

FOR BOULI

Re: ELLI PEONIDOU

1) Why are you standing for parliament?

Ms Peonidou stressed that she is not standing as an individual but as a member of the AKEL group. She was invited by the party to be a member of the group contesting the elections and accepted gladly. "I believe that I have something to offer as a member of the AKEL group in the party's efforts to solve the serious problems facing Cyprus and its people."

2) Are you appealing to the women voters?

"It's likely that a certain number of women will prefer to give their vote to a woman candidate. However, I feel that it's not a question of choosing a man or a woman: it's more a question of voting for a particular political programme. Nonetheless women who are not aligned with a specific party may well want to vote for a woman candidate, whoever she is."

3) What can or should the new House of Representatives do about the place of women in Cypriot society?

Ms Peonidou believes that the House certainly can and must play a leading role in efforts to improve woman's place in Cypriot society but makes the point that one should not speak in abstract terms about women in general: "There are so many different groups of women in Cyprus: the working mother, the hard working countrywoman, ordinary housewives, all of whom have their share of different and varied problems. In general we can say, though, that women in Cyprus have not achieved equality with men and so the House is a very good place for efforts to be made at changing the situation. Already the AKEL parliamentary group has promoted the UN international accord on the removal of all discrimination against women, as well as legislation for equal pay for women. There are many other problems concerning women which still have to be solved and the House of Representatives should make every effort to do so."

4) Would the world be a better place if more women were in power?

"I'm not sure. We must not go to the other extreme and say that if

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a woman were in a certain position she would solve a problem where ~~as~~ a man cannot, simply because she is a woman. In fact we have examples of women in office and they have not been noted for their progressive ideas or attitudes, just as there are others, of course, who have proved to be the opposite. It's not a matter of what sex a leader is but how he or she deals with the problems facing the country.

5) How do you feel about being high on the list of AKEL candidates, and how do your lower-ranked colleagues feel?

Ms Peonidou repeated her earlier statement that the AKEL candidates are a unified group without personal ambitions and because of this there has been no problem of rivalry or jealousy. All AKEL decisions are taken by the party as a whole and although there is a hierarchy she will be just as pleased if a candidate from the party who is placed lower on the list is returned to parliament as she will if she is voted in herself.

6) Would you appear on TV as part of a programme featuring only the women candidates?

"I don't think such a programme would be fair since it would be discriminating against the male candidates. Since we believe in equality I would have no objections to being presented with my male colleagues, but why single out the women?"