



The Rt Hon Sir Roger Gale M.P.

House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

01843 848588 (Private Office - a.m. only)
website: www.rogergale.com
email: galerj@parliament.uk
suzy@galemail.com

Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office,
King Charles St,
Whitehall, Westminster,
London SW1A 2AH,

13th April 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you as Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Cyprus, with the support of our cross-party group of Officers, regarding the announcement by the United Nations (UN) about an informal five-plus-one meeting on Cyprus from 27-29 April. The APPG has received representations on this matter from our Secretariat, the National Federation of Cypriots in the UK. We welcome both your recent visit to Cyprus and that of Minister Morton last week, as well as the readiness of Her Majesty's Government ("HMG") to support this effort. We are certain that you will concur that as the Republic of Cyprus is an EU member state, it is critical that the EU is in attendance at these talks to ensure that any proposals are aligned with the EU *acquis* and laws.

In his most recent report to the Security Council on his Good Offices Mission, the UN Secretary General, Mr Antonio Guterres said that: *"The purpose of this meeting will be to determine whether common ground exists for the parties to negotiate a sustainable, lasting solution to the Cyprus problem within a foreseeable horizon."* The recent UN Security Council Resolution 2561, adopted on 29 January 2021, reiterated the basis of a solution by urging *"the sides to renew their efforts to achieve an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions"*. Given this, and the previous convergences, it is crucial that this round of negotiations commences from the point at which they stopped in Crans Montana in 2017.

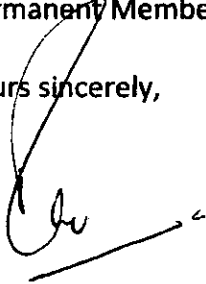
Sadly, instead of engaging constructively in efforts to reunite Cyprus, over the last months Turkey, and the administration in the Turkish occupied north of Cyprus, has unlawfully re-opened the beachfront of Varosha and continued equally unlawful drilling attempts in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus. These actions clearly demonstrate that we cannot underestimate or downplay the statements made, or intentions telegraphed, by senior Turkish officials, which are then acted on. It is therefore deeply troubling that going into this meeting both President Erdogan and the new leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr Ersin Tatar, have been publicly calling for partition of the island and a "two state solution".

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 would also disregard and abandon the agreed basis for negotiations as well as the significant convergences reached to date. We recognise that HMG has consistently supported a bizonal, bicomunal federal solution, over the decades. Given the stated intentions emanating from Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, it is especially important that HMG uses every occasion and opportunity, and especially at the Geneva meeting later this month, to be unequivocal and clear in its public and private messaging (especially to Turkey) that the only basis for a solution is the internationally accepted model of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, as defined by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Moreover, it must be made clear that the reunited state will be a continuation of the Republic of Cyprus, as it is in the best interest of the United Kingdom to preserve our continued cooperation with a reliable ally and partner in international institutions.

I am sure that we can agree that our interests in the region are best served by having a reunified, stable and truly independent Cyprus. It is therefore essential that the system of guarantees that has failed Cyprus so badly in the past is abolished.

It is, in our view, vital that the British Government plays a constructive role in the upcoming meeting and continues to stand firmly on the side of international law and UN resolutions which, as a Permanent Member, we have a duty and responsibility to uphold.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Gale', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the bottom of the signature.

Chairman: Rt. Hon. Sir Roger Gale MP

Co-signatories

Vice-Chair: Rt. Hon. Lord Adonis

Vice-Chair: Bambos Charalambous MP

Vice-Chair: Christine Jardine MP

Vice-Chair: Rt. Hon. Baroness Massey of Darwen

Vice-Chair: Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes MP

Vice-Chair: Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP

Secretary: Jack Dromey MP