

through the continuing global embargo of the Turkish Cypriots but for Turkey. Turkish Cypriot youth, straining in a economy under perpetual duress, have had to flee the island in search of opportunity. Time has allowed the embargo to weaken Turkish Cypriot resistance to the Greek Cypriot ambition to reduce them to vassalage. In this favorable international context for the Greek Cypriot south, any Greek Cypriot leader who would have yielded anything to Turkish Cypriots would have been committing political suicide.

At its birth from British colonial rule in 1960, Cyprus sported a single sovereignty with single citizenship under a finely balanced constitution. To opine on responsibility for the destruction of the constitutional order in 1963 and the necessity for Turkish troops to rescue Turkish Cypriots from violence in 1974 would imperil ongoing reunification talks. It is sufficient to note that through Greek and Greek Cypriot lobbying and a western prejudice favoring Christians over Muslims, the international community has severed virtually all government and private connections to Turkish Cypriots for nearly 45 years. That isolation was not required by national or international laws. It was the result of cynical political or economic calculations of governments and private enterprise. Intermittent negotiations over reunification with separate constituent states predictably stagnated for three decades. Greek Cypriots generally demanded supremacy, while Turkish Cypriots generally demanded equality.

Then came the 2004 "Annan Plan." United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan fashioned a Nobel Prize-like breakthrough to reunify Cyprus through a bold scheme of federalism that accommodated both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot aspirations while reciprocally quelling their fears. Dual referendums on the "Annan Plan" were held in April that year. Turkish Cypriots voted overwhelmingly in favor. The United States and the European Union had lured them into affirmative votes by promising to end the strict embargo on the TRNC if the unexpected happened and Greek Cypriots balked. They did, but the embargo has remained. Neither the United States nor the EU has honored their respective promises to open direct links to the TRNC. Their international credibility has plunged and diminished their ability to facilitate reconciliation elsewhere through a combination of promised carrots and sticks. To add insult to injury to the Turkish Cypriots, who had voted in favor of peace and unity, the European Union proceeded to admit solely the Greek Cypriot south as a new member, theoretically representing all of Cyprus on the heels of its shipwreck of reunification.

The issue remained dormant for four years until the 2008 election of Greek Cypriot President Christofias on a platform that included a renewal of negotiations with President Talat. Face-to-face talks began early in the year. After a meeting on May 23, the two leaders committed themselves to achieving "a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as defined by relevant [United Nations] Security Council resolutions." The envisioned partnership dispensation would comprise a federal government with a single international personality along with a Turkish Cypriot constituent state and a Greek Cypriot constituent state bearing equal status.

President Christofias and President Talat met again on July 1, when they agreed in principle on a single sovereignty and single citizenship. A scheduled meeting on July 25 is expected to conclude with an agreement to begin discussions in September on a comprehensive final settlement. Working groups

and technical committees have already been addressing core political questions and day-to-day issues such as education, road safety, health and the environment.

Despite contrary expectations from world leaders, Greek Cypriots nixed the "Annan Plan" because they perceived that the international embargo of the TRNC put time on their side. The United States can reverse that perception by immediately initiating transportation, telecommunications, trade and sporting ties with the TRNC conditioned on a certification by the secretary of state that Turkish Cypriots are negotiating in good faith for reunification on just and equitable terms. That opening is exactly what President Christofias needs to sell an equal partnership single Cypriot state to his compatriots.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 34th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus and to commemorate this tragedy for the Greek Cypriot people.

The 34th commemoration of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus serves to remind all freedom-loving people to solemnly remember the 1974 Turkish military invasion of the island of Cyprus, to mourn those who lost their lives in the invasion, and to condemn the ongoing Turkish occupation. For the past 34 years, Cyprus has endured the illegal military occupation of more than one third of its territory by the Turkish armed forces, in violation of a number of U.N. Security Council resolutions. However, both the U.S. and the Cypriot governments remain committed to achieving a peaceful resolution of this dispute through diplomatic negotiations.

However, the strong U.S.-Cyprus relationship is not just based on a shared interest in ending the Turkish occupation of Cyprus, but also on the fact that the U.S. and Cyprus share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. The U.S. and the rest of the international community have a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the Turkish military occupation.

Cyprus's goal is the reunification of the island as a bicommunal and bizonal federation that will protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots, but also implement a prompt withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces. Cypriot President Demetris Christofias is committed to negotiating a just, viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions, the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979, as well as the values and principles on which the European Union was founded.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to take note of the 34-year anniversary of the violent invasion that brutally divided the island nation of Cyprus, and to encourage Turkish Cypriot leaders to negotiate in good faith with their Greek Cypriot counterparts, settle this dispute, and develop a plan for reunification that addresses the serious concerns of all

Cypriots. The reunification of the island nation remains a priority for this Congress and for the international community. On this anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, we mourn the deaths of those killed in the invasion and the lost opportunities for reunification over the years, and we look forward to a future of a reunited and peaceful Cyprus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday July 17, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 511: "yes." On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6515.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RICHARD GARABEDIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life of an industrious and generous man in the agricultural community of California, Richard Garabedian of Fowler, California. Richard recently passed away after a valiant battle with cancer at the age of 76 years old. He leaves behind his loving wife of 45 years Eleanor, three children and several grandchildren.

Mr. Garabedian was born on June 13, 1932 at his family's 24 by 24 farmhouse in Fowler, California. His parents, having escaped Ottoman Turkey in 1912, immigrated to the U.S. where they first settled in Massachusetts. The family moved to Wisconsin where they soon realized the snow didn't suit them well. The warm climate of the Central Valley of California beckoned them and they settled in Fowler, California. Richard attended Del Rey Grammar School and graduated from Selma High School. After graduating from high school Richard attended Fresno State College. During the Korean War, Richard served with the U.S. Army for two years.

Richard's strong work ethic and his ability to foster action put him at center stage within the California raisin industry. Richard was well known for his strident advocacy on behalf of the raisin industry and raisin growers in particular. He served as chairman of the Raisin Administrative Committee and on the Raisin Bargaining Association Board for 26 years. Through his travels on behalf of the raisin industry, Richard was able to accumulate a broader grasp of the complexities of culture and economics as they relate to the raisin industry both locally and nationally, and abroad. Though Richard's efforts were not always in line with the thinking of others in the industry, all acknowledge that Richard's ardent efforts stemmed from his deep desire that all raisin growers receive the best monetary return due them for their earnest efforts. His tireless efforts on behalf of raisin growers continued until the day he passed away.