



National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Εθνική Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου

Working for a Free, United Cyprus

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office,
King Charles St,
Whitehall, Westminster,
London, SW1A 2AH

14th April 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Ahead of the upcoming informal 'five-plus-one' meeting on Cyprus in Geneva on the 27-29th April, I'm writing to you on behalf of the 300,000 British Citizens of Cypriot origin. Our community is following developments closely with hope for a free and reunited Cyprus. However, we also have grave concerns regarding the partitionist agenda that both Turkey and the illegal regime in the occupied areas have adopted and are now actively pursuing. Sadly, this now publicly confirms Turkey's true ambition for illegally invading and occupying Cyprus in 1974, to permanently divide the Republic of Cyprus.

We are grateful for the interest that you and Her Majesty's Government ("HMG") have shown in efforts to reunite Cyprus through a negotiated settlement. As a diaspora, we urge you and HMG to unequivocally advocate policy positions based on respect for human rights and international law, at the upcoming informal meeting on Cyprus. Specifically:

- A solution must be based on the internationally accepted model of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality and a single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship - as defined by relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the High-Level Agreements
- Substantive negotiations on the Cyprus issue must resume from the point at which they stopped in Crans Montana in 2017
- A reunified Cyprus should be a functional state and a continuation of the Republic of Cyprus as the best way of protecting the established sovereignty, international

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Vice Presidents: Bambos Charalambous, Michael Ellinas, Andreas Papaevripides • General Secretary: Michael Kashis • Treasurer: Ninos Koumettou • Executive Secretary: Andreas Karaolis
Members of the Executive Committee: Constantine Alexandrou, Susie Constantinides, Andreas Gregoriou, Yiannis Koumettou, Menicos Kouvaros, Marios Minaides, Christos Tuton, Michael Yiakoumi
A complete list of member organisations and the names of all the current officers and members of the Secretariat of the Federation can be found on the Federation's website

personality, and independence of Cyprus, as well as its membership of international bodies

- The European Union should be present at the meeting to ensure that the solution is compatible with EU law and acquis
- As a modern and free country, a reunified Cyprus does not require guarantor powers or foreign troops as part of its security framework.

Any attempt to partition Cyprus would be a clear violation of the 1960 Treaties of Establishment and Guarantee, treaties that the United Kingdom is a co-signatory of, as a Guarantor Power. This is against the interests of the Cypriot people, nor may I suggest the United Kingdom, given the presence of UK military bases on the island. Such a move would also disregard the agreed basis for negotiations and the High-Level Agreements reached to date.

On January 19, the UN Security Council (UNSC) expressed its support to the efforts being undertaken by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) to resume peace talks and unanimously reiterated that the only basis is a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. For decades, the Cypriot people and Cypriot refugees have demonstrated undeniable flexibility by accepting this compromise basis for a solution, as it will reunite the island and enable those who wish to, to return to the land and towns from which they were forcibly removed in 1974, when Turkey illegally invaded and occupied 37% of Cypriot territory.

It is unfortunate that instead of working together towards a solution, Mr Tatar, with the active support of President Erdogan, have instead chosen to increase tensions and further poison the negotiating climate, including illegally opening the beachfront of Varosi, illegal actions in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as their unacceptable calls for a “two-state solution”. Their recent actions make it clear that we must not ignore the statements made by President Erdogan, members of his government and so-called officials of the illegal regime in the Turkish occupied part of Cyprus. The implementation of their threats regarding Varosha are a case in point.

It was pleasing to see Minister Wendy Morton visit the island last week to discuss the Cyprus issue and UK-Cyprus bilateral relations. As a community we welcome this positive engagement. However, I also note that unfortunately during Minister Morton's recent visit to the island she referenced seeking to "end Turkish Cypriot isolation". I'd like to emphasise that this so-called "isolation", is a direct consequence of Turkey's continued illegal occupation of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus since 1974 and the illegal unilateral declaration of independence in 1983. These actions have been condemned by HMG, the international community and the United Nations through Security Council Resolutions 541 and 550.

I urge the Government to approach the upcoming talks with a clear and unequivocal position that the solution to the Cyprus issue must be based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, uphold International & EU law and respect human rights. Her Majesty's Government must be prepared to publicly rebuff attempts by Turkey and the occupying regime to partition Cyprus and permanently divide its people.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Christos Karaolis
President
National Federation of Cypriots in the UK