



Съюз на българските писатели

UNION DES ECRIVAINS BULGARES

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C Y P R U S

Dear friends,

I am writing these lines on the eve of the New Year and naturally I wish to extend to you my best wishes for good health and happiness, for further success in the field of literature to which you have dedicated your talent and efforts. Let us hope that 1979 will bring us peace and progress and the triumph of reason and justice in this suffering world.

I avail myself of this opportunity to remind of the Sofia World Writers' Meeting held from 7th to 10th of June 1977 in the capital city of Bulgaria which we still vividly remember. The Meeting was attended by 188 representatives from 48 countries - the pride not only of their national literature but of world literature and modern world culture.

We have recently become aware that a number of outstanding writers from different countries have expressed the wish to meet again in Sofia and to remind ourselves of the friendship and understanding, of the responsibility to safeguard peace in the world.

After soundings with Bulgarian writers I arrived at the conclusion that Bulgarian cultural circles are ready to undertake the organisation of a follow-up writers' meeting in Sofia. We have an idea to hold it at the same time it was held two years ago - from 7th to 10th of June and as constitutors of a new tradition we are thinking of placing a commemorative plate at the entrance of the hall in which it was held.

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I wish to note that on the occasion of the International Year of the Child, a World Children's Assembly will be held in August 1979 in Sofia under the auspices of UNESCO and UNICEF. This will be a meeting of children from all over the world who have shown talent in art and literature, a meeting in the name of friendship and humanism, in the name of a peaceful and happy future. This has made us think that the writers' meeting could also consider these writers of the future.

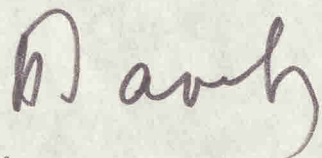
The Bulgarian side will entirely bear your travel expenses and your daily expenses in Bulgaria. In this respect the Union of Bulgarian Writers will be assisted by donations from rich Bulgarians admirers of art and literature who live abroad. After the meeting we will arrange a short interesting programme which will give you an opportunity once again to come into contact with the Bulgarian people and their mode of life.

We are looking forward to your reply kindly forwarded to the following address by 30 April 1979:

Union of Bulgarian Writers
5, Angel Kuntchev Street
Sofia - 1000
B U L G A R I A

Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to wholeheartedly believe that you will do everything possible to participate in this writers' meeting. Your presence and your voice will undoubtedly have an extremely great importance in consolidating what is dear to the hearts of all creators of culture - the cause of peace and a happy future for mankind.


Yours sincerely,

Pantelei ZAREV

President of the Union of Bulgarian Writers

My dear friends,

At a distance of about 20 kilometres to the west of the town where I live in Cyprus and not more than 20 kilometres east of the spot where, according to Greek Mythology, Aphrodite - the goddess of love, was born, lies the ancient ~~city~~ city of Curium, estimated by archaeologists to have been founded in the 14th century B.C.. Curium, like all the ancient cities of Cyprus is built on a magnificent site high on a cliff overlooking the sea to the south. The ancient ruins are half hidden ^{from the scorching sun.} among bushes and pines, the scent of which fills the ~~air~~ still air. Curium's patron god was Apollo, god of the Sun, Beauty, Music, Poetry and the Arts in general. ^{Not far from} ~~near~~ the temple of Apollo towards the cliff lies the wonderfully preserved ancient theatre of Curium with its famous acoustics and an incredibly beautiful view of the sea below. In front of it towards the ~~road~~ Limassol - Paphos road, there is a building of the Christian era with a well preserved mosaic floor, which bears evidence to the 25 century long continuous civilization that flourished at Curium.

I hope, my dear friends, I have been able to describe as clearly as possible the beauty of the scenery and the art of ~~the~~ ancient Curium because I would now like to superimpose ^{some other impressions} on those ~~impression~~ you have ^{already} formed in your minds. Hardly out of sight of this sacred place, ^{the astonished visitor} ~~the~~ is unpleasantly surprised to

to come upon the monstrosities of the installations of the British ^{military} Base of Episcopi - ~~the~~ concrete, steel, uniform rows of English type semi-detached houses, English signs and names of streets in English. To explain the incongruity: the ancient city of Curium lies within the area of the British Sovereign Bases, which, according to reliable information, have already been equipped with nuclear weapons. ~~It~~ It goes without saying that these bases are ^{eventually} meant to act as a military bridgehead.

It is once more evident that the merchants of death ~~do not~~ ^{value} appreciate neither art nor civilization nor natural environment. Much less do they ~~appreciate~~ value human lives when such ~~things~~ trivialities interfere with their plans. Four days ago, last Sunday, the Curium area became the centre of interest throughout the island. ~~From~~ The temple of Apollo itself ^{was the starting point of} the most magnificent march our people ~~has~~ ^{has} seen in recent years. A ~~march for~~ ^{peace} march in which tens of thousands of people of every age, social position, ~~occupation~~ ^{occupation} and political belief took part. A twenty-kilometre march with the slogan of the abolition of all military bases and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from our beautiful, sun-drenched, ancient island. A march, reaffirming our people's demand for a peaceful, ^{just} and ^{viable} ~~effective~~ solution of our political problem.

I am still overwhelmed, my dear friends, from the impressions of this march. That unending wave of people, who started at 8 o'clock in the morning now with songs and slogans, now in silence ~~or~~ or angry shouts. Mothers with their children pulling at their skirts, old ~~men~~ men in their

traditional costumes, young scientists, middle-aged people, sun-tanned girls, peasants, workers, intellectuals, people, people — a colourful mosaic making up the ~~one~~ one and only face of ~~my~~ ^{my} people, a face magnificent and stern and determined to ensure ^{at last} the much desired peace for its country. The Association of Cypriot Writers, which wholeheartedly supported and participated in the Peace March, addressed the intellectual people, saying among other things: "The peace march is a duty for every intellectual person in Cyprus, who must participate in order to join the people in a declaration of the wish for the demilitarization of the island and world peace."

This peace march has again brought home to us yet once more that the struggle for peace can no longer be passive. ~~and~~ The greater the danger of the destruction of our planet in a senseless, terrible war, the more active the forces of peace must become in order to confront these dangers.

My dear friends,

In the two years since the last meeting of ~~Authors~~ ^{Writers} which our generous hosts, the Bulgarian Writers, had organised, much — too much in fact — has happened. local wars, earthquakes, floods, epidemics, accidents..... However, ~~two events~~ I should like to point at two inevitable sad facts. First, that all of us have aged ~~or~~ — to avoid the unpleasant word if you like — matured by two years. Two years which will never be relived. The second fact is that ~~the~~ ^{certain} powers ~~have~~ appeared trying to destroy the detente. New, more destructive weapons ~~have been~~ ^{were} invented. More

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war hotbeds ~~appeared~~ flared up, especially in Asia and Africa. The danger, the threat is growing more menacing everywhere in the world.

This is why our Meeting this year must constitute a step beyond our last one. The message of this year's meeting should not confine itself to a ^{mere} formal expression of our disquiet but should be a message for life to go on. The phenomenal expansion of the mass media has enhanced the role of the word to the point that it embraces all aspects of expression. Apart from books and all sorts of printed materials, we, the writers - can and must influence ^{song} the theatre, the cinema, the television. ~~Our~~ ~~song~~ message should go down to the grass roots to touch even the illiterate, even the one who does not read, the child who has not been to school yet, every indifferent ~~and~~ unsuspecting non-participant.

Mankind ~~celebrates~~ ^{has} dedicated this year to the child. ~~Every~~ ^{In} every country ~~has discovered~~ new, original ways have been devised to remember this unfairly treated great little fellow. Deep down, however, we all know that whatever we may do for children, no matter ~~how~~ ~~much~~ what food, clothes or toys we give them, our offer will be superficial and wanting if we cannot ~~offer~~ ^{offer} them the great gift of security of their future, the survival of their greater common motherland, the Earth.

My dear friends,

This reunion of many of us after two years is very

moving. It is as if we are ~~of~~ continuing ~~a~~ a conversation begun ~~a~~ a long time ago and interrupted by a sudden accidental event. I believe that this already begun conversation, this friendly dialogue should not be discontinued, even if natural causes weed a few of us from the group. I grieve to remember the beloved faces of the poet Mireo Tursun Zanti ^{and others} ~~no longer~~ among us. It is my belief that all of us have grown aware of the fact that ^{it is imperative for} ~~the~~ writers, ~~of the world~~ ~~who~~ ^{who} are the very people who ~~must~~ must be in the vanguard of the forces for peace, to meet, discuss, analyse and break new paths. ~~Per~~ Allow me once more to express in public my thanks to the Bulgarian writers, who with their ^{characteristic} kindness, hospitality, discretion and warmth ~~to~~ have turned this Meeting into a success. One cannot but admire the great and bold initiatives taken by this small in territory and population country, which nevertheless ~~has~~ has inherited a great cultural tradition. I ~~am~~ wish our friends, the Bulgarian writers and the ^{entire} ~~state~~ Bulgarian people every happiness in ~~the~~ ^a brilliant continuation of its 1300 year long history. We, who have gained personal experience of this people, will celebrate ~~with~~ ~~them~~ this important ^{milestone} ~~date~~ in their history ^{with them} ~~next~~ next year.

My dear friends,

I shall finish with a wish. Let us turn these meetings of the people of letters and Art to peace marches with ~~one single~~ ^{one single} slogan: Life should go on.