

Dear Comrades,

I greet you on behalf of the United Democratic Youth Organisation of Cyprus, on behalf of the youth of that small island in the eastern part of the Mediterranean that has been facing for years now direct, cynical continuous imperialistic and fascist plots and has been struggling hard with its people for free existence. My island is on the other end of Europe, it is may be far away from France but yet the blue sea of the Mediterranean, this cradle of ancient civilisations and of present intrigues Unites us and brings us closer to each other. It is not by accident that our sea is called the burning sea. It is not by accident that fascist regimes have been imposed on peoples of our basin, that ^{American} warships are crossing contrinuously its waters. From my island we can smell the petrol of the Arab world the same as we can smell the gunpowder of the fighting going on in that area of the Middle East. By being a small island with a territory not bigger than 10.000 square Kilometers and a population just above 600.000 we have learned during our long, hard history to look at our problems in connection with the proplems of the whole region. This apart from all other things makes us attach great importance to the problems of friendship and solidarity with all other forces fighting on the same front. We know that we cannot defend by ourselves alone the island from the big NATO war machine if we don't have the massive support of our friends. As a matter of fact what has kept Cyprus alive throughout these years is this solidarity given wholeheartedly to us by the Socialist countries and especially by the Soviet Union, by the nonaligned countries and by the entire world progressive movement. I take this opportunity

to express our sincere thanks to you and to all progressive forces that have always stood by our side

We believe that there is no greater force in our days than solidarity and friendship between the peoples of the world. This noble idea we are continuously stressing in our youth meetings. ~~This we do by making our youth aware of the problems of other countries, by getting our youth acquainted with the struggles of the young people in the other countries. This we do by making our youth respect the achievements of the others and understand their setbacks.~~ I must tell you that we followed with great interest your recent campaigns for a

a progressive change in the political and social structure of France, for such a change that would give to the young people real possibilities for a real, human existence. We paid special attention to the tactics used for the greater possible unity of progressive forces and to the results achieved in that direction. We are proud of you young Communists of France, of your selfless, heroic work and of your wisdom in tackling difficult problems. I must tell you that we derive lessons from you as the question of the unity of forces for the countering of fascist plots in Cyprus is of paramount importance. The enemy in Cyprus uses all forms of attack - direct threats from abroad, terrorist armed groups, provocations of all kind. Even Bishops are used in order to deal a blow to the Archbishop Makarios who is the symbol of the resistance of the people. They don't succeed however because of ^{the} unity of the people that acts like a shield.

~~Dear friends,~~

~~You may be surprised why the youth movement of a newly independent Country that is waging such a difficult, militant struggle is represented here at your Congress by a woman. I must tell you straightly that the women play an important role in the struggle of Cyprus. In our youth organisation more than a third of the members are girls who apart from their contribution to the general activities use at the same time specific forms of work. We know that in this respect you have rich experience which we want to study. The girls are a big force which can and must be utilised for the cause of democracy, peace and progress.~~

Dear friends,

Our organizations are busy these days preparing for the 10th World Festival to be held in Berlin. This is of course a great event in the life of our youth movements with big political significance. It comes at a moment when there is a definite relaxation in world tension, at a moment when Europe is heading towards a period of Security and Cooperation, at a moment of dialogue and talks. But yet this process has yet to be consolidated. Peace is not yet fully enthroned in Indochina, the Middle East is like a dynamite ready to explode, fascism still poisons Europe. The Mediterranean is still a sea full of dangers. So the march of the peoples must continue with a

a bigger stride. And the festival will be such a forum. Cyprus will send to Berlin a strong delegation ready to participate actively at all the political and cultural events. Our pride will be the ancient satirical drama of Euripides "Cyclop" which has a strong current political accentuation.

In conclusion allow me to say that your great poet Louis Aragon in a dedication of his book "La mise A Mort" to a Cypriot said that Cyprus takes so much space in the Mediterranean as the heart in a human body. But yet it is so important as the heart is to a living organism!

The democratic youth of Cyprus promises at this Congress of yours that it will ^{do its best} keep this heart striking in the rythm of the great ideas of pur time. Cyprus will never ~~surrender~~ to imperialism, it will be a bastion of peace and Progress in the ancient sea of the Meditterrenean.

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