of NHS. It is now clear that the principle of equal access for all citizens to all services has in effect been annulled, since state hospitals now have weaker structures, less equipment and are understaffed. More specifically, the public health system is facing serious problems such as:



“This morbid situation has led to thousands of our fellow citizens tragically not having access to dignified medical care or being driven to economic disaster. In many cases the price isn’t just human dignity, but to human life itself.”

1. Understaffing, occupational exhaustion of doctors and nurses leading to them fleeing to the private sector
2. Inadequate financing of services and overloading of infrastructures and clinics. Public health spending amounts to just 2.6% of GDP, while the average across the EU is 7%.
3. Long waiting lists
4. The Ministry of Health’s policy by now over several years to channel incidents to the private sector on the pretext of reducing waiting lists has represented an excuse for not enhancing state services. For example, only one gastroenterologist is working in the Nicosia General Hospital. This policy has damaged the state sector’s dignity and credibility and practically abolished free health care given that patients themselves also contribute financially.
5. Administrative malfunction and lack of basic procedures, protocols and guidelines
6. Lack of consumables and essential medical tools
7. Low levels of investment due to government cuts and aging infrastructures
8. There has been no recruitment of administrative staff to implement internal reforms in state hospitals.
9. Absence of a comprehensive training program for health professionals
10. Lack of supportive secretarial services
11. Inadequate computerization

As AKEL, we reiterate that the problems in the health system, as well as the issue of reforms cannot be solved by well-wishing and issuing declarations of intent, but tackling problems through practical efforts for modernization, administrative restructuring, substantial investment and political and social consensus. AKEL believes that enough hasn't been done in this direction. We urge the Ministry of Health to speedily submit measures to support and strengthen state hospitals by implementing the unanimous decision of the meeting of the political Leaders until the im-

plementation of state hospital's autonomy. This provided for "an attempt to resolve or alleviate the daily problems that the public health system and patients are facing in state hospitals."

The beginning of the first phase of the NHS (i.e. out-of-hospital care) in 2019 must not depend on other actions and the degree of preparation of state hospitals. It must be characterized by the organizational restructuring and provision of logistical support of state hospitals.



We propose the following measures to be taken immediately:

- **Strengthening Staffing - Agreement to implement structures.** Upgrade departments with proper medical/hospital coverage based on international staffing and safety standards
- **Modernization and enhancement of equipment**
- **Introduction & implementation of clinic protocols and guidelines for medical actions**
- **Creating management teams to manage hospitals**
- **Implementation of procedures for the smooth operation of state hospitals**
- **Enhance the operation of pilot schemes to reduce waiting lists**
- **Establishment of scientific committees to define protocols and procedures**
- **In modern medicine training represents a fundamental pillar. The ability of a system to monitor developments of a constantly developing science is reflected in the provision of health care to the patient.**
- **Secretary staff support:** The lack of such support is evident. Secretarial support, writing of medical reports, appointments, telephone calls, correspondence and so on must be provided.
- **In 2018 access to a personal computer is non-negotiable. The full computerization of hospitals is needed.**
- **Medical reports -** For patients to be able to promptly receive the necessary medical certificates and reports, real secretarial support and special patient recording systems are required.
- **Creation of new clinics such as trauma, endocrinology, oncology etc.**
- **Strengthening hospitals with clinical pharmacists to save resources and medicines**
- **Introduction of a new assessment method based on scientific criteria and a uniform assessment for permanent and temporary staff.**

To promote all of this, significant funding for state health services is needed. This must be reflected in both the state budgets and the medium-term financial framework. AKEL guided solely by the people's interests and defending the principle considers that the provision of health and medical care as an inalienable social right that is di-

rectly linked to the very life and dignity of citizens, urges society to be on constant alert, to mobilize and engage people so that the public health system is upgraded and modernized. This is the only way to successfully complete the effort for reform and to implement it within the time framework set for the application of the NHS.



Worker's Health and Safety another victim of deregulation and neoliberal policies

By Sotiroulla Charalampous
AKEL Political Bureau Member
and Deputy General Secretary of PEO

According to statistical figures released by the Department of Labour Inspection from 2013 to 2017 an increase of 34.6% has been registered in the number of accidents at work, while the figure of 27.3% was recorded with regards the accidents frequency index (number of accidents per 100,000 employees). This increase essentially cancels out the progress that was made in the years 2008-2013 where the number of accidents fell by 35% and the frequency index by 35.6%. In 2017 4 of our colleagues did not return home to their families from their work. In the first half of 2018 up to when these lines were written, six people have already lost their lives at work.

What is going on? Why are we going backwards, not forward as regards accidents at work? The answer to this crucial and sensitive issue for the very life, well-being and diligence of working people lies in the policies pursued by employers with the tolerance and support in numerous cases of the government in relation to labour relations and workers' rights.

The economic crisis and the problems it has accumulated, especially after the shock caused to the economy and society by the Anastasiades - DISY government's agreement with the Troika for the haircut on bank deposits and Memorandum, provided an excellent opportunity for employers to deepen and accelerate policies for the deregulation of labour relations. Fear and insecurity, which prevailed among working people, were exploited to force wages and working people's benefits down, to promote

so-called flexible forms of employment, to expand and deregulate working hours, as well as to promote personal contracts. These policies were much more intense and vicious in sectors and workplaces where there was no orderly representation of working people by the trade union movement and regulated terms of employment through collective labour agreements.

So in this environment where the doctrine cultivated was "any job, whatever it may be" with the employers, together with everything else, also aiming at downgrading safety and health.

Investments in health and safety measures are being downgraded, considered a luxury, an expense that the company can't afford and at the same time the intensification of exploitation is growing aiming at maximizing profits, which leads to an increase in accidents at work.

The most characteristic example is the hotel-food industry where, according to statistics, accidents at work increased by 27.34% in 2017. The increase in accidents at work in a sector which has witnessed record numbers of arrivals in recent years, is also due to the lack of adequate measures by employers and to the great intensification of work since working people to cope with the heavy workload are working in conditions of terrible physical and mental pressure which in turn leads to an increase in accidents.



“In 2017 4 of our colleagues did not return home to their families from their work. In the first half of 2018 up to when these lines were written, 6 people have already lost their lives at work.



The government is also responsible for this situation. It is more than evident that the government with its tolerance and silence in practice has aligned itself with the employer's perception who are putting security and health issues on the sidelines. This perception is unfortunately not different from the general context prevailing among ruling powers at an EU level as well, given that there is a stagnation in the adoption of policies and initiatives to make the implementation of safety and health measures more pressing.

Our organization, PEO, noting with concern what's going on, is reacting and demanding measures to put an end to the downgrading of health and safety. **Recently, on the occasion of yet another fatal accident where a young mother of a young child lost her life totally unjustly at work, (buried under a shelf that was not fixed) PEO organized a protest march on 17th May in Nicosia.** Measures need to be taken. It is not enough for the government to say that the legal framework is modern and adequate to force employers to fulfill their obligations towards working people.

Working people's safety and health are not protected through wishes and shedding tears when an accident occurs. It is protected only by policies combating the deregulation of labour relations, supporting regulated employment conditions as agreed through collective agreements, and the respect of the right to organization, policies that combat arbitrariness and immunity. PEO will continue to demand these policies because each working person has the right to work in dignified, humane and healthy conditions.

Some of the measures demanded by PEO are as follows:

- Introduction of administrative fines in the Health and Safety Act.
- Introduction in the legislation the obligation of employers to train new hired workers on safety and health issues
- Compulsory training on safety and health issues in high risk sectors.
- Intensification of controls and additional staffing of the Department of Labour Inspection so that it can carry out its role for the enforcement of health and safety legislation.
- Campaign for the implementation of legislation to establish and ensure the functioning of safety committees at the workplace.
- Campaign for the implementation of legislation to establish and ensure the functioning of the safety committees at the workplace.
- Most accidents occur to unskilled workers. This demonstrates the necessity of introducing occupational qualifications and their interconnection with safety and health at work.





On AKEL's initiative and persistence:

Parliament votes in favour of decriminalizing abortion

Last March, the 56-member House of Representatives, with 33 votes in favor, 8 against, and 5 abstentions, amended the Penal Code to decriminalize abortion safeguarding women's free choice, provided that the third month of pregnancy hasn't been completed and up to the 19th week in case of rape, while other cases such as multiple pregnancy that threatens the viability of other embryos have been regulated. AKEL and the POGO Women's Movement were the leading force in elaborating, tabling, discussing and adopting the modernization of Cypriot legislation on abortion. Besides, the relevant Draft Bill was tabled in 2015 by AKEL MP and POGO General Secretary Skevi Koukouma on behalf of the entire AKEL Parliamentary Group. It was subsequently co-signed by MP's from almost all the parties.

Nonetheless, the Draft Bill was kept for years in the drawers of the Legal Affairs Committee because there were political, electoral, but also evident

pressures exerted by the Church hierarchy. In any case it is no secret that, the ruling DISY right-wing party had been planning repeated delays on the discussion of the matter so that it wouldn't coincide with parliamentary or presidential elections. As a result, Cypriot society witnessed a few months ago the arrest and imprisonment of a woman because she had ended her pregnancy. It was due to AKEL's insistence that the issue was raised and an important victory was secured in the struggle for the safeguarding of women's rights. **Besides, AKEL was the only party that - without any leaks and abstentions of its MP's during the vote - voted unanimously in favour of the new legislation.**

The parliamentary debate revealed not only the difference in AKEL's perception from conservative and fanatical religious views denying women's right to abortion (with the neo-fascist party ELAM adopting the most extreme position), but also with regards the overall outlook on women's rights and socio-conditions that determine the issue of the acquisition of children. First of all, AKEL underlined what statistics all over the world reveal: the decriminalization of abortion will neither increase, nor decrease abortion. Experience shows that a legislative ban on abortion does not lead to a reduction in abortion, but to an increase in unsafe abortions.

“Today we are doing what should be self-evident. Today we are amending the Penal Code so that no woman in the future is thrown in prison again because she has terminated her pregnancy; so that no woman is forced to put her life in danger by resorting to unsafe and often overpriced and dangerous abortions. Today, we will take a step towards empowering women and gender equality by safeguarding women's sexual and reproductive rights - part of which is also the right of women to decide whether and when to have children.”

(...) the Church has a right to transmit or enforce its views on its flock. However, the state must legislate on the basis of society's needs, guaranteed individual rights and people's dignity in general. In addition, the Church forbids a number of other things - such as premarital relationships, masturbation, IVF - which I do not believe anyone in this chamber proposes should be criminalized.”



AKEL MP, Skevi Koukouma



AKEL MP Eleni Mavrou suggested that the stricter legislation is, the bigger the risks are to women's health. She also added that the main reasons for terminating a pregnancy is socio-economic, with unemployment first. Addressing MP's of the other parties she pointed out: "Why don't you talk about unemployment, about the 500 euros salaries and about job insecurity?"



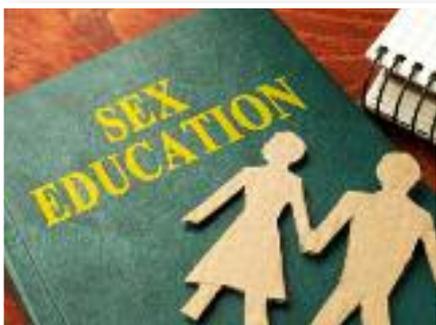
AKEL MP Aristos Damianou noted the contradiction that exists in the fact that the Church - a predominantly male-dominated institution - wants to decide about the body and life of women.



AKEL MP Dr. Adamos Adamou, proposed that interventions that take place illegally bring women before infertility at a later stage. Indeed replying to those who characterize terminating a pregnancy as "murder", he wondered whether the embryo of a rape was murder or not.

Scientifically-based sex education is essential for young people

"At the same time, AKEL underlined that "Even we who advocate and unequivocally support the right to abortion under well-known preconditions, believe that the ideal way of exercising a woman's right to choose whether and when she will become a mother is family planning and contraception, not abortion. Therefore, once today's Draft Bill has been approved, we should all concentrate on what should unite us: reducing unwanted pregnancies. There is a need to upgrade and strengthen the intervention of the Family Planning Association in Society; to establish mechanisms for the statistical recording and monitoring of the phenomenon in order to formulate appropriate policies.



However, we must above all upgrade sex education in schools and integrate it in a pedagogically adapted and scientifically established way throughout the curriculum, starting from pre-school age. This is a right of young people, but also an obligation of the state towards young people. This will allow young people to have proper, comprehensive information, free from any taboos, prejudices and unscientific theories, and protect them from dangers and mishaps. That is why **we have already begun to promote a new Draft Bill proposal which will remove the issue of abortion from the Penal Code and be included in a separate comprehensive legislation that will also guarantee the sexual reproductive rights of women, together with the issue of children's sex education.**"

Why are women blamed instead of the system?

"Finally, AKEL from the podium of the House of Representatives pointed out that there is still one parameter that is crucial for the Left, even if a separate and wide-ranging debate would be required: "What are the socio-economic reasons that lead a woman not to proceed with the acquisition of a child or to terminate a pregnancy? Why do we put in the dock of the accused a woman who proceeds to an abortion in the case that she is not in the financial and professional situation to meet the demands of caring for a child? **And why not blame the social system and economic policies that do not allow for a truly integrated social welfare system that supports the family and new couples in acquiring and caring for a child with increased maternity leave, with paid paternity leave for all fathers, with adequate, quality, public and free-of-charge kindergartens?** Why don't we put in the dock employers who avoid hiring young women who are old enough to have children because employers don't want to comply with what the law provides with regards working mothers? If the state had given essential and progressive solutions on these issues, then we would have eliminated another reason that leads women to abortion."





AKEL: EU Council decisions mean **more tragedies** and persecutions for **refugees**

time, it means that certain member-states assume a disproportionately greater share of the responsibility that all EU member-states should have shared. The notorious "solidarity" is not worth the paper it is written on.

- The Dublin Regulation, which provides for the reallocation of refugees in the country of first arrival - that is to say in the countries of the South - must be abolished and ways to continue it in force should not be sought.

- The "externalization of EU border control" in practice means the development of "warehouses of people" outside Europe (**the "disembarkation platforms" being promoted to third countries**) and the continuation of the EU-Turkey Agreement, which violates the internationally safeguarded right to asylum, mean greater cruelty against refugees who are being imprisoned and deported to Libya.

- Dignified and open areas grounds for hosting refugees are demanded. Detention in "controlled centres" which was decided the day before yesterday means the imprisonment of people who have only sought to seek salvation and shelter. We point out that UNICEF is also demanding from the EU that it should make clear that the Summit decisions do not mean that the children of refugees will be detained so that we shouldn't see images such as those in the US with the well-known decision taken by Trump Government's.

On the other hand, the leaders of the European Union have not taken any decision whatsoever that would contribute towards ending the ongoing wars and bloodshed in the Middle East and North Africa. They did not approve any decision that would actually provide support to the people of Africa who remain trapped in the vicious circle of poverty and exploitation. Instead, they have taken new decisions for "private investments" in the African continent, for the further militarization of the EU and its association with NATO, for

more billions of Euros towards the war industry and arms trade. How will there finally be an end to the uprooting of millions of people in our neighborhood, when the EU is continuing its policy of pouring fuel on the flames of wars?

The recent decisions approved by the European Council - with the consent of the Anastasiades government - confirm the deadlocks in the EU's refugee and immigration policy and of the Union itself. In spite of internal contradictions, the substance remains: the doctrine of "Fortress Europe" will continue. This means more sea tragedies, more refugee concentration camps both inside and outside the EU, more persecution against people who are escaping from regions suffering from untold misery. AKEL joins its voice with all those who are demonstrating that the danger to Europe does not come from refugees and migrants. The danger comes from the ongoing wars and interventions, the growing economic inequalities also within European societies themselves, as well as the danger of racism and xenophobia. AKEL reiterates that:

“The "externalization of EU border control" in practice means the development of "warehouses of people" outside Europe (the "disembarkation platforms" being promoted to third countries) and the continuation of the EU-Turkey Agreement, which violates the internationally safeguarded right to asylum, mean greater cruelty against refugees who are being imprisoned and deported to Libya.”

- All EU member-states must participate in the hosting of refugees, according to their capabilities, on the basis of the principle of solidarity. **The decision by conservative governments, also including the governments aligned to the European People's Party EPP, to close the borders is contrary to the legal and moral obligations of member states.** At the same

Quo vadis Europe?



Excerpts from the speech by Neoklis Sylikiotis, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of AKEL and AKEL MEP, to the initiative organized by the Portuguese Communist Party "Quo vadis Europe? No to the European Union of transnationals and major powers - For a Europe of cooperation, social progress and peace" (27 April 2018, Lisbon, Portugal)

“The "European Union" did not end up where it is today because - as certain forces and circles claim - it supposedly has "deviated from its founding principles" and "departed from the visions of its founders". The truth is really quite different.

The "European Union" is today confronted with deadlocks and contradictions, because this was unavoidably its course as an advanced form of capitalist integration. From the very outset, the motives behind the creation of the European Economic Community were economic and geopolitical: that is to say, to rally capitalist Europe into a political and military community, against the then USSR. Indeed, in the landscape of the war-stricken economies of Western Europe and in parallel with the US economic penetration in Europe through the provision of so-called "economic aid" to their allies, the powerful West European countries took specific decisions: To unite their forces so as to boost their economies and assert a bigger share of the global capitalist market, the limits of which

“...we link the struggle to curb neo-liberal policies and the struggle for social protection measures, with the struggle for another, for a radically different Europe. Besides, the Left has never rejected the perspective of European unification, given that in our view cooperation between the geographical regions of the world are objectively a step forward in humanity's historical development. Only the right-wing nationalist forces reject the vision of a united European continent, in which the peoples, nations, languages, religions and cultures will co-exist in peace.

The questions posed by the different scenarios "more or less Europe?" which the leadership of the EU is elaborating are false dilemmas since they do not go to the root of the problems and deadlocks. **However, the key question which represents - in our opinion - a historical challenge for the future of the peoples of our continent, is on what foundations this unification will be built on. By whom and with what materials? "What kind of Europe do our people want and need?" This is the question History poses.**

“The current European Union cannot be reformed, nor can it be glorified, as capitalism itself too. The economic, political, constitutional, legal and institutional framework which has been forged by the EU constitutes a suffocating framework that is continually curbing national sovereignty. In particular, this applies with regards the possibilities of implementing an independent and alternative economic policy, developments are much clearer than ever before. The New Framework for Economic Governance has rendered the measures a permanent and all-European character, as well as big capital's whole mechanism. In our opinion, the need for an initial bold and open dialogue is imperative on the nature and functioning of the European Monetary Union (EMU) as **a mechanism that reproduces inequalities between and within EU Member-States.**”

had been curbed due to the growth of socialism.

It is therefore of crucial importance to reveal the real starting point of European unification which began with the Treaty of Rome in 1957 and which subsequently developed with the Single European Act, the Single Market, the Maastricht Treaty and the Treaty of Lisbon. From the "four freedoms" and the Common Market, to the Eurozone and the Banking Union, the principal motive that is driving the deepening of the EU is what led to its very establishment: capitalist profit and the interests of the multinational monopolies. Consequently, **this dramatic socio-economic reality the peoples are suffering today is not accidental. It is the product of the capitalist nature of the EU itself. It is the result of the political choices made by the ruling classes in the EU member-states which both European Right and European social democracy have elaborated, promoted and imposed jointly.**”

For AKEL, the Europe that we want is a Europe of democracy and the parity of its members, not the EU of the Directorates. We want a Europe of peace, cooperation, social progress - not the EU of NATO and the arms industries. We want a Europe that will serve those who produce the wealth, namely the working people - not the EU of bankers and multinational monopolies. We want the Europe of democratic freedoms, individual rights and open pluralistic societies. Because, comrades, Europe is not the European Union and the Brussels directorate. Europe is the democratic and militant heritage of the peoples of our continent.

Europe is the values of humanity, peace, solidarity, social and civil rights. Europe is the class and socio-political struggles of our peoples. Europe is the Revolutions that shook the world: from the French Revolution and the Russian October to the Spanish Republic and the Anti-fascist Victory of the Peoples, the Polytechnic uprising of Greece and the 25 April Revolution in Portugal. This is the Europe that inspires us in our struggles today and for tomorrow. This is the Europe that unites the peoples. The Europe of the Peoples and Socialism!



Solidarity with the Palestinian people!

The rapid developments on the Palestinian issue, both as a result of the transfer of the US Embassy to Jerusalem and the new round of bloodshed in Gaza led the progressive voices and friends of Palestine once again on the streets. AKEL took to the streets, which strongly denounced the right-wing government's unacceptable stand on the issue. AKEL denounced the murderous violence of the Israeli forces who fired indiscriminately and have murdered over a hundred Palestinian protesters in Gaza. Within this context, AKEL subsequently decided to abstain from any activities organized by the US and Israeli embassies to which it was invited during the same period.

In addition, AKEL organized a solidarity meeting with the Palestinian people on 16 May, which then marched to the Israeli Embassy in Nicosia. The main speaker at the event was the General Secretary of AKEL and the Palestinian Ambassador in Nicosia. Hundreds of Cypriots and Palestinians living in Cyprus took part. Outside the Israeli Embassy, a solidarity resolution was read out. A local solidarity event was also organized in the town of Dali on 23rd May.



“The European Union also bears severe responsibilities, even if it currently doesn't side itself with Trump's adventurist actions. It is to say the very least unacceptable that as this bloody massacre and killings of children is going on, the European Union insists on pursuing a policy of equal distancing and calling on "all sides to show restraint". It should already have begun to freeze the EU-Israel Association Agreement - as the European Left has demanded for several years - since Israel is violating Article 2 of the agreement on human rights. As AKEL, we assure that we will continue to raise the voice of solidarity towards the struggle of the Palestinians from the European Parliament. Furthermore, **AKEL also assures that it will continue - even alone in the House of Representatives - to oppose any kind of agreements for military cooperation between Cyprus and Israel.**”

Andros Kyprianou, GS of C.C. of AKEL

The Cypriot government's unacceptable stand

Cyprus abstained from the Resolution calling for a mechanism for the international protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories and denouncing Israel's recent actions in Gaza.

Voting Result:

IN FAVOR	120
AGAINST	8
ABSTENTIONS	45

At the same time as the blood continued to be shed in Gaza, the right-wing government of Nikos Anastasiades and his party, DISY, sought to upgrade Cyprus' relations with Israel by closing its eyes to the brutal violation of international law and the Palestinian people's elementary human rights.

The DISY President's statement made at a recent meeting with the Israeli Ambassador to Cyprus that "As a victim of the Turkish invasion we understand the right of the country of Israel to defend its territorial integrity" is characteristic. This statement follows similar statements made previously by the DISY President. In saying all this, the DISY President is ignoring the fact that the occupied Palestinian territories are part of Israel's territory without recognizing at the same time the right of the Palestinians to "defend" these territories even though civilian protesters are being murdered. "When DISY justifies the occupation, colonization, violence and systematic violations of international law by the State of Israel against the Palestinians, one wonders how does it denounce Turkey and Erdogan when they themselves commit the same actions against Cyprus?", AKEL pointed out in a recent statement it issued.

This entire stand stems from the Right's obsession in Cyprus of shackling Cyprus to the Western pole of interests and by extension to NATO, in opposition to the multidimensional foreign policy which almost all

Cypriot governments have pursued previously. It should also be noted that the President of DISY recently met with the US Ambassador to Cyprus and indeed did not hesitate to stress that "We belong to the West"! The culmination of all these actions was the unprecedented action for Cyprus' foreign policy where, in the UN General Assembly's vote last June, Cyprus abstained from the Resolution calling for a mechanism for the international protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories and denouncing Israel's recent actions in Gaza. The Resolution, of course, was in the end adopted by a large majority (120 for, 8 against and 45 abstentions). AKEL immediately called on the President and Foreign Minister to explain this stand, but there hasn't been any reply whatsoever.

AKEL stresses to the Cypriot government that our persistence on international law and solidarity is the protective shield of all struggling peoples, such as our own people. At the same time, AKEL expresses its full solidarity with the struggling Palestinian people who are militantly resisting the new fait accompli against it. However, the peoples of the world know that the Palestinian people did not, nor will it ever yield either to the violence of the occupying power or its allies until the day of the declaration of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967's border and with East Jerusalem as its capital.



Save the Khan al-Ahmar community!

In another development, regarding the Bedouin community in Eastern Jerusalem, Khan Al-Ahmar, AKEL MEP Neoklis Sylikiotis, who is the President of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Palestine, recently made strenuous efforts at close hand for the non-implementation of a decision which allows Israel to demolish the homes of this community. The presence of the European Parliament's delegation did in fact prevent the Israeli authorities from demolishing the community.



“... Donald Trump has taken US's longstanding aggression in the Middle East to new levels, but the truth is that Trump is following the policy of all previous US governments. Besides, it is with the billions of US dollars of US financial aid that the Israeli murderous machine was built which has killed civilians and children. It is with the political and diplomatic support of the United States and the EU that Israel remains unpunished for the dozens of violations of international law. It is with the immunity provided by the West that Israel for decades has nuclear weapons in violation of the NPT. Despite all this, unfortunately no one is holding it accountable. This is the reason why the United Nations need to provide international protection to the Palestinian people.”

Yiorgos Loucaides, Parliamentary Representative of AKEL

- international activities



European Communist Meeting

AKEL participated in the European Communist Meeting in Brussels organized by KKE on the 11th of April 2018 on "The struggle of the class workers movement against the EU, for the overthrow of capitalism and construction of socialism." AKEL was represented by Stelios Christodoulou, member of the International Relations Bureau.



9th International Conference of Jerusalem,

AKEL participated in the 9th International Conference of Jerusalem, (12-14 April) which took place under the title "Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine" in Ramallah. AKEL was represented by Skevi Koukouma, member of the Political Bureau and AKEL MP, and Vera Polycarpou, member of the C.C. and Head of the International Relations Bureau of AKEL.



International Scientific Conference

Nikos Kouzoupis, Head of the Ideological Bureau and member of the C.C. of AKEL, participated in the International Scientific Conference "Marx's Capital and Its Impact on World Developments" held in Moscow, organized by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.



Meeting with the French Communist Party

The General Secretary of AKEL Andros Kyprianou paid an official visit to France, where he had contacts with state officials, as well as with the General Secretary of the French Communist Party PCF Pierre Laurent. The main topic of discussion was the developments on the Cyprus problem and the wider region.



"200th Anniversary of the Birth of Karl Marx"

Stefanos Stefanou, AKEL C.C. Spokesperson and member of the Secretariat represented the Party at the Thematic Workshop on "200th Anniversary of the Birth of Karl Marx" held in Guangzhou, China and organized by the Communist Party of China.



Summer University debate: "Europe and the Mediterranean"

Elias Demetriou, member of the International Relations Bureau, participated in the "Europe and the Mediterranean" debate held at the Summer University of the Party of the European Left in Vienna.



Meeting with the Communist Party of Ireland

Vera Polycarpou, member of the C.C. and Head of the International Relations of AKEL, conducted a meeting in Belfast with the President and members of the Executive Board of the Communist Party of Ireland.



Sinn Fein Congress

AKEL participated in the Sinn Fein Congress held in Belfast on 15 and 16th of June. AKEL was represented by Vera Polycarpou, member of the C.C. and Head of International Relations Bureau of AKEL.



1st National Congress of the Italian Communist Party

Yiorgos Koukoumas, member of C.C. of AKEL represented the Party at the 1st Congress of the Italian Communist Party held in Orvieto on 6th,7th and 8th of July.



100th anniversary of the Communist Party of Ukraine

AKEL was present at the International Forum "The Communist Party of Ukraine - The Party of the People for the People" held in Kiev on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the CP Ukraine. AKEL was represented by Chrysanthos Zannettos, member of the Political Bureau of AKEL.



24th Meeting of the "Sao Paulo Forum"

Vera Polycarpou, Member of the Central Committee and Head of International Relations Bureau, participated in the 24th Meeting of the "Sao Paulo Forum" which was hosted in Havana this year by the Communist Party of Cuba on 15th to 17th of July. At the fringes of the Conference, Vera Polycarpou had a meeting with the GS of the C.C. of Communist Party of Colombia Jaime Caycedo.





This year marks 50 years since the death of two very important Cypriot poets and of the mass movement of the Left, Tefkros Anthias and Theodosios Pierides. The work of these two poets was inextricably linked with the Cypriot people's struggles for independence and the worker's struggles for social justice. They were pioneers of revolutionary poetry and literature. Both contributed decisively to the cultivation, projection and promotion of culture in Cyprus and abroad. Among other things, they published poetry collections, wrote literary and theatrical plays, as well as writing for progressive newspapers and magazines.

The work of Anthias and Pierides is of great academic interest with many references to international literature. It is a true, universal and dialectical body of work, reflected in their aspirations for a more advanced level of life, for joy, happiness and peace. The two poets were also pioneers in the battle for the establishment and growth of the workers and progressive movement. Anthias also wrote the anthem of AKEL, the AON-EDON Youth and the class trade unions of PEO. For their services, the C.C. of AKEL established the Cultural Award "Tefkros Anthias - Theodosios Pierides". AKEL has repeatedly published their poetry collections, while dozens of events have been held to highlight the work of the two intellectual creators.



AKEL «Anthias - Pierides» Award for Cultural Services

This year's Cultural Award for 2018 was conferred at a special ceremony held on June 19th. The keynote speaker was the General Secretary of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, who also conferred the awards. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of Anthias and Pierides, a relevant film was shown, while the Choir of the Municipality of Dali performed songs by the two poets. The awards for 2018 went to the following cultural artists:



Stelios Kafkarides. One of the most charismatic, respected and renowned Cypriot actors and theatrical directors, with excellent performances and theatrical directions in major performances both in Cyprus and Greece.

Turkish Cypriot Municipal Theatre of Nicosia. The Theatre is an innovative formation of the Turkish Cypriot Theatre scene. Guided by a broader vision, overcoming prejudices, distrust, obstacles and threats against it, it promotes the idea of peaceful co-operation and mutual respect, charting the path in the struggle for the reunification of our homeland, confirming its pioneering role. Despite challenging difficulties and deprivations in the years of the occupation it gave remarkable theatrical productions and performances with significant artistic achievements.



Antonis Katsantonis, a traditional and accomplished folk poet, a dynamic creator with social and political messages a strong feature of his work, emanating from his experiences in life, his ideological outlook and love of his people and country. He delivers a rich body of work, created through the pain and suffering of the common people. He has made a significant contribution to the preservation of the Cypriot folk poetic tradition.



painting
by Michalis Kyriltsias

Tribute to the Martyrs and Heroes

Memorial event to honor the murdered militants of AKEL and the People's Movement of the Left during the period 1955-59

The General Secretary of AKEL A. Kyprianou was the main speaker at the moving memorial event to honor the murdered militants of AKEL and the People's Movement of the Left during the period 1955-59 held on 31 May 2018. Referring to the militants and supporters of AKEL murdered for their beliefs in this period the GS of AKEL noted that the "labelling and vilification of the people of the Left as "traitors" was the argument of those wearing hoods to execute the orders of Grivas aiming at attacking and weakening AKEL." Pointing out the brutal attacks on AKEL, the GS of AKEL stressed that, "AKEL responded to these murders by organizing mass political mobilizations, in which the overwhelming majority of the people denounced in the strongest possible terms the criminal actions of Grivas and his masked men."

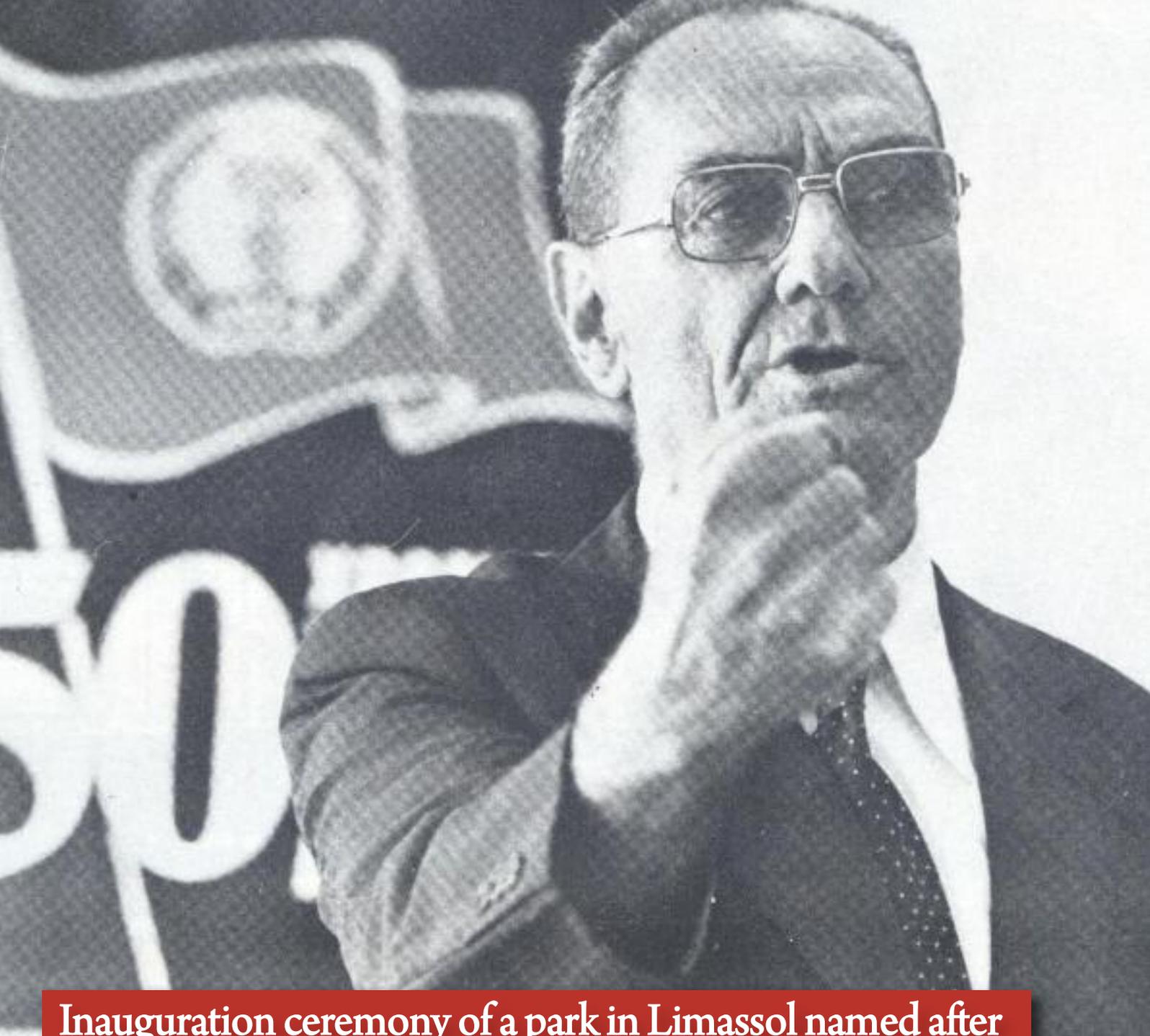
"There were two reasons for these killings. The first was Grivas' anti-communist mania and frenzy. The second was AKEL's very influence as the biggest and best organized political party. AKEL had to be exterminated so that it wouldn't be able to play a role in our country's political life the day after the end of the anti-colonial struggle. The same view was shared by the British, who believed that AKEL was the only anomaly in the colonial administration they had imposed." "Many circles and forces to this day are still talking about AKEL's supposedly treacherous or "anti-national" stand during the period of the EOKA struggle waged. We disagreed with the tactics of armed struggle. History itself and developments have fully vindicated our position...The anti-colonial struggle shouldn't

have been waged in the absence of the Turkish Cypriots. We insisted that we should mobilize the Cypriot people as a whole in a political rather than an armed struggle, in combination with a correct internationalization of the Cyprus problem."

Making comparisons with today the GS of AKEL noted that, "For decades, the framework that divided our people was based on the notion of two separate "peoples" in Cyprus. We were bold enough to question this notion. We spoke about the people of Cyprus who were sons and daughters born from the same motherland, though they have a different language and religion. We dared submit proposals that demolish walls of separation based on ethnic origin; that transfer the confrontation to a political, class and not ethnic level; rendering the reunited Republic of Cyprus the common home of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike."

"The blood that has been shed in our homeland – concluded the GS of AKEL - will be only vindicated if we are able to reunite it; only if we reverse the situation caused by the Turkish occupation; only if we are able to reach a solution that creates conditions of security and stability for the whole of the Cypriot people. A solution that will reunite the island on the basis of the agreed framework of bizonal, bicomunal federation and create conditions for progress and prosperity for all. That is, and must remain, the common goal of the struggle of progressive and peace-loving Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots."





Inauguration ceremony of a park in Limassol named after

Ezekias Papaioannou

1908-1988

“ I am a real proletariat as my only property is my library, clothes and footwear. I feel truly proud that I have given to the Party I have loved so much and to which I have dedicated all my life to, everything I have inherited because I have never had my own money or fortune...even Makarios would often say to me "How comes Ezekias that you a grandson of a priest became a Communist? The reply I gave to this question was to say that I believe in the truth, I seek the truth and I detest lies. I believe in the truth of life and the laws that govern it...Communists know very well that you live just once when they devote their life for the noblest universal ideals and know that for them its a hundred times greater sacrifice than anyone who believes in life after death. It is no coincidence that the defenders of Stalingrad went into battle shouting "Long live life!"

Ezekias Papaioannou,
GS of CC of AKEL 1949-1988



In a modest humble event held on 18 April 2018 in Ayios Athanasios in Limassol organized by the local Municipality and AKEL Limassol District Organization, the late historical leader of AKEL and Limassol MP Ezekias Papaioannou was honored.

The event included a ceremony to name a Municipal park "Ezekias Papaioannou", a decision taken by the Ayios Athanasios Municipal Council in recognition of the services of Ezekias Papaioannou both to Limassol and Cyprus and its people as a whole. Indeed, the Mayor of Ayios Athanasios Marinou Kyriakou stated that "the late Ezekias Papaioannou was always present on the side of the common people

as regards their day-to-day problems, but also on broader issues. This made him a distinguished personality with a broader recognition by all political spectrums in the Ayios Athanasios Municipality, but also among the refugees of the region". He referred to Ezekias Papaioannou's struggles as an MP on local problems.

The keynote speaker at the event was the General Secretary of the C.C. of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, who referred extensively to E. Papaioannou's struggles and the mark he left in AKEL's ideological-political identity. The event ended with the reading of extracts from Ezekias Papaioannou's book "Reminiscences from My Life" and a musical program.



“Ezekias Papaioannou gained the respect of many important people, both inside and outside Cyprus. At the same time he also gained the respect and love of the broad popular strata, despite the fact as he himself notes in his book, with a grievance one might say, that no other political figure has been slandered and attacked as much as Papaioannou. Nonetheless, **the overwhelming majority of people acknowledge to this day what he has contributed to the country and the working people.** This is the strongest proof that figures such as Ezekias Papaioannou cannot be tainted by any mud-slinging and petty-political attacks launched against him. Ezekias Papaioannou gained the position he had in the hearts and minds of the people because he was not a man of words, but a man of action; because he was a **humble, honest and sincere leader**; because he left his mark on the Party's life and struggles; because he remained **faithful to the ideals of Marxism-Leninism**; because he worked consistently, relentlessly and tirelessly for over four decades serving the Party and the country.”

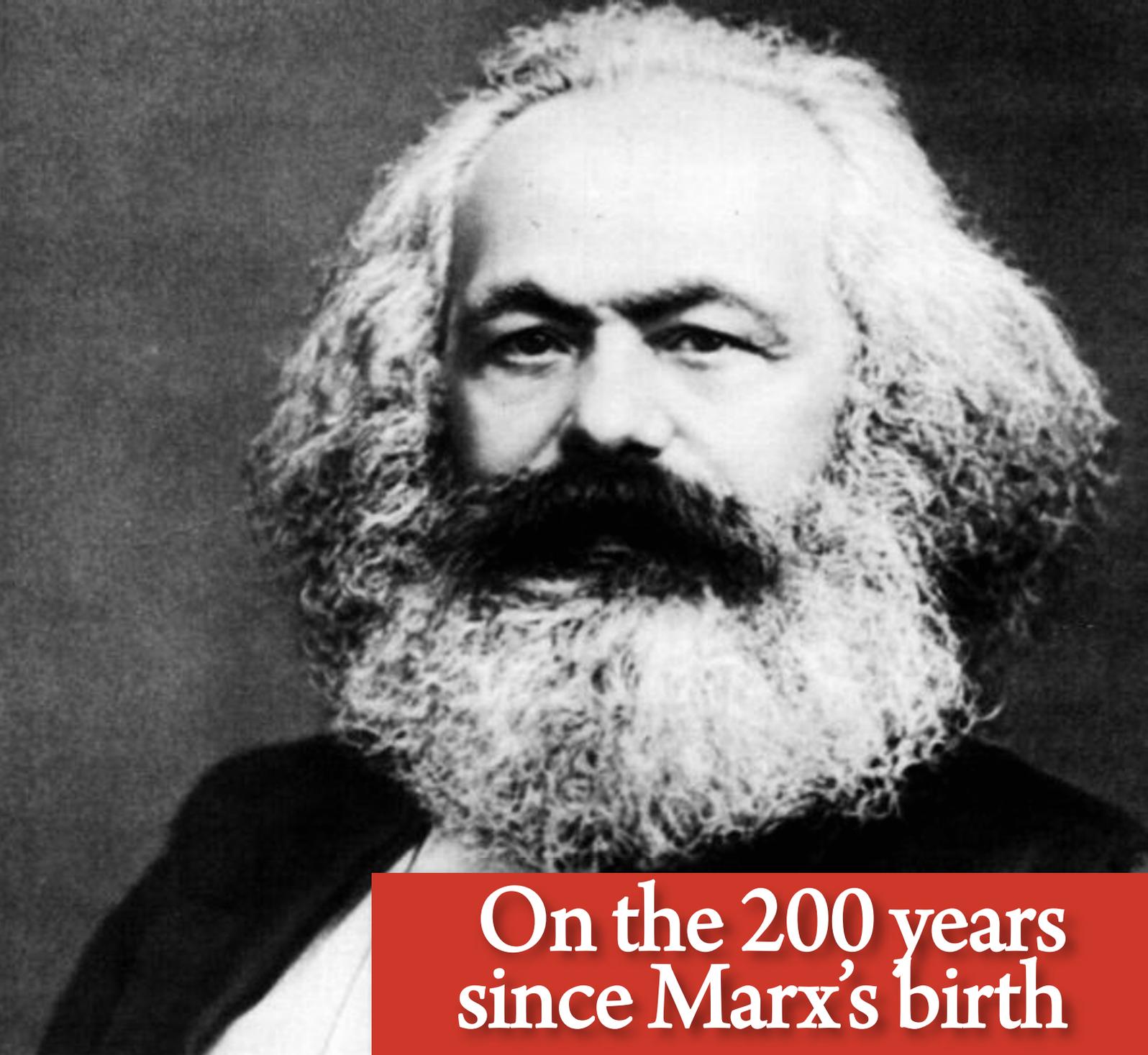


“During the period before the coup d'état on 15 July 1974, AKEL warned that the climate cultivated by the Greek Junta and the Greek Cypriot underground armed fascist EOKA B organization was part of the wider plan to overthrow President Makarios and surrender Cyprus to NATO interests. **Ezekias Papaioannou from the podium of the 13th Congress of AKEL, in April 1974, warned of the NATO conspiracy.** Indeed he went from issuing warnings to taking action, proposing to Makarios the establishment of a Popular Militia that would represent the opposing pole to EOKA B, but also to the National Guard which was controlled by the Greek Junta. Within a week, Papaioannou handed Makarios a list of a thousand names that were ready to take action against EOKA B fascism and protect Cyprus.”



“Ezekias Papaioannou **worked and struggled tirelessly for a whole life:** in the mines of Foukasa, the port of Piraeus, London, within the ranks of the Communist Party of Great Britain and the Cypriot Branches of the Communist Party of London, the Committee on Cypriot Affairs, in the front of the anti-fascist struggle within the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War, the anti-aircraft defense during the Second World War and at the forefront of all of AKEL's political and social struggles.”

excerpts from the speech of the GS of CC of AKEL A. Kyprianou



On the 200 years since Marx's birth

AKEL Political Bureau member Stefanos Stefanou took part in the International Seminar organized by the CP of China on the 200th Anniversary of Marx's birth held on 28 May in Beijing

Here are some excerpts from his speech: "200 years since Marx's birth, the attacks on his work by the ruling class' ideological advocates, and reaction in general, the mistakes and distortions of Marxism that emerged in the international revolutionary movement's theory and practice, could not negate or diminish Marx's unique and insurmountable work. On the contrary, the passage of time has further highlighted that Marxism is more relevant today than in Marx's time.

Marxism could not have been bypassed, in the same way as Einstein's theory of relativity or Darwin's theory of evolution couldn't too. Marxism

must develop and evolve, be enriched and develop just like any other science, as any tool of thought. This is a principal task of the Marxist intelligentsia, but also of the "collective intellectual", namely the Communist Party of each country, as well as of the international communist movement as a whole. After all, the communist movement has been shaped by the mark of Leninism, which represents to date the most critical development of Marxism, and, at the same time, is inseparably united with it.

The essential difference between those who honor Marx believing in Marxism and those exploiting him in a fragmented and selective way is that he gave the working class the ideology to become aware of its own position, as well as the awareness of the terms of its emancipation. Marx therefore wasn't another philosopher who only interpreted the world, but above all a revolutionary philosopher who talked about the need to change the world.

What distinguishes Marx and makes him unsurpassed is the fact that Marxism in its essence remains correct and timely to this day because the socio-economic conditions that gave birth to it still apply today. In fact these conditions are even more acute, advanced, aggressive, dramatic and more explosive because the accumulation of wealth in ever fewer hands has assumed immense proportions. Life itself and developments over the last two centuries have raised new questions that may not have been highlighted or not answered by Marx himself, but their analysis with the Marxist outlook is demanded. Socialism is at the same time a feasible goal, because that's precisely where the laws of development of society, the economy and history, as Marx revealed them, lead to."



AKEL's Head of Ideological Bureau Nicos Kouzoupis attended a conference in Moscow on 'Marx's Capital and its Impact on World Development' organized by the CP Russian Federation.

N. Kouzoupis noted, inter alia, the following: "The global capitalist system's crisis not only financial, the consequences of which hundreds of millions of workers are still experiencing, has once again proved the validity, correctness and timeliness of the ideas, positions and conclusions Marx had long concluded. This crisis therefore unquestionably disproved the beliefs and illusions of all those politicians, bankers, stockbrokers and all sorts of apologists of capitalism who, on a 24-hour basis, were repeating

capitalism's crises, various prominent "experts", engaging in a relentless discourse on interpreting his works are "correcting" Marxist positions and making claims about the supposedly "automatic collapse of capitalism" that is nothing more, nothing less than what Lenin has already described as the "castration of revolutionary teaching" and "the vulgarization of its revolutionary peak".

Therefore, just the recognition of Marx's "economic" authority, especially today, where the objective development of capitalism confirms the correctness and timeliness of "Capital" is not enough in the effort to overthrow the anachronistic exploitative system, its inherent contradictions and problems which illustrate its limited historical limits. Marx's analyses of capitalism in his "Capital" show not only the way in which capitalism



as one voice the final triumph of the market economy, but also bourgeois democracy, which was being confirmed supposedly by the daily steady growth of the markets and economic growth registered, seeking to persuade the people that liberalism ultimately succeeded in bringing the inherent in the capitalist way of production economic cycle of "growth-recession" under full control, thus ensuring steady and rising economic growth.

So reading and not studying Marx's "Capital", especially its analyses of

still has the possibility of even overcoming its inherent contradictions, but also demonstrating the necessity of overcoming it, provided that all those necessary material preconditions for its overthrow are created. Given that "Capital" should not be treated one-dimensionally, in isolation and separated from Marxism's whole philosophical thinking, we arrive at the general conclusion that no matter how mature the objective conditions may be, namely, the "material preconditions" and no matter the necessity of the demise of capitalism may be historically proven, its overthrow is only realized as a result of the struggle of the classes."



31st Pancyprian Festival of Youth and Students of the EDON

The 31st Pancyprian Festival of Youth and Students of the EDON (United Democratic Youth Organization), the youth movement aligned to AKEL, took place with great success with the mass and enthusiastic participation of many thousands of young people on 4/5/6th July in Nicosia. It once again reaffirmed EDON as the militant and leading force and voice of the young people of Cyprus at the forefront of all "small" and big struggles.

It also represented a resounding and powerful reply to various nationalist chauvinist circles who are undermining the goal of achieving a bizonal, bicomunal federal solution through negotiations under UN auspices in line with the agreed framework and principles of the solution of the Cyprus problem, the UN resolutions and International Law. The Festival expressed Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth's common struggle for the reunification of our common homeland and people, for a united,

independent, sovereign and federal country, a bridge of peace and friendship with all the peoples of our region.

The Festival was the culmination of many events at a local and regional level. The demands of the organized youth movement were highlighted and projected. The Festival also expressed its solidarity with all struggling peoples fighting for their independence, sovereignty and dignity, especially with the peoples of our troubled region. Numerous fraternal youth organizations participated in the Festival, strengthening the unity and joint action of the left and progressive youth movement.

The Festival of EDON, the product of the tireless work of hundreds of militants and volunteers, has once again shown the way of mass, collective, organized and united struggle for the rights of youth, for Cyprus and its people, for peace in Cyprus and the world.

