

International Meeting for the implementation  
of UN Resolutions on Cyprus  
Paris 6-7 November 1980

"Cyprus and Demilitarization"

Speech by Mr. P. Peonides  
Secretary General  
Cyprus Peace Committee

~~Ladies and Gentlemen,~~

It is an indisputable fact <sup>not only</sup> ~~at least~~ for the people of Cyprus - that the main cause of the sufferings of Cyprus lies in the big strategic importance given to our island by all those big powers who aim at an increased military presence and benefits in this area of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. This is a bitter experience which was brought to life when the independent state of Cyprus was being born within the British colonial system.

The establishing of the British bases has hindered to a great extent the independence and the integrity of the state and has become the cause of later troubles. Three years later, in January 1964, after a very suspicious period N.A.T.O. alliance came up to the open and made a claim to send military forces to the island and have Cyprus under its complete auspices restricting the legal rights of the Cyprus government. These intensions of N.A.T.O. soon became concrete plans proposed by the american side and aiming mainly at allocating bases to N.A.T.O. and Turkey in return for a kind of union of Cyprus with Greece. Naturally the pressure on imposing these plans which were obviously there to serve the purposes of a particular military alliance was accompanied by a dreadful anti-cypriot conspiracy. This conspiracy took the shape of an internal, terrorist fascist movement as well as that of an external N.A.T.O. armed intervension (coup d'etat of the Greek junta and the ~~turkish~~ invasion) with all its known tragic consequences for the people of Cyprus: occupation, refugees, division. The Turkish troops <sup>that</sup> are still occupying a large part of Cypriot soil despite the relevant U.N. resolutions, ~~they~~

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have not only promoted the chauvinist expanding plans of Ankara at the expense of Cyprus but they have also acted as a N.A.T.O. force for the implementation of military plans of N.A.T.O. concerning Cyprus.

Our people have struggled hard through all these years and their struggle was basically carried out to safeguard peace against those who contrive new war adventures for other nations.

We should not forget that when Cyprus was being attacked, a similar kind of invasion was taking place in the Middle East at the same time. This led to the seizure of arab territory and to grave deterioration of the Middle East problem while on the other hand the Greek military, junta thrived in the country and was directly involved in N.A.T.O.'s military ambitions in the Middle East and Eastern Mediteranean.

My intension is not to analyse all aspects of the Cyprus problem and the military interests of N.A.T.O. in the area. What I would like to stress is that the Cyprus problem which has been dealt with at the U.N. and international forums is basically a problem of eliminating a source of war and it should be looked upon as such and it is seen in this way by many nations. This aspect of the Cyprus problem turns it into an international affair reflected in the existence of the International Committee of Solidarity with Cyprus embracing tens of national committees as members as well as in the fact that our problem is one of the first international problems to be discussed all over the world and one whose solution is sought for the sake of world peace and safety. This element makes the international movement of solitarity with Cyprus part of a world movement to safeguard peace.

My Dear delegates, we believe that complete demilitarization of Cyprus will form the basis of a final, lasting and just solution of the Cyprus problem according to the U.N. resolutions and the Makarios-Denktash and Kyprianou-Denktash agreements. When we say demilitarization we mean complete withdrawal of all turkish troops of occupation as well as all other foreign troops in Cyprus and the dismantling of the British military bases under strong international guarantees. At this point we would like to denounce that lately the British bases have been used constantly and contrary to the treaty of establishment of the Cyprus Republic by american air force and other military forces. This inevitably involves Cyprus in plans which, if carried out, they could lead mankind to a nuclear holocaust.

The British press revealed at times that the British bases in Cyprus are used as a parking place of American forces for use in the Arab world and as a storeroom of American nuclear missiles "Persing 2". The American U2 are already using the British bases to launch their spy missions. All these create fatal dangerous situations for Cyprus and they also outline solutions utterly contrary to the will of Cypriot people as a whole and peace in this sensitive part of the Eastern Mediterranean. We would like to declare at this stage that the demand for complete demilitarization of Cyprus is strongly supported both by the Greek-Cypriots and the Turkish-Cypriots. During the World ~~Conference on Peace~~ <sup>Parliament of the Peoples for Peace</sup> which took place at the end of last September in Sofia Greek-Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot party ~~leaders~~ <sup>and mass</sup> met for the first time after the dramatic events of the last few years. They all stated that they would fight for the dismantling of the British bases in Cyprus which present a grave danger for the Greek-Cypriots, the Turkish-Cypriots and the people around Cyprus.

Their common declaration states that "all Cypriots want to make of Cyprus an island free of all foreign troops and bases, in a completely demilitarized country, a bridge of peace, friendship and cooperation in this disturbed part of the world."

This declaration has immense significance because it creates all the preconditions for the establishment of a common patriotic front made of all Cypriots. This front came to existence despite the efforts of our enemies to bring about division of the two communities and the island in order to undermine the unity of the state and to establish N.A.T.O. on the island.

We must mention here that the demand for demilitarization of Cyprus which ~~last year was~~ <sup>is</sup> the focal point of a mass ~~move~~ <sup>campaign</sup> by the people and the Peace March organised by 60,000 people was officially put forward ~~by~~ <sup>including</sup> the President of the Cyprus Republic, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, ~~and the emergency meeting of the General Council of the U.N. for disarmament, in May 1978. This was also included in the U.N. General Meeting on Cyprus in November 1979. This resolution, number 34/30, states clearly that it greets the proposition for complete disarmament of Cyprus.~~ <sup>at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly</sup> ~~and the emergency meeting of the General Council of the U.N. for disarmament, in May 1978. This was also included in the U.N. General Meeting on Cyprus in November 1979. This resolution, number 34/30, states clearly that it greets the proposition for complete disarmament of Cyprus.~~ <sup>proposal</sup>

This proposal for disarmament was also greeted by the Non-aligned Summit Conference in Havana in September 1979. The relevant resolution of the conference characterised this proposal as an important contribution towards a settlement of the Cyprus problem and asked for the necessary measures to be taken for this purpose.

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There is no doubt that the demilitarization of Cyprus will contribute to a great extent not only towards a solution but also towards the international struggle for peace and disarmament and against the ~~race for acquiring war equipment~~ <sup>arms and in particular the ease of tensions in the Middle East</sup>. It will help particularly to safeguard the spirit of the final act of Helsinki, the creation of peace zones and the freeing of the Mediterranean of all nuclear weapons and foreign navies and troops. The demilitarization of Cyprus will also contribute towards lessening the tension in the Eastern Mediterranean <sup>towards the tension in the M.E. where as a result of the 12th-12th war there is a mass US buildup. It will contribute too in the</sup> and improving the relations between Greece, and Turkey, and Cyprus where N.A.T.O. <sup>aggressiveness</sup> influence has been growing <sup>late</sup> constantly imposing ultimately a military coup d'etat in Turkey and Greece's entry into N.A.T.O. <sup>the military wing of NATO.</sup> ~~It will~~ As our highly esteemed President <sup>Mr. Chandris declared this morning</sup> the demilitarization of Cyprus will be a mighty weapon in the hands of all <sup>of you</sup>. The people of Cyprus who have hardly tasted peace in 20 years of independent existence yearn, <sup>wish</sup> like other nations, for the possibility to live and prosper in peaceful conditions without any foreign interference of any kind. This wish is turned into a fighting disposition which will not give in N.A.T.O. pressure, will not allow its soil to become a deadly nest, turned against friendly neighbouring nations such as the arab world and the socialist world. Our zest for peace will turn Cyprus into a strong fortress for peace, a ~~nation~~ <sup>country</sup> where Greeks and Turks will relish the same goods of life within the framework of a federate, democratic state. We greet you all and thank you for your support in our difficult task in the name of peace and freedom under extremely difficult conditions. <sup>In answer as a people we are always trying to offer our own solidarity to all the people struggling for freedom, dem. & peace</sup> We would like to express our particular thanks to the host of this conference, the French representatives and their people whose struggle for democracy and peace we admire. We thank you again for the helping hand you are offering to our small Cyprus.