MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

20 YEARS OF PEACE DIALOGUE

LEDRA PALACE, NICOSIA

BRATISLAVA, MAY 2009

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Slovak Republic

LEDRA PALACE IN NICOSIA

THE MEETING PLACE OF THE
PARTICIPANTS IN
THE BI-COMMUNAL DIALOGUE

The Bi-communal Dialogue between the Leaders and Representatives of Political Parties in Cyprus under the Auspices of the Slovak Diplomacy

During the existence of the Cyprus problem there have been several attempts to solve or to contribute to the solution of the situation on the island.

In spring 1989 then Czechoslovak Ambassador to Cyprus Dr. Emil Keblusek suggested calling the leaders of the political parties from both communities together to discuss the possible outcomes of the long lasting Cyprus problem. Five Greek-Cypriot and three Turkish-Cypriot leaders attended the first meeting in Prague on 16 May 1989 after which it was common view of all party leaders that the meeting proved to be very useful and constructive. They established the framework of the bi-communal dialogue, which exists under the auspices of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Nicosia for 20 years.

The Slovak Embassy bi-communal forum is the only communication channel of this kind between the leaders and representatives of the political parties from both communities. It represents a unique opportunity for the participants to express their opinions on particular issues, but also to learn first-hand the reactions and positions of the other parties. The fact that political party leaders from two communities are able to sit around one table and to listen to each other is considered by all to be an essential foundation for dialogue and a tangible demonstration of their willingness to seek a solution of their country's national issue.

Fourteen political parties from both communities (eight Greek-Cypriot and six Turkish-Cypriot parties) are involved in the bi-communal dialogue. The parties delegate two or three members at each meeting who present the position of their party on a topic suggested by the hosting party. The hosting party (appointed through a rotation system) introduces the topic and the Slovak Ambassador opens the discussion. After each meeting a Joint Communiqué is issued. The bi-communal dialogue meetings regularly attract considerable media interest and are considered very valuable by the leaders and representatives of the parties.

In the recent past the Forum developed and implemented a number of their own confidence building measures. These included visits to the places of worship of both communities, a tour of the buffer zone in the Ledra Street to demonstrate their support for its opening, common social events hosted by both communities, a bi-communal cultural event for the young generation in the Ledra Palace, but also a bi-communal painting exhbition, visit to a bi-communal school, visits to hospitals... All of these activities are organised by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Cyprus, many of them in cooperation with the peacekeeping mission UNFICYP.

A group of members of the European Parliament (High-Level Contact Group for Relations with Turkish-Cypriot community) joins the meeting of the leaders and representatives of the political parties twice a year.

Members of "The Elders" - Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter and Lakhtar Brahimi - attended the meeting of the leaders of the political parties recently to demonstrate their support to the ongoing peace negotiations.

The statement by the participants in the first meeting 20 years ago that the bi-communal dialogue can be considered an important instrument in building bridges of confidence and goodwill between the two communities is still valid.

List of Slovak Ambassadors who served as facilitators of the bi-communal dialogue:

Mr. Jaroslav ROMAN,
Chargé d'Affairs 1993 - 1995

Mr. Milan TANCÁR,
Ambassador 1995 - 1997

Mr. Dušan ROZBORA,
Chargé d'Affairs 1997 - 1999

Mr. Dušan ROZBORA,
Ambassador 1999 - 2002

Mr. Ján VARŠO,
Ambassador 2002 - 2007

Mrs. Anna TURENIČOVÁ,
Ambassador 2007 -

I believe that the co-founders of the bi-communal dialogue between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities have been led by the idea of returning and maintaining lasting peace in their home country. After years of instability, uncertainty, unsuccessful attempts, disillusionment, vain hopes and expectations they decided to meet and initiate a dialogue on the ground of their commitments and responsibilities given to them by the citizens on both sides of the islands. At their first meeting the leaders of the political parties in Cyprus expressed "their sincere belief in the usefulness of such meetings" and agreed to continue these discussions.
(Communiqué, Praque, 16 May 1989)

I am proud that my country stood at the birth of an initiative, the ambition of which was to respond to the desire of the Cypriot people to stabilize the situation, to return to normal life, to be secure in their country and to live in harmony.

All those leaders and representatives of political parties from both communities who have participated in the framework of the bi-communal dialogue throughout the years deserve our acknowledgment and admiration. For they have not asked – just to paraphrase the famous quote by John F. Kennedy – what the country can do for them but instead they showed their readiness to do everything for the interest of their country. Because peace can not be achieved by passivity and lack of communication. It is a product of faith, strength, energy, will, sympathy, justice and principles.
The participants in these regular monthly meetings

have offered not only their time but also their knowledge, their good will, their ability to find a compromise, their mutually beneficial ideas for reconstruction of trust and faith for a common peaceful existence. The ambition of the leaders and representatives of the political parties in these meetings could not have been to solve the Cyprus problem. They rather have focused on maintaining the dialogue, on keeping and strengthening contacts and good relations between the two communities, on providing the right example as the leaders of the communities for the rest of the society and thus supporting the efforts of the highest leaders to negotiate and find a lasting, viable and just solution of the situation in the divided country.

The Slovak diplomacy under the auspices of which the regular meetings in the Ledra Palace in Nicosia take place has continued to offer its good services during the time of the existence of the bi-communal dialogue.

The words of appreciation by Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon, the encouragement by the distinguished "Elders", the interest by the representatives of the European Union but especially the gratitude and positive reception of all these activities by the Cypriot leaders and communities prove the legitimacy and usefulness of the efforts of Slovak Ambassadors serving as the facilitators and organizers of the Peace Dialogue. In this way, Slovakia wishes to contribute to a process, which will bring a mutual satisfying outcome and will lead to a future in which all Cypriots may live in peace and harmony.

Message by
H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

The First Communiqué adopted by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Party Leaders

Prague, 16th May 1989

COMMUNIQUE

The Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Party Leaders met in Prague from 11.5.89 to 16.5.89 and had discussions which covered a number of important aspects of the Cyprus problem.

The meetings were brought about by an initiative of the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Party Leaders wish to express their gratitude to the National Front for providing the opportunity for Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Party leaders to meet for the first time.

The party leaders wish to express their thanks for the warm hospitality and friendship shown to them as well as for the excellent arrangements made and the facilities provided for them here in Prague. They also wish to express their appreciation for being briefed on the Czechoslovak Constitution and several aspects of the Czechoslovak social and political life.

The party leaders express their gratitude to the President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Dr Gustav Husak, for giving them the honour to receive them.

It is the common view of all the party leaders that the meetings held here in Prague proved to be very useful and constructive because it provided them with the opportunity to meet at some length, to live together under the same roof, to get to know each other, to hear and understand each other's anxieties about the future of their country and to exchange views on various important aspects of their problem. They consider such meetings important steps in building bridges of confidence and goodwill between the two communities.

During the meetings a frank exchange of views took place in a friendly and constructive manner on a wide range of issues regarding the principles which should be explored for the purpose of finding common ground on important issues.

The party leaders wish to stress that it is their unanimous view that their meetings are in no way an alternative, nor should be viewed as such, to the intercommunal talks carried out at present under the auspices of the United Nations Organisation. It is also their common view that such meetings create a better understanding not only between political party leaders but also amongst the people the political parties represent in their respective communities. Further they stress the conviction of the political parties that despite the difficulties, an early solution of the Cyprus problem is needed and their eagerness to contribute to the extent possible

to the effort being made to achieve a mutually agreed federal solution

The party leaders, because of their sincere belief in the usefulness of such meetings have agreed to continue them and have fixed the first of a series of meetings on the 16th and 17th June, 1989 in Nicosia .

The parties which participatedin the First meeting were:

Greek Cypriot

Mr. Glafcos Clerides, Democratic Rally

Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, Democratic Party

Mr. Demetris Christofias, AKEL

Dr Vassos Lyssarides, Socialist Party

Mr. Nicos Rolandis, Liberal Party

Turkish Cypriot

Mr. Özker Özgur, Republican Turkish Party

Mr. Mustafa Akinci, Communal Liberation Party

Mr. İsmet Kotak, Democratic Peoples Party

Prague, the 16th May 1989.

Messages by the Leaders of Cypriot Political Parties participating in the Bi-communal Dialogue

The Fighting Democratic Movement (ADIK) wishes to express its deepest appreciation to the Government and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Cyprus for their continuous interest towards achieving rapprochement between The people of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities. The Embassy's effort to bring together the two communities has been mainly channelled through chairing the regular monthly meetings between the Cypriot political parties at Ledra Palace, as well as in the planning and putting into action various inter-communal programmes, which are very important and have proved to be very useful for the reunification of the people of Cyprus. We stress the fact that we wholeheartedly support this process, in which we participate actively.

We furthermore want to emphasize that we shall continue to support any discussions for a solution to the Cyprus problem, provided that these discussions are carried out with sincerity, by Cypriots for the Cypriots, without foreign intervention. Above all we believe that the solution of the Cyprus problem must be just and lasting. Unquestionably, what is not just will not survive.

ADIK's unrelenting vision looks toward
a solution that would provide:
Peace, Safety, Prosperity and Brotherhood for all Cypriots irrespective of colour, race, language, religion, gender or bodily integrity.

ADIK avails itself of this opportunity to thank and congratulate very warmly the ambassador of Slovakia in Cyprus Ms. Anna Turenicova for her substantial efforts towards the reunification of Cyprus and for a just and lasting solution of the Cyprus problem.

Message by
Mr. Dinos Michaelides,
President of ADIK
(Fighting Democratic Movement)

This year 20 years will have elapsed since May 1989 when the first meeting between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot parties took place in Prague. On the one hand, this anniversary shows that the institution of meetings between the leaders and representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot parties has withstood the test of time and the various adversities the Cyprus problem has gone through in its course all these years. On the other hand, it underlines the pressing need to solve the Cyprus problem because the passage of time is to the detriment of Cyprus and its people.

On the 20 years since the bi-communal dialogue waged on the level of parties, I would first like to warmly thank former Czechoslovakia and the Slovak Republic today, which has undertaken the initiative and put this institution under its aegis. Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, feel a deep gratitude towards all the Ambassadors, first of Czechoslovakia and then Slovakia, for their invaluable contribution to this very important effort for rapprochement, dialogue and the cultivation of mutual respect between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political Parties. We particularly appreciate the work carried out by the current Ambassador of Slovakia and the great friend of the Cypriot people Mrs. Anna Turenicova.

As AKEL, we are pleased because our Party played a decisive role in the creation and establishment of the institution of the meetings between the leaders and representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Parties. As far as AKEL is concerned, we shall continue to actively participate

and wholeheartedly support this institution, which has played a significant supportive role in the efforts underway for the solution of the Cyprus problem.

The institution of the meetings between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Parties offers the possibility for direct contact and dialogue between the parties on various aspects of the Cyprus problem and on current issues. Through the discussion waged and the different outlooks, consensus is sought, mutual understanding is promoted and a common reflection is conducted. Initiatives and activities contributing to rapprochement and the improvement in the climate between the two communities are undertaken. All of these actions undoubtedly have a positive influence on the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem within the framework of the United Nations. As AKEL, we reiterate our commitment to support the efforts being made by the President of the Republic to reach a solution of the Cyprus problem.

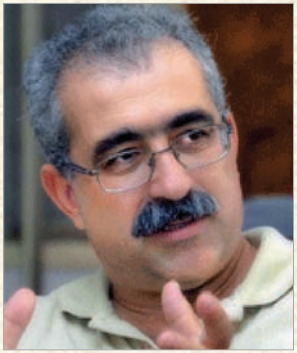
I grasp this opportunity to stress once again the steadfast commitment of AKEL towards a bizonal bi-communal federal solution with political equality as set out by the resolutions of the United Nations; a solution with a united state, with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship; a solution based on the resolutions of the United Nations, the High-Level Agreements, International and European law; a solution that will free Cyprus from the occupation and any foreign dependency and restore the human rights and the basic freedoms of all Cypriots.

Message by
Mr. Andros Kyprianou,
General Secretary of the Central Committee of AKEL (Progressive Party of WorkingPeople)

Following the Greek Coup and Military intervention of Turkish Troops in 1974 our country Cyprus was divided.

The division, which carries great costs for all Cypriots still continues. The Slovak Republic has always stood by the Cypriot people during hard times and supported reconciliation efforts. It has its signature beneath countless reconciliation projects between the two communities. Even in days where it was almost impossible for members of the two communities to get together, we were invited to Czechoslovakia and provided with a platform where we could be together. It has been twenty years since this meeting. Some of our party leaders who were present on the day of the first meeting are no longer with us today. We honour them with respect.

Despite important changes that have occured in the world, the Cypriot people are still forced to live separately in a divided country. You continue to help us bring peace and brotherhood to our country. We sincerely thank you for this. The Cypriot people will not forget those who stood by them during these difficult days. Our struggle will continue for a united Cyprus that belongs to Cypriots, in a United Europe that belongs to the people.



Message by
Mr. Izzet Izcan,
General Secretary of BKP
(United Cyprus Party)

Cumhuriyetci Turk Partisi, CTP, (The Republican Turkish Party, RTP) was established in December 1970, seven years after the start of the Cyprus problem and two years after the start of the first intercommunal negotiations to try to solve the Cyprus Problem. CTP was the first political party of the Turkish Cypriots although more were formed in the following years.

Even though there is an important role for a parallel process of dialogue between the representatives of the masses in support of the dialogue of the leaders this was not taking place. This was first made possible twenty years ago by the Embassy of Czechoslavakia by inviting the leaders and representatives

of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot political parties to have meetings in Prague. CTP was represented in this very first meeting by our late leader Mr. Ozker Ozgur and since then we have been a participant in these meetings at the Ledra Palace Hotel.

The bi-communal activities organised by the political parties through these meetings set a good example and support the development of cooperation between the sides. The meetings provide a good opportunity to hear and understand each other's sensitivities and to develop empathy. It also helps each side to keep in touch with the public opinion and political developments of the other side. I strongly believe that these meetings give public opinion a clear message that whatever the prevailing political situation in Cyprus is, dialogue between the sides through the political parties will persist in order to support a peaceful resolution to the problem.

As the leader of CTP, I would like to express our gratitude to the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Embassy in Cyprus for assisting the Turkish and Greek Cypriot political parties to work together for the last twenty years in good faith and I would like to express my admiration for the patience and respect shown to us by the members of the Slovak Embassy during the meetings.

I strongly hope that we resolve the Cyprus problem as envisaged by the leaders in their 23 May 2008 meeting and that we continue these meetings but with a new agenda of building up the new social, political and economical life of a shared united Cyprus.

Message by
Mr. Ferdi Sabit Soyer,
President of CTP
(Republican Turkish Party)

Twenty years ago the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders met in Prague in an attempt to find ways of reconciliation and rapprochement and to establish a permanent and viable solution, which will now lead to peace and prosperity within the European Family.

The Democratic Party expresses its gratitude to the Slovak Republic for their initiative to invite all the Cypriot leaders of both communities to commemorate the event, but, above all, we feel obliged to praise the Slovak Government and its successive Ambassadors in Nicosia for their continuous efforts ever since, to help bring the two communities closer.

We, as Democratic Party, are firmly committed to a federal, bi-zonal and bi-communal Republic of Cyprus and all our efforts are directed towards such vision. We are striving for a reunited island and a reunited people, whose human rights will be safeguarded, be it for Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Maronites, Armenians or Latins. We are aiming for a solution reuniting our institutions and our economy, a state with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship. In other words, we desire no more and no less than a functional and lasting solution according to pertinent UN Resolutions, the values and principles of the European Union and the High Level Agreements.

Message by
Mr. Marios Garoyian,
President of DIKO
(Democratic Party)

The 20th Anniversary of the bi-communal dialogue taking place in Cyprus under the auspices of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic is no doubt an opportunity for everyone to reflect on the situation in Cyprus and to realise the historic responsibilities with which we are faced.

Time is not working to the benefit of either the Greek Cypriots or the Turkish Cypriots. The continuing division of Cyprus is very simply a loose-loose situation. It can however become a win-win situation so long as we demonstrate good will and foresight. We should surely learn from the mistakes of the past, but we should not be bound by them. Now is the time to look ahead. The loud and clear message is that the resolution of the problem of the division of Cyprus is long overview.

In this respect, I have no hesitation at all to stress the importance of the initiative of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Cyprus. The bi-communal dialogue has surely been a force for hope and peace and as Cypriots we owe gratitude for the Embassy's dedication and commitment.

I only hope that very soon we have the chance for one last meeting to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Dialogue for Peace and the reunification of Cyprus.

Message by
Mr. Nicos Anastasiades,
President of DISY
(Democratic Rally)

Months before the overthrow of the Communist regime in November 1989 in Czechoslovakia, the bicommunal dialogue between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political party leaders begun in May at the initiative of the Czechoslovakian embassy in Nicosia.

On January 1, 1993, the Czechoslovak state was peacefully divided and the "Meeting of The Leaders of the Political Parties in Cyprus" organized by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic since.

These meetings till the opening of the gates on April 23, 2003 provided a forum at which politicians who had no contact with each other could talk and get to know one other. Meetings included proposals providing for intercommunal cooperation in fields like culture, education, sports, journalism, commerce, health, environment etc. Under those circumstances, the regular get-togethers at the Ledra Palace were very helpful and politically soothing.

These regular meetings of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot party representatives at the Ledra Palace may have been going on for the past twenty years, but they now appear to have outlived their initial exigency as the crossings since April 23, 2003 opened a new era in the bicommunal dialogue and contiguity between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot people and their political representatives.

The political leaders of the both people of the island now enjoy the positive atmosphere in the meetings and benefit to hear and understand each other's thoughts towards a reliable and sustainable solution.

Message by
Mr. Serdar Denktas,
President of DP
(Democratic Party)

On behalf of our party, the Movement of Social Democrats EDEK, I wish to congratulate the Government of the Slovak Republic and particularly her embassy in Cyprus who for 20 years continues the initiative for organizing regular bi-communal meetings among the Leaders and representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot parties, with the aim to cultivate understanding, to keep communication through the dividing line between the politicians of the two communities and to preserve a positive climate which will assist and make possible a solution of the problem of Cyprus.

EDEK participated from the beginning to these meetings, initially in Prague in 1989 with her President at the time and now honorary president, Dr Vassos Lyssarides. We continue to participate regularly in the meetings because we consider this institution as very useful, since the contacts and discussions among the Cypriot parties about aspects of the Cyprus Problem, the activities and actions organized help to understand each others positions and contribute to create the right climate which assists substantially the efforts to reach a just and viable agreement.

I wish finally to congratulate personally HE the Ambassador of Slovakia in Cyprus Mme Anna Turenicova, for her energy and commitment she put in these procedures and for the useful work she undertakes . We wish that these meetings and the high level bi-communal negotiations will lead to a just solution with the reunification of Cyprus, without occupation which will be based on the UN resolutions, International Law, guarantee of Human rights of all its citizens and to be in compliance with the democratic principles of The European Union.

Message by
Mr. Yiannakis L. Omirou,
President of EDEK
(Movement of Social Democrats)

The goal of reunification for which the United Democrats have been struggling with consistency and self sacrifice all these years, appears now to have entered a course of materialisation.
The United Democrats welcomed the start of direct talks between the leaders of the two communities, aiming to reach an agreed solution on the basis of a bizonal bi-communal federation and political equality as defined in relevant UN resolutions.

The support that the United Democrats had given to the candidacy of President Christofias in February 2008 and the excellent relations that the United Democrats maintain with all the Turkish Cypriot pro-solution parties bestow upon us the responsibility of encouraging the leaders of both communities to respond in time to the expectations of the Cypriot people and to the historic

responsibility with which the leaders are confronted.

We, the leaders of the political parties of Cyprus, have an obligation to offer to the Cypriots a future of peace, economic growth, prosperity, equal opportunities, a common future in a reunited and truly European country that will utilise its multicultural nature to the benefit of its citizens, those of Europe and of its neighbouring countries.

The United Democrats envision with expectation their participation in the first elections of a reunited Cyprus, together with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots.

There is certainly more to gain in a common homeland that participates in the building of peace and prosperity of the wider international community, than in the insecurity and opportunism breeding in the status quo of division.
This is the time for a new generation of policy makers to open the way to permanent peace and prosperity in Cyprus, to the benefit of all the Cypriots, their neighbours in the Eastern Mediterranean and of their wider European family.
We thank and congratulate the Slovak Republic – and certainly former Czechoslovakia- for creating the opportunity for the Political Parties of Cyprus to meet and remain engaged, through the years, in a political dialogue over the future of their common homeland. We have an obligation to both our hosts, our wider European family and most importantly to the Cypriots to make this dialogue bear lasting fruit.

Message by
Mrs. Praxoula Antoniadou Kyriacou,
President of EDI
(United Democrats)

We do have a dream for our country. We wish to see all Cypriots, Greek and Turkish alike, developing a common sense of collective responsibility vis-à-vis our common European homeland, our common state and a sense of a common allegiance, in a wisely structured federal partnership, which should in no way deviate from the principles of democracy, social justice, compassion and solidarity. Citizens should be reassured that they are part and parcel of a democratic political life, where their voice counts and their individual rights are fully respected and protected. Unless our efforts to restore political unity on the island succeed, the present calamitous status quo will persist. We, Cypriots, have a right and an obligation to reclaim our country for ourselves and to reverse the unacceptable status quo. To this effect we are grateful to the Slovak Republic that through its Embassy in Cyprus, at present under the able and valued leadership of Ambassador Anna Turenicova, for continuing their consistent policy to advance our efforts for the realization of our dream for a solution and reunification of our homeland, as well as for the reversal of the present status quo.

Message by
Mr. Kypros Chrysostomides,
President of EPALXI
(Political Grouping for the Restructuring of the Centre)

The Socialist Party of Cyprus has joined the bi-communal meetings of the Cypriot political parties, which are carried out under the auspices of the Slovakian Embassy in Cyprus, soon after it was established in 2002.

This year is witnessing the 20th anniversary of these meetings, a period much longer than our own party's history.

We note with regret that the Cyprus problem still remains unsolved over these years, and that the meeting of the parties still continues at a bi-communal level on an ethnical base.

Our party wishes to see the Cyprus problem to be resolved on the basis of an anti-imperialist united front government and that the dialogue between the parties to continue not on a bi-communal and ethnic basis but on a national level of parties organised at class bass.

Surely, we appreciate the peace promoting efforts of the Slovak Republic, which has a long experience of socialism, which has managed to resolve her problems with the Check Republic on a fraternal and humanitarian basis, using peaceful means, instead of following the war mongering methods that many other capitalist-imperialist countries are generally practising.

This makes the Slovak Republic gain respect in the eyes of the toiling masses of the World and the Socialist Party of Cyprus will undoubtedly continue to support all efforts of The Slovak Republic and their diplomatic missionaries in Cyprus towards peace and stability in our country, in the Middle East and all over the World.

Message by
Mr. Yusuf ALKIM,
General Secretary of KSP
(Socialist Party of Cyprus)

Message by
Mr. George Perdikis,
General Secretary of PKK
(Cyprus Green Party)

The Cyprus Green Party applauds the completion of 20 years from the day that the meetings of the Cypriot political parties first started (Prague 1989). For the last 5 years, we have been participating in the activities of this bicommunal collaboration, to be coordinated henceforth by the Slovakian Embassy, in Cyprus. I would like to thank the ambassadors of Slovakia who continue with patience and determination the work of coordinator for all the contacts and meetings.

I am confident that the meetings of the representatives of the Cypriot political parties constitute an institution of unity of the Cypriot people. I also believe that the meetings are providing a basis for communication between the political forces of the country and strengthen the effort for a fair and viable solution to the Cypriot problem, without foreign armies, military bases and third country guarantees and with complete consolidation of the human and political rights of the citizens, without racist segregations.

I hope that these meetings and events –on the occasion of the completion of 20 years from the beginning of the initiative- will complete their circle with the solution of the Cyprus problem and the implementation of the European acquis communautaire throughout Cyprus. I would like to thank the people and the government of Slovakia.

Our common island Cyprus that we never loose our motivation to work for, deserves better future for its people.

This small island is the common country for both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, unfortunately this country experienced many bad events in the past like fights, wars, external interventions and coup's that caused pain for both communities.

After all these painful events it is our failure, as both sides did not manage to finalize this problem since 1963.

2004 was the milestone for the solution of the Cyprus problem. Comprehensive plan of the UN in 2004, which is commonly known as `Annan Plan`, was put on referendum in both side of Cyprus. The Majority of the Turkish Cypriots voted YES and

Message by
Mr. Mehmet Çakıcı,
President of TDP
(Social Democratic Party)

the majority of the Greek Cypriots voted NO and result of this great opportunity to re-unite our island was historically missed.

Time is against the Cypriots. All Cypriots should understand that every missed opportunity only strengthens the possible partition of the Island.
The conditions under which the Cyprus problem can be solved are clear nowadays. Two Cypriot leaders agreed in 2008 to form a Federal Cyprus based on two constituent states with political equality, bi-communality, bi-zonality and this Federal Cyprus will have single sovereignty and single citizenship.

The negotiations to find a solution of the Cyprus problem have started 5 months ago. We have been evaluating this process with regard to the expectation and from our point of view it goes very slowly.

As a party we have been working so hard to affect this negotiation process positively. We hope this time negotiation process will bring re-unification and long lasting peace to Cyprus.
We appreciate the efforts of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic to make it possible for the two communities to come closer. We would like to congratulate for its extensive efforts that create an atmosphere where Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot political parties could come together and share their opinions. It is essential that thanks to the coordination of the Slovak Embassy, political parties can work together and we believe it is an important help to overcome psychological barriers.

The New Cyprus Party was a new political party when the Ledra Palace meetings began at the end of 1989, but actually among the persons that facilitated the meetings with the help and mediation of the ambassador of Czechoslovakia (A Slovak with Czech wife) were some of the founders of the New Cyprus Party. The only one person of the founders of the meetings remaining today and taking part is Mr. Alpay Durduran, the foreign relations secretary. We are very glad to see that the support of the Slovak Embassy and the meetings still continue.

Dialogue among Cypriots is essential and the last referenda proved that it is indispensable. Therefore the work of the Slovak Embassy is very important and fruitful. Especially the present day ambassadress gave a new life to the meetings and many creative activities inspired by Her Excellency were organized by the political parties from all Cypriots meeting.

It was unbelievable when the founders started to meet, instigated by the Czechoslovak Embassy, that the meetings will last to date, however, the Slovak ambassadors kept good and close relations with the Cypriot parties and protected the good image of neutrality and facilitated its continuity.
We, the Cypriots and peace lovers are grateful to Slovakia and its representatives in Cyprus.
We wish to see more active Ledra Palace meetings because it is the only political forum of the whole of Cyprus. We attribute great importance to the endeavors of Her Excellency enlivening this forum.

Message by
Mr. Murat Kanatli,
Secretary General of Executive Committee of YKP (New Cyprus Party)

Photo Gallery and Press Coverage

The "Father" of the framework of the bi-communal dialogue
Ambassador Dr. Emil Keblúšek

"As a human being I was shocked when I first came, Shocked by the dividing line. I considered it outdated, outrageous and a bleeding wound on the soul"

"Being from an eastern European, middle-sized country we thought our effort would be understood because we had no ambitions other than to be helpful"

Making diplomacy work

Katy Turner interviews the departing Czechoslovakian ambassador Dr Emil Keblusek and discovers that diplomats can take a stand -- diplomatically, of course.

IN PUBLIC, diplomats are known for their ceaseless repetition of safe -- but frustrating -- platitudes. Journalists, however desperate for a quotation, learn early to avoid relying solely on what a diplomat will say, on the record. Nowhere is this more true than in Cyprus where diplomats have to tread a painfully thin line not to upset those either side of the buffer zone.

The departing Czechoslovakian Ambassador Dr Emil Keblusek, is no exception. He is the quintessential diplomat: urbane, immaculately dressed -- with more than a passing resemblance to that gentleman among actors, James Mason -- and very carefully spoken. But unlike the vast majority of his peers, Dr Keblusek has taken a stand -- albeit it a very diplomatic one -- in the four years he has been here.

"I refused to be just an observer of the situation as is usually the case with diplomats. I tried to identify the area in which the Czechoslovakian ambassador could help the efforts of the UN Secretary General to bring the two communities together," he says.

"As a human being I was shocked when I first came. Shocked by the dividing line. I considered it outdated, outrageous and a bleeding wound on the soul. We all celebrated when the situation changed in Europe bringing a new political order and fundamental changes but very conveniently forgot there is nothing to celebrate yet. There is a small island that is part of Europe which

> **"As a human being I was shocked when I first came. Shocked by the dividing line. I considered it outdated, outrageous and a bleeding wound on the soul."**

• Active diplomat: Dr Emil Keblusek, "The Cyprus issue has become a personal matter".

(Photo Andy Georgiou)

demonstrates it is not yet time to celebrate.

"The Cyprus issue is outstanding and it shows the world community that it has limitations. Its continuing problem is partly due to the fact that the majority of leaders of countries close their eyes to what is going on. It is a remnant of the Cold War. Europe has changed but Cyprus hasn't."

In May 1989, when UN sponsored talks had reached a deadlock Keblusek succeeded in bringing together the party leaders of the two communities for talks in Prague. The leaders were also able to meet organisations and leaders in Czechoslovakia to discuss their own method of solving ethnic disputes.

The contacts that began in 1989 continue to this day with 18 meetings to date of party leaders at the Ledra Palace hotel in the buffer zone. The next meeting is scheduled for November 24.

"Being from an eastern European, middle-sized country we thought our effort would be understood because we had no ambitions other than to be helpful," he says.

However Keblusek is keen to stress the Czechoslovakian organisation of state was not intended to be a role model for Cyprus. "We would have been pleased if our constitution had been an inspiration but there can't be any form of organisation of state that can be adopted in another country."

Keblusek was appointed ambassador to Cyprus in 1988 after beginning his career in the diplomatic service "many years ago" in 1959. Prior to arriving on the island he spent seven years as the permanent representative of Czechoslovakia to international organisations in Vienna. He specialised in disarmament and led many Czechoslovak negotiations in this area.

Earlier in his career he also served in several parts of Africa including Ghana, Nigeria and Zambia. Of all his postings none stand out to Keblusek as being a particular favourite. "Every assignment has its own beauties and usefulnesses, if you wish to be useful. In Cyprus, due to the situation it has been very challenging."

> **"Being from an eastern European, middle- sized country we thought our effort would be understood because we had no ambitions other than to be helpful."**

This was the only way in which everybody's position could be explained.

Keblusek views the meetings he sponsored as being "very important during the time when there was no dialogue between the leaders of the two communities", prior to the UN Secretary General's present initiative. "People were able to move from a period of negotiation to a stage of negotiation."

The meetings of Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders "are only four or our of getting parties together bilaterally. Most parties had the chance to send small delegations over and receive one back. These people had the chance to meet a wider spectrum of political representatives."

TV interviews with Mustafa Akinci, Ozker Ozgur and Alpay Durduran were also arranged and have given the Greek Cypriots the opportunity to see a selection of Turkish Cypriot views unedited and unfiltered. "These have been very useful in giving the population a chance to get acquainted with the views of the opposition parties," he says.

These achievements, which Keblusek describes as "modest but important" he considers to have changed the general atmosphere.

Keblusek was born in the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava and is a doctor of law having studied at the Charles university in Prague for both his first and second degrees.

The Ambassador will leave for his homeland on December 1, not knowing what his next placing will be. "I am expecting an assignment in the ministry of foreign affairs in Slovakia, either at home or abroad," Czechoslovakia is in the process of recalling their diplomatic staff, he says due to the dissolution of their federation next year, but no agreements have yet been reached on future representation. "I have recommended that an embassy be retained here," he says

On leaving the island, Keblusek says his biggest regret is that he is leaving behind him unfinished business.

The Ambassador says he has tried to increase the confidence between the two communities. "According to our view there could be no agreement without confidence."

Keblusek believes the meetings have given to the party leaders the opportunity to build up personal relationships and a chance to present their views to each other. "Neither side had the political set up to have the chance of going to the other side to see the general conditions existing behind the dividing line.

The Ambassador says he has also tried to bring together "the responsible officers from the educational field for the publishing of text books to review the interpretation of common history. I am also sorry I was not successful in arranging the exchange of secondary school children during the summer."

As he heads back to Czechoslovakia Keblusek says he will "try to do whatever I can in Czechoslovakia or elsewhere to help Cypriot people reach a long lasting, viable solution. I will take with me as delegation to continue because the Cyprus issue has become a personal matter for me as well."

Remembering the time an outraged Spyros Kyprianou was asked by an innocent Canadian UN soldier to show his ID card before he would allow the Diko leader to attend one of the meetings at the Ledra Palace Hotel, I asked Dr Keblusek whether he had any embarrassing or amusing anecdotes to tell from the meetings he has sponsored.

Taking a sip from a glass of Bekerovka, Czechoslovakia's national drink, Dr Keblusek turned to his first secretary and started talking rapidly in Slovak. The two men laughed. He turned back to me, smiled but said nothing.

Once a diplomat, always a diplomat.

Οι πολιτικοί αρχηγοί χθες στο Λήδρα Πάλας.

Επαναλαμβάνονται οι συναντήσεις Ε/Κ και Τ/Κ κομμάτων στο Λ. Πάλας

ΕΠΑΝΑΛΗΨΗ των συναντήσεων των Ελληνοκυπρίων και των Τουρκοκυπρίων αρχηγών δρομολογήθηκε, χθες, στο αποχαιρετιστήριο γεύμα που παρέθεσε προς τιμή τους στο Λήδρα Παλας, με την ευκαιρία της αναχώρησής του από την Κύπρο, ο Σλοβάκος επιτετραμμένος Γιαροσλάβ Ρομάν. Η επόμενη συνάντηση θα πραγματοποιηθεί πάλι στο Λήδρα Πάλας στις 24 Οκτωβρίου κι αυτή τη φορά οικοδεσπότης, όπως λέχθηκε, θα είναι ο πρόεδρος του ΔΗΣΥ Γ. Μάτσης που έχει εκείνη τη μέρα τα γενέθλια του.

Στη χθεσινή συνάντηση πήραν μέρος ο πρόεδρος του ΔΗΣΥ Γ. Μάτσης, ο κοινοβουλευτικός εκπρόσωπος του ΑΚΕΛ Α. Χρίστου, ο γ.γ. του ΔΗΚΟ Στ. Κιττής, ο πρόεδρος των Φιλελευθέρων Ν. Ρολάνδης, ο πρόεδρος του ΑΔΗΣΟΚ Μ. Παπαπέτρου και του ΚΕΔ Γ. Βασιλείου. Την ΕΔΕΚ θα εκπροσωπούσε ο Δ. Θεοδώρου, αλλά ασθένησε ξαφνικά.

Από τουρκοκυπριακής πλευράς πήραν μέρος ο πρόεδρος του Τουρκικού Ρεπουμπλικανικού κόμματος Ο. Οζγκιούρ, ο λεγόμενος πρωθυπουργός Χακί Ατούν, ο Αλπάι Ντουρτουράκ του κόμματος "Νέα Κύπρος", ο Μουσταφά Ακκιντζί του Κοινωνικού Απελευθερωτικού κόμματος και ο Ισμέτ Κοτάκ, πρόεδρος των Ελευθέρων Δημοκρατών. Απουσίασε ο Ερογλου, που επικαλέστηκε φόρτο εργασίας λόγω του συνεδρίου του κόμματός του. Πάντως για τη νέα συνάντηση το ΔΗΚΟ επιφυλάχθηκε ν' απαντήσει αν θα μετάσχει ενώ άγνωστη παραμένει η θέση της ΕΔΕΚ.

Οπως φάνηκε από δηλώσεις πολιτικών ηγετών δύο είναι οι τάσεις αναφορικά με τη χρησιμότητα αυτών των συναντήσεων. Η πρώτη υποστηρίζει την επαναληψή τους, ενώ η δεύτερη αναφέρει ότι για να είναι χρήσιμες αυτές οι συναντήσεις πρέπει να φέρνουν και κάποιο αποτέλεσμα.

Α. ΤΑΡΑΜΟΥΝΤΑ

Yeni Demokrat, 5th October 1994

5 Ekim 1994 Çarşamba

YENİ DEMOKRAT

Türk ve Rum liderler sınırda buluştu

LEFKOŞA (TAK)- Türk ve Rum siyasi parti liderleri Slovakya Maslahatgüzarı Petro Roman'ın veda yemeğinde biraraya geldiler.

Maslahatgüzar Roman'ın Kıbrıs'taki görev süresinin dolması nedeniyle Ledra Palace'ta Türk ve Rum siyasi parti liderlerine verdiği yemeğe Demokrat Parti Genel Başkanı ve Başbakan Hakkı atun ile CTP Genel Başkanı ve Başbakan Yardımcısı Özker Özgür de katıldı.

Yemeğe KKTC'den ayrıca Toplumcu Kurtuluş Partisi Genel Başkanı Mustafa Akıncı, Yeni Kıbrıs Partisi Genel Başkanı Alpay Durduran ile Hür Demokrat Parti Genel Başkanı İsmet Kotak katılırken, Ulusal Birlik Partisi Genel Başkanı Derviş Eroğlu'nun kurultay çalışmaları nedeniyle yemeğe katılmadığı öğrenildi.

Slovakya Maslahatgüzarı Roman'ın veda yemeğine Rum tarafından ise DİSİ Başkanı Yannakis Matsis, ADI-SOK Başkanı Mihalis Papapetru, Liberaller Partisi Başkanı Nikos Rolandis, eski başkanlardan ve Özgür Demokratlar Hareketi Başkanı Yorgo Vasiliu, AKEL'i temsilen Parlamento Sözcüsü Andreas Hristu ile DİKO Genel Sekreteri Statos Kittis katıldı.

Ara Bölge'de Barış Gücü kontrolündeki Ledra Palace Hotel'e diğer siyasi parti liderleriyle birlikte makam arabaları (002) ve (004) 'ile giden Atun ile Özgür'ü Slovakya Malahatgüzarı ve Barış Gücü Sözcüsü Waldemar Rokozewski kapıda karşıladı.

I Machi,
26th September 1995

Η ένταξη στην Ευρώπη συζητήθηκε στη συνάντηση Ε/κυπρίων και Τ/κυπρίων

Λευκωσία, (ΚΥΠΕ).- Το θέμα της αίτησης της Κύπρου για ένταξη στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση συζητήθηκε χθες κατά τη διάκρεια συνάντησης αρχηγών ή εκπροσώπων ε/κ και τ/κ κομμάτων στο ξενοδοχείο Λήδρα Πάλας. Η επόμενη συνάντηση θα πραγματοποιηθεί στις 3 Νοεμβρίου.

Κοινό ανακοινωθέν που διαβάστηκε μετά τη συνάντηση αναφέρει ότι οι αρχηγοί ή οι εκπρόσωποι "συνέχισαν την ειλικρινή ανταλλαγή απόψεων" για την ενταξιακή πορεία της Κύπρου στην Ε.Ε.

Σύμφωνα με πληροφορίες, στη συνάντηση οι ηγέτες των κομμάτων εξέθεσαν τις απόψεις τους για το θέμα της αίτησης της Κύπρου για ένταξη, αλλά δεν έγινε συζήτηση.

Η ε/κ πλευρά υποστήριξε ότι η λύση του Κυπριακού είναι επιθυμητή πριν από την ένταξη της Κύπρου, αλλά αν αυτό δεν καταστεί δυνατό, τότε δεν πρόκειται να χάσουμε το τραίνο της Ευρώπης.

Τα τ/κ κόμματα εξέφρασαν τις γνωστές του θέσεις για ένταξη της Κύπρου στην Ε.Ε. μετά από λύση του Κυπριακού. Μερικοί υποστήριξαν ακόμη ότι η ένταξη της Κύπρου θα πρέπει να εξαρτάται από την ένταξη της Τουρκίας στην Ε.Ε.

Οπως αναφέρουν οι ίδιες πληροφορίες, στην ερχόμενη συνάντηση, που γίνεται με πρωτοβουλία της Προεδρείας της Σλοβακίας, θα συνεχιστεί η συζήτηση για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ενωση, καθώς επίσης και θέματα ασφάλειας. Από μέρος της ε/κ πλευράς, στη συνάντηση πήραν μέρος ο πρόεδρος της Δημοκρατικού Συναγερμού Γιαννάκης Ματσης, ο γ.γ. του ΑΚΕΛ Δημήτρης Χριστόφιας, ο γ.γ. του Δημοκρατικού Κόμματος Στάθης Κιττής, ο Α' αντιπρόεδρος του Σοσιαλιστικού Κόμματος ΕΔΕΚ Δημήτρης Ηλιάδης, ο αντιπρόεδρος των Φιλελευθέρων Σοφοκλής Μούσουλος, ο πρόεδρος του ΑΔΗΣΟΚ Μιχάλης Παπαπέτρου και ο πρόεδρος του Κινήματος Ελευθέρων Δημοκρατων Γιώργος Βασιλείου.

Από τ/κ πλευράς συμμετείχαν ο αρχηγός του Ρεπουμπλικανικού Τουρκικού Κόμματος Οζκέρ Οζγκιούρ, ο πρόεδρος του κόμματος Νέα Κύπρος Αλπάι Ντουρτουράκ, καθώς και οι ηγέτες μικροτέρων κομμάτων. Σε δηλώσεις του ο κ. Οζγκιούρ καταφέρθηκε εναντίον της συμμετοχής ελληνικών αεροσκαφών στην άσκηση "Νικηφόρος '95" και υπεραμύνθηκε της παρουσίας τουρκικών κατοχικών στρατευμάτων στην Κύπρο.

• Στη φωτογραφία στιγμιότυπο από τη συνάντηση.

From bi-communal meetings of the leaders of political parties from the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities at the Ledra Palace
(1995 - 1997)

New Year's meeting of the leaders of the political parties
(5th January 2002)

siyasi parti temsilcilerinin katıldığı ve Slovakya Büyükelçiliği'nin düzenlediği yeni yıl resepsiyonu Ledra Palace'ta yapıldı

Bu kez siyasiler buluştu

4. sayfada

From bi-communal meetings of the leaders of the political parties in Cyprus at the Ledra Palace
(6th June 2000 and 10th October 2001)

Bi-communal football matches
between mixed teams of political party leaders
(14th April 2007 and 14th July 2007)

Press Conference at the Ledra Palace
Political party leaders agreed on series of bi-communal events
(13th March 2007)

Exchange of visits to places of worship of the two communities

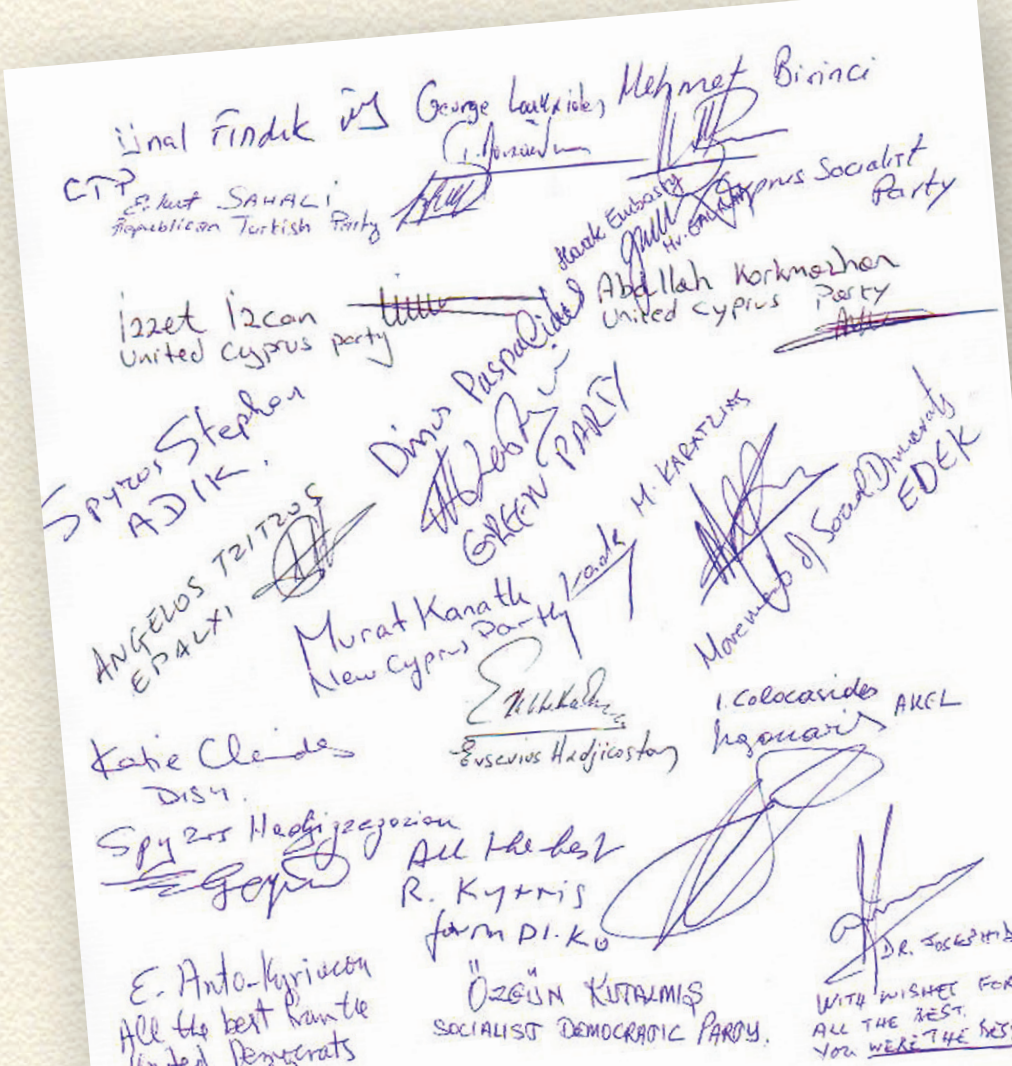
Bi-communal visit to St Barnabas Church
(24th November 2007)

Bi-communal visit to the Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque
(3rd November 2007)

Tour of the Buffer Zone in old Nicosia
(6th December 2007)

Press Conference before the tour at the Ledra Palace and tour of the Ledra Street

The family photo of the participants in the bi-communal dialogue
(19th March 2008)

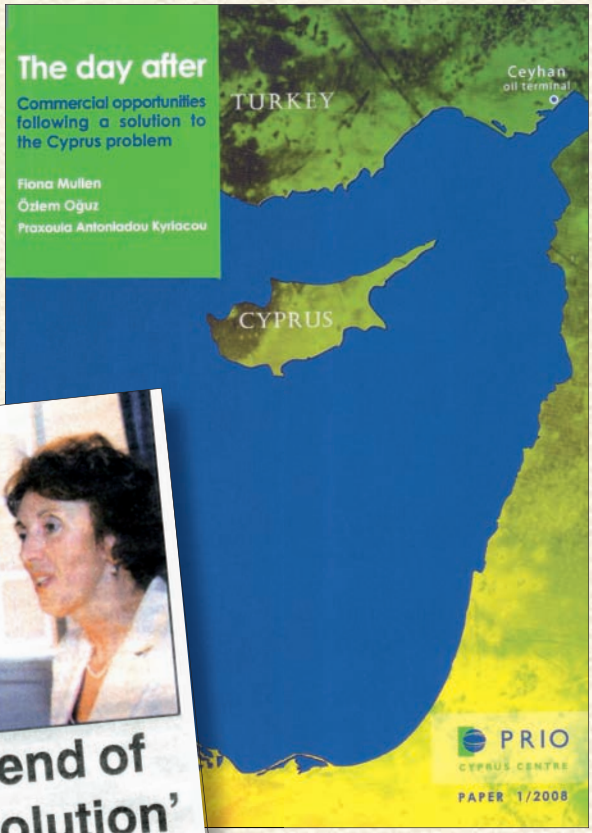


The participants at the Bicommunal dialogue of the leaders and representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Political parties organised under the auspices of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Nicosia

Ledra Palace - March 19th, 2008

Social event hosted by Cypriot political parties and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic
(Ledra Palace, 7th May 2008)

Bi-communal presentation of the study "The Day After" by Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot authors
(Ledra Palace, 28th May 2008)



Peace dividend of €1.8b 'after solution'

SLOVAK ambassador Anna Turnicova this week presented a bi-communal study on the peace dividend to Greek and Turkish Cypriot politicians plus foreign dignitaries who were briefed on the report published in March.

The report – published by the Cyprus Centre for Peace Research – indicates that a Cyprus solution would yield a €1.8b peace dividend mainly due to new business opportunities with Turkey.

Each Cypriot family stands to gain an extra €5,500 per annum.

"The most important finding of our research is that the benefits of a solution will be felt in both communities," said co-author of 'The Day After,' Praxoula Antoniadou Kyriacou.

Turkish Cypriot contributor Ozlem Oguz said: "Since conducting the research we have been told by many economists that this is an under-estimate of the island's potential."

On the occasion of
THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

EDON, NEDISY, NEDIK, EDEK-Youth, Young Ecologists,
ONED, ADIK-Youth, EPALXI-Youth
CTP-Youth, TDP-Youth, BKP-Youth, YKP-Youth, SPC-Youth and

The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Cyprus
in cooperation with the UNFICYP

request the pleasure of your company
at a Cultural Event

United Songs For Peace

featuring groups from Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot Communities

on Sunday, 14 September, 2008
at the Ledra Palace in Nicosia
18:30 hours Beginning of the Performance
19:30 hours Arrival of the official guests

The Leaders Mr. Demetris Christofias and Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat will attend the event.

RSVP: by 10 September, 2008
Telephone: 22879681

At the bi-communal Cultural Event "United Songs For Peace"
(Ledra Palace, 14th September 2008)

"United Songs For Peace" -
the bi-communal choir attracts the attention of the distinguished audience

The Elders pay a visit to Cyprus
Bi-communal meeting with political party leaders
(H.E. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, H.E. Mr. Jimmy Carter and H.E. Mr. Lakhtar Brahimi)
(8th October 2008)

Family photo

From the meeting at the Ledra Palace

ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO
EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT
EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA hEORPA
PARLAMENTO EUROPEO
EIROPAS PARLAMENTS EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS
EURÓPAI PARLAMENT
IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI
PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT
EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI
EUROPAPARLAMENTET

Meeting of Leaders of the Political Parties in Cyprus with Members of the European Parliament
(Ledra Palace, 17th October 2008)

Visit to the bi-communal English School in Nicosia
(26th November 2008)

Visit to the bi-communal English School in Nicosia
(26th November 2008)

The Political Parties in Cyprus
participating in the bi-communal dialogue
and
The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Cyprus

Cordially invite you to the opening of the Bi-communal Exhibition

" Art without Borders "

Featuring artists from Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot Communities

on Sunday, 30th November 2008 at 17:30 hrs.
at the Château Status Restaurant in Nicosia

The exhibition will be opened by H.E. Mr. Ján Figeľ,
European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth

A cocktail will follow
Duration of the exhibition 30 November - 7 December 2008

RSVP: by 24 November 2008
Phone: 22 879681

Bi-communal painting exhibition opened by H.E. Mr. Ján Figeľ, Commissioner of the EC
(30th November 2008)

Bi-communal visit of "LIVE" hospital in north of Nicosia
(6th December 2008)

Bi-communal visit of "ETIK" hospital in north of Nicosia
(6th December 2008)

Alithia,
12th November 2007

Ο Αλλάχ και οι πολιτικοί μας

Η πρώτη επίσκεψη Ε/κ και Τ/κ πολιτικών ηγετών στο Χαλάν Σουλτάν Τεκκέ

Της ΕΦΗΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ

Χαλάν Σουλτάν Τεκκέ

«Θέλω να δω τους πολιτικούς αρχηγούς»

Το καλό παράδειγμα

Ένα από τα καλύτερα παραδείγματα

Για τα μάτια του κόσμου

Οι συμμετέχοντες στην επίσκεψη στο μουσουλμανικό τέμενος της Χαλά Σουλτάν στη Λάρνακα.

Σπύρος Χατζηγεωργίου και Μεχμέτ Τσακιζί ενημερώνονται για την ιστορία του Χαλάν Σουλτάν Τεκκέ.

Cyprus Mail and Cyprus Weekly,
November 2007

REGULAR BI-COMMUNAL MEETINGS OF G/C AND T/C POLITICAL PARTIES AT THE LEDRA PALACE IN NICOSIA

14 NOVEMBER, 2007

Parties call for 'decisive action' on Ledra street

By Jean Christou

GREEK AND Turkish Cypriot party leaders yesterday called on the leadership of the two sides to take steps to open up the Ledra Street crossing.

A joint communiqué issued after the regular meeting at the Ledra Palace asks the leaders to "take decisive action" in opening the crossing point "as a pathway of communication and economic growth and as a substantial vehicle towards expediting the ultimate aim of uniting our country".

The group has decided to visit the two sides of Ledra street, a statement said.

During the meeting, the United Democrats made a proposal that would help move things along.

One suggestion said that given some minimal coordination between municipalities, professionals such as accountants, lawyers and architects could be given incentives to set up base in the old city so that the area develops into a business centre for professionals.

"In this way buildings will be restored and property owners will see the value of their property rising to normal levels," it said.

"And since business is in the orientation of every Cypriot, people would grasp the opening of Ledra Street as an opportunity to make profitable business and start considering greater contact between the two communities more favourably."

It said that Cypriot business men and women could also find ways of participating in each other's business in the area, whether they were law firms, restaurant owners or tourist guides.

"The opening of Ledra street, through its enhancement of trade and the indirect reunification of the market will constitute a step towards the economic integration of the country," said the statement.

"As such it should be treated both as an end in itself, as well as a vehicle of expediting the ultimate aim of uniting our country. Hence the responsibility of the leaders of the two communities is grave."

Ledra opening focus of party leaders meeting

GREEK Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders met at the Ledra Palace on Wednesday to exchange views on the opening of the Ledra Street checkpoint "as an enhancer of political and economic rapprochement," according to a joint communique.

In the communiqué, the leaders called upon the leaders of the two communities to take decisive action towards opening the Ledra Street checkpoint on the same terms as the other checkpoints, as a pathway of communication and economic growth in an area of common identity, and as symbolic and substantial vehicle towards expediting the ultimate aim of uniting their country.

The regular meeting was – as usual - held under the auspices of the Slovak Embassy in Nicosia.

Praxoula Antoniadou, acting leader of the United Democrats party that had hosted Wednesday's luncheon, described Ledra Street as a pathway that crosses through the hearts and childhood memories of all those who are over 40.

"We have an obligation to surrender to the younger generations of our country, a pathway of communication through the common denominator of business and economic growth, which will speedily lead to the restoration of the built environment of the area and to the building of economic and social contacts between the two communities," she said.

The opening should be viewed both as end in itself, as well as a vehicle of expediting the ultimate aim of uniting Cyprus, she added.

The next such meeting is scheduled for December 12. Participating parties were Akel, Disy, Diko, Edek, Epalxis, Greens, United Democrats, New Cyprus Party, Republican Turkish Party, Socialist Party of Cyprus, TDP and the United Cyprus Party.

FIRST JOINT VISIT/TOUR OF THE SECTION OF THE U.N. BUFFER ZONE IN OLD NICOSIA LEADING UP TO LEDRA STREET – 6 DECEMBER, 2007

CYPRUS MAIL Friday, December 7, 2007

Could the trip reignite hopes for a new initiative over the stalled checkpoint talks? (Photo: Christos Theodorides)

Leaders from both sides tour buffer zone

LEADERS AND representatives of Greek and Turkish Cypriot political parties yesterday toured the UN-controlled buffer zone.

The tour was organised by the Slovak embassy in co-operation with the United Nations in Cyprus. Slovak Ambassador Anna Turenicova described the event as "a special day" for the island's political status.

Turenicova referred to the delegation's previous meeting on November 14, when the issue of opening the Ledra Street checkpoint was raised. The move would open one of the capital's main commercial streets and help boost economic and social relations.

"At that meeting, we elaborated on the idea of organising a tour of the buffer zone for all the leaders and representatives of the political parties.

"Today is the day. I am very happy and thankful to all leaders for a very constructive discussion which was very emotional as well," Turenicova said.

She expressed her gratitude to UNFICYP for its readiness to help organise the tour, as well as Nicosia Mayor Eleni Mavrou and North Nicosia Mayor Cemal Bulutoğulari, who were also present at yesterday's meeting.

"Today it might be only a short walk, but it might give impetus for future development", Turenicova pointed out.

Efforts to create a crossing at the end of Ledra Street have so far failed.

From page one

Politicians, including Nicosia Mayor Eleni Mavrou, were given a tour of the Green Line at Ledra where a UN escort led the way as the area is deemed "dangerous" due to the crumbling buildings and the possibility of unexploded ordinance.

Plans to re-open Ledra Street after decades of division have so far failed, even though the wall separating both communities was demolished in March by the government.

The government says it will only allow a new crossing to open in the vicinity if Turkish troops withdraw from the immediate area while the other side has so far rebuffed this precondition.

Stifled

However, it is understood that behind-the-scene discussions - would be a significant first step to bring Cypriots closer together.

"We insist that the area (Ledra) be fully restored to assist bi-communal life," Kanatli told *The Cyprus Weekly*.

"Demilitarisation of Nicosia is the first step to a settlement so that Cypriots can understand each other and cooperate."

There has been unprecedented people movement across the divide since Turkish Cypriot authorities eased travel restrictions in April 2003.

In the past six months alone some 700,000 crossings have taken place at five designated checkpoints.

"The UN stands ready to assist both sides in reaching practical agreements to move the opening of Ledra Street forward," said new UNFICYP spokesman Jose Diaz.

Cyprus politics has stifled such attempts.

Moves to open the thoroughfare - closed since the intercommunal fighting flared in 1963 - have been thwarted for more than two years.

"This is the first time that such an event is happening for Greek and Turkish Cypriots...we all have an obligation to maintain contact between both communities," Akel MP Kypros Chrysostomides told *The Cyprus Weekly*.

Restored

"We all agree that Ledra Street should open but it should happen under the right circumstances and conditions," he added.

Turkish Cypriot New Cyprus party official Murat Kanatli said demilitarisation of Nicosia - where opposing troops are almost within touching distance of each other

Cyprus Weekly December 12, 2007

Party leaders call again for July 8 implementation

GREEK and Turkish Cypriot party leaders have called once agai for the implementation of the July 8 agreement, according to an off cial announcement following a joint meeting on Wednesday a Nicosia's Ledra Palace.

"The leaders and representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkis Cypriot parties call on the UN Secretary General to encourage the tw community leaders to take action so that the agreement is implemen ed," the announcement added.

The meeting – the year's last - was once again hosted by the Embass of Slovakia.

The next get-together is scheduled for January 16.

Insiders said different views were expressed as to whether the agree ment was – up to date – used as a tool for the resumption of talks on a overall settlement of the Cyprus problem.

However, they managed to reach a mutually-agreed wording expres ing support to the July agreement.

Cyprus Mail January 16, 2008

UN BRIEFING: Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Cyprus, Michael Moller, talks to the politicians at the Ledra Palace. Next to him is Slovak Ambassador Anna Turenicova.

UN ready to send envoy after elections

By Annie Charalambous

2008 is the year for the Cyprus problem to be resolved, according to UN Special Representative Michael Moller who also believes the solution should come from Cypriots themselves.

Speaking to Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot politicians at the Ledra Palace on Wednesday, Moller also revealed that the UN Secretary General is ready for an "assessment mission" right after February's elections.

"He is ready to send an envoy to talk with the new president, whoever that may be, but to also assess the situation within the two communities," insiders told *The Cyprus Weekly*, yesterday.

"Mr Moller made it clear the UN feel it is high time Cyprus undertakes the responsibilty for its own destiny. The message sent out by them is that the world is tired, very tired, of the Cyprus problem," added the insiders.

Moller also stressed the need for new confidence building measures to be proposed by both sides, and for the strengthening of civil society.

"Asked whether he was positive that reunification is still feasible, he said yes, provided that both sides have the will and the determination to overcome difficulties. That's why he stressed the need for civil society to get stronger and more involved in a possible settlement," the sources said.

Moller, who also briefed the politicians over the Security Council's discussion of the latest UNFICYP report, underlined the general disapointment over the lack of progress as well as the non-implementation of the July 8 agreement.

He then stressed the need for new confidence-building measures to be tabled and for bi-communal contacts to be encouraged.

Rapprochement

Referring to Ledra Street, he said the two mayors are cooperating enough on technical issues, such as the demining of the area and the restoration of almost derelict buildings. "But more needs to be done," he also said.

Asked whether the return of Famagusta to its legal inhabitants could be viewed as a confidence-building measure, he dismissed that saying the Turkish side is not willing to discuss this anymore.

"Now, everybody seems to consider the Famagusta issue as part of an overall settlement, they are not even willing to discuss it as a CBM," he was reported to have said.

The next meeting, as always under the auspices of the Slovak embassy, is scheduled for March 19, according to a joint communique that also said the politicians "evaluated their bi-communal activities and initiatives during the past year in the process of rapprochement.

Participants included members of the following Greek Cypriot parties: Adik, Akel, Greens, Diko, Disy, Epalxi, Edek and United Democrats. From the Turkish Cypriot side: New Cyprus party, Republican Turkish party, Socialist Party of Cyprus, TDP, United Cyprus party.

Christofias, Talat in rare social get-together

Slovaks host reception for Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders

BY CHARLIE CHARALAMBOUS

PRESIDENT Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat met at a cocktail party held to mark new efforts to find a Cyprus solution to end 34 years of division.

Christofias and the Turkish Cypriot leader were guests of honour at the reception at the Ledra Palace, once a top hotel and now a crumbling makeshift barracks for UN peacekeepers inside the buffer zone.

Government Spokesman Stephanos Stephanou said the most important factor from Wednesday's event was the decision by both leaders to meet again in a social setting.

He said an announcement on when the next meeting is to take place would be made soon.

The rare social gathering was organised by the embassy of Slovakia and was the pair's first meeting since a landmark deal on March 21 to launch peace talks in June.

The Slovak embassy also chairs regular sessions between Greek and Turkish Cypriot political parties in an attempt to foster trust across the divide.

Both men had a short private conversation before entering the venue together to shake hands for the cameras but made no comment to waiting reporters.

Smooth

Once inside, the reception area they gave a short speech re-affirming their commitment to the peace process and applauded the positive contribution from the political parties.

Both men expressed their satisfaction over the smooth running of the technical committees and working groups.

A red carpet was rolled out for the occasion and the number of cameras that flashed when politicians and their wives walked the corridor was likened to a movie premiere, despite the drab surroundings.

"To my point of view it was a historical occasion because for the first time political leaders and the parties came together in a very friendly atmosphere," Slovak ambassador Anna Turencova told *The Cyprus Weekly*.

"Such events contribute to confidence building between the two communities and I am ready to hold another reception if they wish to do so," she added.

Turencova confirmed that the two leaders took the opportunity to have a confidential chat before they entered the building together in a visible show of unity.

Goodwill

In April, the United Nations launched preparatory work between the two sides to pave the way for peace talks next month.

Working groups and technical committees have been tasked with bridging the differences on key issues - including property, security and territory - to give fully fledged reunification talks a chance to succeed.

Christofias was elected in February on a platform of finding a solution to the island's division.

There has been no progress towards solving the Cyprus problem since Greek Cypriots overwhelmingly rejected a UN-drafted reunification blueprint in 2004. Turkish Cypriots approved it.

In a show of goodwill, Ledra Street, which runs through the commercial heart of Europe's last divided capital, was reopened on April 3.

DRINKS FOR PEACE: Christofias and Talat joined together for cocktails at the Ledra Palace to encourage the new peace drive.

Cyprus Weekly
12th December 2007 and Cyprus Mail
16th January 2008

Cyprus Mail
THE INTERNATIONAL DAILY
Thursday, May 8, 2008
€1 £0.58

Home News

Cocktail talks give impetus to the Cyprus peace process

Christofias and Talat meet at a bi-communal event at Ledra Palace last night organised by the Slovak Embassy (Photo: Christos Theodoridis)

Ercakica, while former president Glafcos Clerides will also make a show.

Anastassiades is hoping the event in return for the dinner he had at Talat's house last year. The DISY leader was heavily criticised at the time by critics, including the current President, and was accused of creating a political diversion, even "tampering with the national interests".

The chronic today seems to be far removed from that period, and now calling that drinking together is being encouraged as a way to understand each other and build personal relations. Without doubt, we will exchange thoughts and cerna on the future of our country. That is the wish and aim of every true patriot," said Anastassiades yesterday.

He highlighted that, necessitating was the President's job. "But I believe that personal relations can build and help in contributing to preserving the good climate and also a mutual understanding of the positions of the two sides."

Cocktail talks give impetus to peace process

By Stefanos Evripidou

CYPRIOT LEADERS are in the throes of a 'getting to know you' campaign, but in the true Cypriot way, with food and drink as the focal point.

Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat has been busy doing the rounds in Cypriot politics. Last night, he shared a drink with President Demetris Christofias at a social event in Nicosia, making it their third meeting in two months, while tonight he is due in Limassol for a meal at the house of DISY leader Nicos Anastassiades.

The leaders of the two communities met last night at a cocktail party hosted by the Slovak Embassy at the Ledra Palace Hotel in the buffer zone, along with political party members from both sides.

This was the third meeting of the two leaders since Christofias took power in February. They first met on March 21 at the UN-controlled Nicosia Airport, where they agreed to launch committee meetings that would prepare the ground for high-level negotiations in three months.

However, rather than wait three months, the two leaders took the opportunity to meet again two weeks later at a reception for the visiting UN assessment team, headed by UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Lynn Pascoe.

At their first meeting in March, the two leaders had agreed to meet more regularly on a social level, independent of political developments, a stark contrast to the frequency of meetings between Talat and his previous interlocutor, former president Tassos Papadopoulos, Deputy Head of Mission at the Slovak Embassy Zdenko Gallaway told the

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Chief of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun (left) joining hands with Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias (centre) and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat

Leaders join hands

at bicommunal concert

The two leaders and Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNFICYP Chief of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun joined hands at a highly-moving bicommunal event at the Ledra Palace.

Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat were among hundreds of people from both communities who attended a bicommunal concert organised jointly by the Slovak embassy and the island's political parties in the framework of the International Day of Peace, and which was hosted at the Ledra Palace on 22 September.

The event generated huge media interest, as not only did the two leaders attend, they took to the stage together with Tayé-Brook Zerihoun where all three joined hands and lifted them aloft to tumultuous applause from an audience made up of prominent politicians from both sides, diplomats, and hundreds of ordinary, mainly young, people. In their speeches, the leaders gave a strong commitment to do everything in their power to achieve a solution of the Cyprus problem.

The Greek Cypriot leader said: "I want to reiterate my commitment, before the young people of both communities, that I am going to do my utmost in order to find the common language we need with Mehmet Ali Talat, and with the assistance of the UN, to reunify our island.

"We have started a serious dialogue and we have to combine our efforts in order to welcome the people of the UN without a uniform but as visitors to our peaceful island. This is our promise to the young people of Cyprus," he added.

He also noted that Cyprus needed peace and expressed the hope that this time next year, such events would take place in a reunited Cyprus.

For his part, Mehmet Ali Talat stated that, "Our youth want to see a united, federal Cyprus. This is our joint goal."

A solution would mean Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots living together in a peaceful environment with respect for each other's cultures. "We, together with my friend Demetris, really have this common aim, we are committed to working to achieve it," he said.

Tayé-Brook Zerihoun stated: "The Cyprus in the minds and hearts of all present, young and old, is one in which the island's obvious enormous potential is given full expression, a Cyprus at peace, a united and dynamic Cyprus that offers the best of opportunities and future to all its citizens. Such a day seems tantalizingly close, at least closer than it has been for a long time.

"Bicommunal initiatives and cultural projects alone will not bring that day about; the leaders and people bear the greatest responsibility for turning what will clearly be a difficult peace process into a success. But overcoming divisions entrenched over the years will take more than political action and discussions at the negotiating table. Rebuilding trust among Cypriots across the divide in order to make this island one common home for all its citizens requires acts that may seem less spectacular and dramatic, but which are just as essential. That is why I am glad to take part in one such act this evening."

The Chief of Mission also praised Slovakia's ambassador to Cyprus, Anna Tureničová, saying he wished to "pay tribute to her work, her tenacity in perpetuating and reinvigorating the tradition of encouraging bicommunal cooperation established by the Slovak Republic".

Slovak ambassador Anna Tureničová

The event was organised jointly by the Slovak Embassy and the youth branches of political parties on both sides in the framework of the bicommunal meetings between party leaders or representatives that take place regularly at the Ledra Palace under the auspices of the Slovak Embassy.

Bicommunal choir performing at the concert

Zerihoun, Christofias and Talat during Sunday's event (Photo: Christos Theodorides)

'Our promise to the youth of Cyprus'

Leaders join hands in weekend peace celebration

By Jean Christou

THE LEADERS of the two sides got together informally on Sunday to mark World Peace day at an event with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth, organised by the Slovak embassy.

Both expressed their commitment to seeking a solution and even held hands aloft in a show of friendliness when they shared the podium with UN Chief of Mission Taye-Brook Zerihoun at the Ledra Palace event.

Other officials from both sides also attended.

Addressing the crowd, President Demetris Christofias said: "I want to reiterate my commitment, before the young people of both communities, that I am going to do my utmost in order to find the common language we need with Mehmet Ali Talat and with the assistance of the UN to reunify our island".

He said Cyprus needed peace and expressed the hope that this time next year such events could be held in a reunited Cyprus.

"I don't know if Mehmet Ali Talat will agree with me but my hope and my wish is to organise such meetings in a demilitarised United Federal Republic of Cyprus," he added.

"We have started a serious dialogue and we have to combine our efforts in order to welcome the people of the UN without a uniform but as visitors to our peaceful island. This is our promise to the young people of Cyprus," he said.

"Let us bring peace and social justice to this island," for the sake of people from both communities, who have suffered in the past...but especially for the young people of Cyprus."

Talat said many generations had suffered because of lack of peace and the lack of an agreement in Cyprus. Young people should look forward to a peaceful and reunified country, Talat said.

"We, together with my friend Demetris, really have this common aim, we are committed to working to achieve it. I am sure that we will get every support from our people. This is very clear and particularly for the time being we sense this in our everyday contacts, in our everyday work and we are confident that we will get support from our people".

The Turkish Cypriot leader said a solution would prepare the ground for peace building, which he said meant Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots living together in a peaceful environment with respect to each other cultures.

"And to reach that we will first prepare the ground together with my friend Demetris, by making a settlement, an agreement. It will be the beginning of our goal, the beginning of the peace building", Talat said.

Young people would have a great responsibility in the new phase that would follow a solution and they would have to work towards that.

"I am expecting bigger events all over the island. In each city, in each town in each village, Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots really in co-operation really building the future", Talat added.

"For this we have to do our utmost now. We have to work seriously but I am 100 per cent sure that if we get the support of our people we will be able to achieve it. Otherwise since we have a lot of difficulties and a lot of thorny issues in front of us it will be very difficult".

He spoke of give and take between the leaders, and of compromise, without which he said a solution was not possible.

The Talat-Christofias 'love-in' was far removed from the atmosphere surrounding the talks that began on September 3.

The first meeting was followed by separate public statements that led to some tension leading up to the second meeting on September 11.

After that meeting Talat, in the opinion of the Greek Cypriot side, had broken an embargo on public statements by giving an interview to a Turkish television channel. Christofias said the move was not helpful.

The two leaders will meet again on Thursday to continue their discussions on governance and power sharing.

pbeat tone from two leaders at peace gathering

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Using emotional vocabulary, the two leaders pledged their commitment to reunification to end the division that has afflicted two generations of Cypriots on both sides of the fence.

"I wish to reiterate my commitment before the youth from both communities, that I shall work to the fullest of my abilities so that, together with my friend Mehmet Ali Talat, and with the help of the UN, we may find the common language,"

ROCKING FOR PEACE: UN Mission Chief Taye Brook Zerihoun encourages the two leaders.

Christofias said in his address.

"We need peace on this island," he added.

"I don't know if my friend Mehmet Ali Talat agrees with me, but I hope that in the future we can organise similar events in a demilitarised United Federal Republic of Cyprus."

Boosting the feelgood factor

Talat suggested young people would be the driving force behind the new peace effort.

"Young people look forward to a more peaceful country, a reunited country, a federal country," he said.

"Together with my friend Demetris, we pledge to work towards achieving this goal."

In order for a settlement to work, added Talat, Greek and Turkish Cypriots should be prepared to live together, fully respecting each other's ethnicity and culture.

However, Talat sounded upbeat that this climate of good faith already existed among the common people.

"It is young people who will have the greatest responsibility, especially in the new phase following an agreement. It is, after all, the young people who will experience the future. They are the ones who shall build peace in Cyprus."

Talat went on to say he was '100% certain' that, with the people's support, reunification was feasible.

The Turkish Cypriot leader acknowledged that the road to peace would be hard, adding that both sides have sides would have to make concessions for the greater good.

"We must compromise. "We must give and take," he noted.

Speaking on behalf of the hosts, Slovakian Ambassador Ana Turenikova delivered an appeal to the island's two communities: "Tonight, we have the opportunity of saying to one another: 'Brothers, let us leave in peace'."

Attending the event were Government Spokesman Stephanos Stephanou, Presidential Commissioner George Iacovou, party leaders and deputies.

On the Turkish Cypriot side were 'Prime Minister' Ferdi Sabit Soyer and the 'mayor' of north Nicosia Cemal Bulutoglulari.

Politics aside, guests were entertained by the sounds of Greek and Turkish Cypriot rock bands and a bicommunal choir.

Kiblisli Daily News,
9th October 2008

"The Elders" partilerle bir araya geldi

"The Elders" heyeti Ledra Palace'ta Türk ve Rum siyasi parti yetkilileriyle bir araya geldi.

Çözüme destek vermek üzere Kıbrıs'a gelen "küresel ihtiyar heyeti" olarak nitelendirilen "The Elders", yıllardır Slovak Büyükelçiliği organizasyonuyla Ledra Palace'ta gerçekleştirilen Türk ve Rum siyasi partilerin bugün öğleden sonra gerçekleştirdiği toplantıda hazır bulundu.

Toplantıya, KKTC'den, CTP,BÖ'den Parti Genel Başkanı, Başbakan Ferdi Sabit Soyer ve Dışilişkiler Sekreteri Ünal Fındık, DP Genel Başkanı Serdar Denktaş ve parti yöneticilerinden Ata Atun, TDP Genel Başkanı Mehmet Çakıcı ve Dışilişkiler Sekreteri Sami Dayıoğlu, YKP Dışilişkiler Sekreteri Alpay Durduran ve parti Yürütme Kurulu Sekreteri Murat Kanallı, BKP Genel Sekreteri İzzet İzcan ve parti yöneticilerinden Abdullah Korkmazhan, KSP Genel Sekreteri Yusuf Alkım ve parti yetkililerinden Mehmet Birinci katıldı.

Güney Kıbrıs'tan ise toplantıya başkan veya temsilcileri katılan partiler şunlar;" Mücadeleci Demokrasi Hareketi (ADIK), Çalışan Halkın İlerici Partisi (AKEL), Demokratik Seferberlik Partisi (DISI), Demokratik Parti (DIKO), Birleşik Demokratlar (EDI), Sosyal Demokrat Hareketi (EDEK)." Toplantıya ilişkin basına açıklanan

Politicians from both communities yesterday visited the English School

A model for things to come?

By Marianna Pissa

THE COEXISTENCE of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot pupils at the English School is a reflection of bicommunal relations, pupils told party representatives from both communities that visited the school yesterday.

But students also spoke of serious problems such as racism and discrimination. One of the Greek Cypriot students said there was no evidence to substantiate this, but a Turkish Cypriot student was adamant that such behaviour existed. The debate revolved around the latest controversy at the English School when on October 1, Independence Day, the national anthem was not heard. Greek Cypriot students said the anthem was part of their school lives since elementary school. Turkish Cypriot students, however, said they felt uncomfortable listening to the Greek national anthem, because they feel Cypriot.

However, all the students stressed that the English School was a multicultural, bicommunal school and that this should be maintained.

The party representatives asked the children to respect each other and try to live together to create prospects for a better future.

The visit was part of confidence-building measures decided by the parties from both communities.

Yeni Düzen Daily News,
22th January 2009

Kıbrıslı Türk ve Rum Siyasi Partiler Kıbrıslı Türklerin araçlarına yapılan saldırıları kınadı

Ara bölgedeki Ledra Palace Otel'de rutin olarak bir araya gelen Kıbrıslı Türk ve Kıbrıslı Rum siyasi partiler, hafta sonu Güney Kıbrıs'ta Kıbrıslı Türklerin araçlarına yapılan saldırıları kınadı.

Slovakya'nın Lefkoşa Büyükelçiliği'nin organizasyonu ile her ay bir araya gelen Kıbrıslı Türk ve Kıbrıslı Rum siyasi partilerin, dün gerçekleşen 2009'un ilk toplantısı tamamlandı.

Taraflar, toplantıda, hafta sonu Güney Kıbrıs'ta Kıbrıslı Türklere yönelik yapılan saldırıları kınayan ortak bir açıklamaya imza attı.

Slovakya Büyükelçisi Anna Turenicova tarafından, toplantı sonunda basına okunan ortak açıklamada, "Geçen Cumartesi günü; arabalarında yolculuk eden Kıbrıslı Türklere yönelik saldırıları şiddetle kınıyoruz" denildi. Partilerin, saldırıyı yapan kişilerin belirlenmesi ve yargı önüne çıkarılmasını beklediklerini ifade edilen açıklamaya, "Benzer olayların, iki toplum arasındaki atmosferi; bunun için yürütülen müzakere süreci ve ortaya konan çabaları olumsuz etkilediğine inanıyoruz" diyen devam edildi.

Tarafların adanın yeniden birleşmesi yönünde verdikleri mücadeleleyi devam ettirme kararlılığında olduklarını belirtilen açıklamada, Kıbrıslı Türklere saldıran "şövenist grupların" dışlanması ve söz konusu grubun barış içinde birleşik bir Kıbrıs vizyonunu zayıflatmasına müsaade edilmemesi için çağrında bulunuldu.

Açıklamada, ayrıca, dünkü toplantıda, tarafların 2008'de yer aldıkları iki toplumlu toplantıya onur konuğu olarak katılan Kıbrıs'taki Birleşmiş Milletler Barış Gücü (UNFICYP) Komutanı Gerard Hughes'un da UNFICYP'in adadaki rolü, sorumluluğu ve çözüm süreci ile ilgili iyi niyet misyonu hakkında sunum yaptığı kaydedildi.

Gerard Hughes'un ayrıca iyi niyet misyonunun tarihçesi, misyonun uygulama aşamasındaki uğradığı değişiklikler ve UNFICYP'in gelecekteği ilgili planlar hakkında da bilgi verdiği ifade edilen açıklamada, bir sonraki toplantının 18 Şubat'ta yapılacağı bildirildi. **(tak)**

The Political Parties in Cyprus
participating in the bi-communal dialogue
and
The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Cyprus

cordially invite you to public discussion

"The role of the mass media in cultivating a culture of peaceful cohabitation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots within the framework of a unified Cyprus"

Key note speakers: **Hasan Kahvecioglu**
Andreas Paraschos
Sevgul Uludag
Costas Yennaris

on Thursday, 26th March 2009 from 18:00 – 20:00 hrs
in the Holiday Inn Hotel in Nicosia

Simultaneous Interpretation in English Language will be provided
Refreshments will be served after the discussion

RSVP: by 25 March 2009
Phone: 22 879681

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