July 27, 2001

the European Union which is about to accept a large number of new members. Upon access-

sion to the EU, Cyprus will, in capacity as a full member, be firmly anchored to the western political and security structures, enhancing both geographically and qualita-
tively the operational capabilities of the Western world.

The Republic of Cyprus and the United States share a common tradition of respect for

human rights, a faith in the power of demo-

cratic institutions, and a commitment to free

market economics. Our two governments have

similarly had close ties. Consequently, it is in

the interest of the United States to help the

strong and vibrant Cyprus which will enhance

the future strength of our alliance. To that end,

the most meaningful way to ensure that out-

come is to promote Cyprus’s membership in the

European Union.

Union membership for Cyprus also has the

potential to resolve some of the ongoing disputes in the Mediterranean region. At the Eu-

ropean Council meeting in Helsinki in December

1999, Turkey was granted the status of a candidate country for accession to the EU. In

accordance with the Accession Partnership

Document of Turkey, which was endorsed by

the European Council meeting in Nice in De-

cember 2000, Turkey must strongly support the

UN Secretary General’s efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the process of

finding a comprehensive settlement of the

Cyprus problem.

The European Council decision taken in

Helsinki in December 1999 also states that the

Council’s decision on accession for Cyprus will

not be confirmed on a settlement to the Cy-

prus problem. On the other hand, it is un-

derstood that accession negotiations with Tur-

ey cannot begin until Turkey complies with the

stipulations and conditions laid down by the

European Council decisions in Helsinki,

Copenhagen and Nice.

The United States government has strongly

supported the Helsinki Conclusions both on

the issue of Cyprus’ accession and Turkey’s

candidacy for membership and should con-

inue to do so. Additionally, serious steps

have been undertaken by the UN Secretary

General to resume negotiations between the

two communities in Cyprus. These efforts

have always enjoyed the full support of the

United States.

It is obvious that resolution of the perennial dispute between Greece and Turkey on Cy-

prus remains the key to a successful and last-

ing settlement of the problem. Although the

Helsinki decision does not consider a Greco-

Turkish agreement on Cyprus a precondition for

the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the

European Union, such an agreement would remove any obstacles to the accession of

Turkey to the European Union, benefitting

all parties concerned in the current dispute.

First, it will act as a catalyst in resolving the

problem of Cyprus, which has been poisoning the

relations among the parties to the conflict,

their NATO allies, and the United States. Sec-

ond, improvement in the relations between

Greece and Turkey will also strengthen the

South-Eastern flank of NATO so it can func-

tion in its full capacity, unhindered by ancient

frictions that have virtually prevented any co-

operation between the two allies at periods in

the past.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Third, an agreement between the conflicting parties will enhance stability and security in two troubled regions of the world, the Middle-

East and the Balkans. These areas are vital to

the national interests of the United States and

any stabilizing influence might serve to facili-
tate other peace agreements.

In pursuing this goal, it should be made

clear to the Turkish leadership and Mr. Denktash that their position on these issues is unsatisfactory. No effort should be made to

appease the Turkish-Cypriot leader in order to

entice his return to the negotiating table. Not

only should he return, but he should negotiate in good faith in order to reach a comprehen-
sive settlement within the framework provided for by the relevant United Nations Security

Council resolutions. This includes the estab-

lishment of a bizonal, bi-communal federation

with a single international personality, sov-

ereignty, and a single citizenship.

It would also be in the interest of Tur-

cy to cooperate with the United Nations and

the rest of the international community on Cy-

prus in order to advance its own membership in

the European Union. In addition, Turkey

spends more than $200 million annually to

sustain northern Cyprus; it also maintains

35,000 of its own troops illegally in the region.

With settlement on the matter of Cyprus, this

huge financial obligation will be removed.

Northern Cyprus will perhaps be the greatest

beneficiary of Cypriot membership and resolu-
tion of the entire affair. It is currently in a state of economic distress, being bolstered only by

Turkish support. By joining the rest of Cyprus,

it would become part of an already progress-

economy, eliminating its financial depend-

dence on Turkey.

So far we have seen that both Turkey and

Mr. Denktash have sought to create pre-

conditions on Cyprus’ accession by tying that

process to the resolution of a comprehensive

settlement in Cyprus. The United States

should remind Turkey that any threat against

the Republic of Cyprus will be met with strong
counter-determination and that Turkey does not possess any veto power over Euro-

pean Union membership. Promotion of Cy-

prus’ membership will remove what has been

a stumbling block in comprehensive settlement

negotiations, and it will allow Turkey to strive
toward the laudable goal of its own accession.

We are all standing at the threshold of a

historic opportunity that will shape the futures

of generations of Cypriots, Greeks, and Turks.

We have a responsibility to these ensuant

generations to secure their futures by contrib-

uting to the efforts to create a peaceful world.

It is precisely to stress the above stated

points that I have felt compelled to submit

House Concurrent Resolution 164 which ex-

presses the United States’ support for Cyprus’ admission to the European Union according to

the Helsinki Conclusions of 1999 which state

that while a solution to the political crisis in

Cyprus is preferable prior to EU accession, it is

not a precondition for entry.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral and ethical

obligation to use our influence as Americans

to rally Cypriots—as defenders of democ-

racy, and as defenders of human rights. There

have been twenty-seven years of illegitimate

occupation, violence, and strife; let’s not make

it twenty-eight.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on America’s battle with heart dis-

ease. The Government Reform Committee, which I Chair, has been conducting an over-
sight investigation into the role of complemen-
tary and alternative therapies in our health care system. Dr. Dean Ornish has testified be-

fore our Committee. His program prevents heart attacks and strokes—not through expen-

sive medication or surgery—but through life-

style modification like diet, stress management

and yoga.

It’s innovative, low cost, non-invasive, and

scientifically proven to be effective. Scientific

research has demonstrated that Dr. Ornish’s

program not only helps prevent heart prob-

lems like arterial blockages, it actually re-

verses heart disease in people with serious

conditions.

The Medicare program is currently con-

ducting a pilot program to test Dr. Ornish’s

program on 1,800 Medicare patients. Last

year, Congressman Rangel and I introduced legis-

lation to extend this demonstration pro-

gram for two more years to make sure that all

1,800 patients can complete the program and

be thoroughly evaluated. I really believe that

this program can save lives, and save the

Medicare program billions of dollars. At a time

when HCFA has estimated that our health care

costs will double by the year 2007, pro-

grams like this lifestyle modification program

hold out real hope for reducing open-heart

surgery and cutting down on the need for ex-

pensive prescription medications.

I salute Dr. Ornish for all of his hard work

he has done on this issue for America.

45TH ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

CONVENTION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to rec-

onize all the faithful here in Los Angeles for

the Forty-fifth Archdiocese Convention of the

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of

North America. In welcoming the diverse spir-

itual leaders of the Church that are gathering

together, I especially want to recognize His

Excellency, Issam Fares, Deputy Prime Min-

ister of Lebanon.

This biennial convention is an opportunity to

share the history, cultural heritage and reli-

gious dedication of the members throughout

North America. The convention is an oppor-

tunity for the Archdiocese to discuss social

issues facing families today. The work of

Antiochian Orthodox Church through such pro-

ects as the International Orthodox Christian

Charities, the bone marrow testing drive, he-

alth fairs and the Jerusalem Project, are the

finest examples of the religious freedom that

only we share in the United States.