

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ARTICLE ON TURKEY'S INVASION OF REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Harry Moskos, the Editor of the Knoxville News-Sentinel and a very good friend of mine, wrote an editorial today about the 25th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, today, in fact, marks the 25th anniversary of this tragic date for people of Hellenic descent all over the world. On July 20, 1974, Turkey, a member of NATO, attacked the Mediterranean island.

Just recently, as we are all well aware, a Country was being ethnically cleansed, and the U.S. and other NATO powers rushed in to help them. That Country, Kosovo, was the object of several thousand NATO bombs. President Clinton authorized the air strikes in large part due to the ethnic cleansing that was taking place there.

Mr. Speaker, what about the ethnic cleansing that took place in 1974 in Cyprus? Why did the United States and other countries sit back while Turkey, a member of NATO, committed atrocities in the northern portion of Cyprus? Why has the United States of America turned a blind eye to what Turkey has been doing over the years? These are questions that deserve to be answered so that Greek people throughout the world know this Country really supports them.

Mr. Speaker, I have included a copy of the editorial that appears in today's edition of the Knoxville News-Sentinel and would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, July 20, 1999]

25 YEARS OF OCCUPATION: U.S. SHOULD END ITS TOLERANCE FOR TURKEY'S ILLEGAL HOLD ON CYPRUS

Today marks the 25th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. Since then, Turkey has illegally occupied the northern third of the island nation, roughly the size of Connecticut, despite United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for a return to a single sovereignty.

This anniversary is particularly poignant because, as U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden Jr. of Delaware observes, it has been "an entire quarter-century since the Greek inhabitants of northern Cyprus were ethnically cleansed from their homes by the Turkish army."

The attack by the Turkish army on July 20, 1974, was a clear-cut case of international aggression by one state against another, and tragically, it was committed by a NATO member.

That is the same NATO that is undertaking missions to reverse ethnic cleansing in Kosovo but allows one of its members to continue to commit this crime with impunity.

The framework for a negotiated settlement to resolve the Cyprus issue, including demilitarization of the island, can be found in two resolutions adopted last December by the United Nations Security Council. The resolutions seek a settlement based on a single sovereignty and a single citizenship, with Cyprus' independence and territorial integrity safeguarded.

While images of ethnic cleansing remained vivid in our thoughts from witnessing the recent atrocities of Kosovo, most Americans have long forgotten that 200,000 Greek Cypriots were evicted from their homes by the Turkish army during July and August of 1974.

These atrocities, documented by the European Commission of Human Rights, show that 1,618 people, including four Americans, disappeared. To this date, their fate has not been ascertained. Thousands were expelled from their homes, and untold women fell victim to rape.

Sound familiar? The sad difference is that the world community practices selected intolerance when addressing wrongs. NATO's actions in Kosovo centered on the premise of respect for human rights, including the return of refugees to their homes.

Cyprus today remains forcibly divided. Although compromises have been offered, Turkey has failed to respond and, in effect, keeps moving the goal posts when efforts to end this stalemate are proposed.

The Cyprus problem is one of aggression caused by Turkey, which now has a standing army in Cyprus that exceeds 35,000 troops armed with hundreds of tanks and other sophisticated weapons supported by American dollars. The United Nations has characterized the Turkish-occupied area of Cyprus as one of the most densely militarized zones in the world.

More stability is needed in the world today. A major way to help achieve the stability is to resolve the issue in Cyprus, an island nation well on its way to becoming a full member of the European Union.

Serb forces, under international pressure, have left Kosovo, and an international force is there to safeguard the return of the refugees. No less should be done for Cyprus. Turkish occupation troops should be withdrawn, the National Guard disbanded and an international force established to assure compliance.

In Kosovo, NATO took military action to challenge aggression. In Cyprus, it has looked the other way. Turkey, as a member of NATO and a European Union aspirant, must be held to the highest standards of compliance with international law.

This is not a call for military action to reverse Turkey's hold on Cyprus. It is a call for the United States to end its toleration of Turkey's illegal behavior.

The tragedy of just observing this 25th anniversary should be reason enough to spark the United States to get involved decisively to resolve the problem of Cyprus through forceful negotiation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 309, due to travel restrictions, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING EARL C. SPOHR

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this time to congratulate Earl C. Spohr for his "exemplary efforts in promoting and advertising the services of the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). He has been selected as HCFA's Volunteer of the year and will attend a Banquet and awards ceremony in Miami Beach, Florida, where he will be honored. Earl responded modestly to the invitation saying, "It came as a pleasant surprise."

It is very important that we educate our elderly about Medicare and the services that it provides. Many seniors go without care that they are entitled to because they are unaware of their benefits. It makes me very proud that one of my constituents took it upon himself to educate seniors about medicare.

QUEENS THEATRE WILL PRESENT THE THIRD LATINO ARTS FESTIVAL

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, this summer Queens Theatre in the Park will present the 3rd Latino Arts Festival to celebrate the contributions of Latino and Latin American artists to the cultural life of Queens and the greater New York metropolitan area. The Festival features a combination of large and small music, theatre, film, dance, children's productions, and visual art exhibitions. Since its modest beginning as a cabaret series with one headliner, the Festival has quickly grown to be one of the major cultural attractions for Latinos in the Northeast.

Latinos represent the fastest growing segment of the population in Queens. In response to this changing demographic, the Theatre has made a strong commitment to involving the Latino community in its programs and services. The Festival targets its audience during

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