

CALLING FOR UNITED STATES INITIATIVE SEEKING JUST AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF SITUATION ON CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on Cyprus' troubled history. For years, the people of Cyprus have suffered under the yoke of Turkish aggression. But I also rise to look for hope toward the future. For recent events have left the people of Cyprus with the best hopes for peace they have had in decades.

Cyprus is a unique nation, one which has always served as a bridge between the cultures of East and West. The mix of cultures of the Cypriot people was for generations a blessing rather than a curse. Almost four decades ago, when Cyprus was granted independence from Britain, it appeared that for the first time in the centuries the Cypriot people would be able to determine their destiny. But that opportunity was torn from their grasp by the threat of outside aggression. In 1974, that threat was realized when the Turkish military invaded Cyprus, dividing the island and causing immeasurable pain and suffering. While the idea of ethnic cleansing was not invented on Cyprus, it was carried out with brutal efficiency. Thousands were forced out of their homes, never to return. Families were torn apart, separated only by an artificial line drawn by aggression. Cyprus' natural beauty was forever scarred by outside invaders.

As Americans, it is vital that we support the peace process in Cyprus while the opportunity remains. The United States is uniquely situated to play an important and constructive role in the effort to build peace in Cyprus. The President's recent appointment of Richard Holbrooke as his special representative to Cyprus is especially welcome. Ambassador Holbrooke has ably demonstrated his skill as a peacemaker and a diplomat. His role in the process only serves to reassure optimists that the opportunity for peace is real, and that the United States is deeply committed to the effort for peace in Cyprus. We cannot let this opportunity slip out of our grasp. We must stand with the people of Cyprus as they work to throw off the yoke of Turkish oppression.

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SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of peace and stability on the Island of Cyprus. However, Mr. Speaker, if there is to be a resolution of the Cyprus issue, then there must be a balanced approach giving both Greeks and Turks equal voice both in the process and in the government. If this resolution intends to bestow sole rule of Cyprus to

the Greek community, then I rise in strong opposition.

We have been down that blood-soaked road before when in the 1960's and 1970's, Archbishop Makarios adopted a policy of Enosis, in an attempt to unite Cyprus with Greece. Fighting broke out, many Turkish Cypriots were killed, in some cases, slaughtered, and the Turkish Government, as one of the legal guarantors of the Republic of Cyprus, felt, in order to protect the lives and safeguard the property of the Turkish Cypriots, that military intervention was in order.

Since 1974, there has been a de facto military balance on the island which has prevented additional bloodshed. An upset in this balance could result in future hostilities. The international community cannot make the problem go away between the Greeks and Turks on the island of Cyprus, only those two parties can.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned with some of the language in House Concurrent Resolution 81. The language of the resolution states, "Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem."

This language does not give any incentive to the Greek Cypriots to settle with the Turkish Cypriots. Moreover, on February 24, 1997, Greece alone objected to a draft common EU position demanding that "all Cypriots be able to participate in the accession process" because, according to Athens, its reference to Turkish Cypriots contradicts U.N. and EU policies that one internationally recognized Cyprus Government is competent to negotiate for the state.

The resolved clauses are especially troubling. The second resolved clause states, "The Congress considers lasting peace and stability on Cyprus could best be secured by a process of complete demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces, * * *, and providing for alternative internationally acceptable and effective security arrangements as negotiated by the parties."

Mr. Speaker, this to me suggests that Turkey is directed to withdrawal from the island of Cyprus without direct input from the Turkish Cypriot community. This is not possible without the creation of a security apparatus which is found acceptable to the Turkish Cypriot community. The Congress needs a careful reminder into the history of Cyprus before such a suggestion is considered.

I want to remind my colleagues that in 1960, when Great Britain relinquished control of the island, a bicomunal government was established with shared leadership by Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots as political equals. Neither community was to dominate the new government. Tragically, right after Britain's departure, the new President of Cyprus, a Greek Cypriot, Archbishop Makarios, began to carry out his plan for union with Greece. By December 1963, Greek Cypriots had destroyed the bicomunal character of the republic physically ousting Turkish Cypriot leaders from their elected positions and destroying over 100 Turkish Cypriot villages.

For the next 11 years, Turkish Cypriots, heavily outnumbered by the Greek Cypriots, suffered great losses—human and material—in clashes initiated by Greek Cypriots and fully

supported by the Greek Army. One out of every one hundred twenty Turkish Cypriots, including women, children, and the elderly, was killed during this period even with U.N. peacekeeping troops present on the island. Thousands of Turkish Cypriots were forced to flee from their homes to live in enclaves throughout the island and were, held hostage in their own land without representation in government which was stipulated in the 1960 constitution.

United States Secretary of State George Ball visited Cyprus in February 1964 and concluded that Greek Cypriots "just wanted to be left alone to kill Turkish Cypriots." Turkey waited for 11 years for help from the world community. None came. By 1974, Turkey could no longer stand by and watch innocent Turkish Cypriots be slaughtered by Greek Cypriots.

So Turkey intervened militarily on the island which was completely legal under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee signed by the Turkish Cypriots, Turkey, Britain, Greece, and the Greek Cypriots. It clearly stated that any of the signatories had the right to intervene on Cyprus should the sovereignty of the island be threatened. These troops have posed no threat to the southern part of the island. Since the Turkish military intervention concluded in 1974, these troops have never attacked or threatened to attack the south. They are simply to ensure the security of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Due to domestic considerations, we are not doing what is right and necessary on the Cyprus issue. The Cyprus conflict is an international issue relating to Turks and Greeks and, if we want to help settle the issue, we must be totally even-handed in all facets of our approach. They both must learn to live in cohabitation. Perhaps, separate sovereignty of the communities, as in the proposal of bizonal and bicomunal governance, is in the best interest of security both for the region and for the United States. That could be determined in meetings between Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denkash and Greek Cypriot leader Glafko Clerides.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to thank my chairman, the honorable and kind-hearted gentleman from New York, BEN GILMAN, for bringing this issue to the attention of the Congress. Cyprus is a vital issue for the security of the eastern Mediterranean. The proper encouragement by the United States Congress could help both Greeks and Turks to understand that they must work together to resolve their differences.

TRIBUTE TO PHEBE WARD BOSTWICK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phebe Ward Bostwick, an outstanding citizen and dedicated community leader of the 14th Congressional District who passed away on July 6, 1997. She was the devoted wife of Alan Bostwick and the stepmother of three children, the proud grandmother of eight, and great grandmother of seven. She was married to Alan Bostwick for a remarkable 36 years.

Phebe Bostwick was a trailblazer. At the young age of 15, she was admitted to Stanford University as one of only 500 women permitted to study on the campus at any one