



National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Εθνική Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου

Working for a Free, United Cyprus

Rt Hon Boris Johnson
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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15 November 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I acknowledge that I am writing at an extremely challenging time not only for the United Kingdom, but globally, given the response to the second wave of the COVID19 pandemic. On behalf of the 300,000 British Cypriots, I want to express our support for the extremely challenging task that the Government faces to protect the people of the United Kingdom from COVID19. We'd like to reassure you, as our Prime Minister, that we are doing our utmost, to support and comfort all British Citizens, during these difficult times.

November 15th is a day of shame in the Republic of Cyprus. Most Cypriots mourn the ongoing occupation of their country, whilst some in the occupied areas celebrate the illegal Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) of the so-called "Turkish republic of northern Cyprus". Since 1983, the United Nations Security Council has "condemned" this decision, declared it "legally invalid" and called for it to be "withdrawn", through UN Security Council Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984).

To this day, the breakaway regime is only recognised by Turkey. The UK Government made its position very clear on the illegal Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1983, and at the time, the then Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher, said the following to the President of Turkey:

"As a guarantor power under the treaty of guarantee the British government deplor [sic] this action on the part of the Turkish Cypriot authorities. It is clearly incompatible with the 1960 treaty of guarantee. It can only complicate the already difficult task of reaching a settlement in Cyprus acceptable to the people of both communities and the activities of the United Nations Secretary General to achieve such a result."

"I should like to urge you, as President of one of the signatory states of the Treaty of Guarantee to do your utmost to secure the reversal of this action by the Turkish Cypriots and, meanwhile, not support the declaration which they have already made."

The UDI only confirmed Turkey's true ambition for illegally invading and occupying Cyprus in 1974, namely, to permanently divide the island. Partition appears to have now become the stated policy of Turkey, with President Erdogan calling for a "two-state solution" speaking at a news conference with the new Leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Ersin Tatar, in Ankara on 26th October. Indeed, on 3rd November, at an informal meeting with President Anastasiades, under the auspices of the UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Cyprus, Elizabeth Spehar, Mr Tatar said that "other ideas" for a solution must be on the table. Indicative of his thinking

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A complete list of member organisations and the names of all of the current officers and members of the Secretariat of the Federation can be found on the Federation's website.

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are his statements after the meeting where he said that he wants to pursue “two-states”. This would not only violate the 1960 Treaties of Establishment and Guarantee, of which the United Kingdom is a co-signatory and Guarantor Power, but also disregard the agreed basis for negotiations, namely a bizonal, bicomunal federation, and the significant convergences reached to date.

Sadly rather than engaging constructively to reach a solution, Mr Tatar, with the support of President Erdogan, have instead chosen to increase tensions and further poison the negotiating climate. Hours after the initial meeting with President Anastasiades on 3rd November, Turkey issued a new navigational telex (NAVTEX), sending their vessel *Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa* illegally back into the Republic of Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

This follows the reopening of the coastline and adjacent streets of Varosi last month, which violates UN Security Council resolutions 550 (1983), 789 (1992) and 2537 (2020). The UN Security Council called for the reversal of this action and for the avoidance of any unilateral actions that could raise tensions on the island, in a President’s Statement on 9 October. Continuing to show contempt for the international community, President Erdogan has now announced his intention to visit Varosi and have a picnic on the beach, on the tragic anniversary of the illegal UDI. This not only adds insult to injury, but also signals to the international community President Erdogan’s total disregard for international law and UN Security Resolutions, as well as his intentions for Cyprus.

Whilst President Erdogan and Mr Tatar continue to violate international law, President Anastasiades, remains steadfast on positions of principle, willing to return to the negotiating table and commence negotiations from where they left off in Crans Montana. Indeed, during the latest round of negotiations to reunify the island, in Crans Montana in 2017, the UN Secretary General was clear that the current system of Guarantees, with intervention rights, was not sustainable. Turkey unfortunately, insists on retaining the anachronistic system of guarantees, and keeping a permanent presence of troops on the island after a solution. This system has badly failed Cyprus in the past and continues to fail Cyprus today. Regrettably, Turkey’s plan for a post-solution Cyprus is one of control and illegal interference. This is not in the best interests of the Cypriot people, nor may I suggest the United Kingdom, given the presence of UK military bases on the island. Therefore, at this time the UK Government must be clear in its public messaging on Cyprus, and its representations to Turkey, to reaffirm unequivocally a commitment to a bizonal, bicomunal federation as the only framework for a solution, and to call for the abolition of this anachronistic system of security and guarantees.

The condemnable UDI and the partitionist ambitions of Turkey are the reason that the unacceptable status quo in Cyprus remains. We are clear that we want to see Cyprus reunited in line with UN resolutions, High Level Agreements and EU law. Only a reunited and truly independent Cyprus will deliver freedom, peace and security to all of the island’s people and ensure that the Republic of Cyprus – a member of the Commonwealth, UN and EU – will remain a reliable, predictable and stable partner for the UK.

You have the power to make a lasting difference in relation to Cyprus and, on this tragic anniversary, I urge you to exercise this proactively and constructively.

Yours sincerely,

Christos Karaolis
President, National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Cc: Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs; Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas
Rt. Hon. Sir Roger Gale MP, Chair APPG for Cyprus,
Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP; Mike Freer MP