

day after the attacks, the Cyprus President strongly condemned, "in the most unequivocal manner, these cowardly, horrific acts against the American people and extend to the families of the victims my heartfelt condolences on behalf of the government and the people of Cyprus." In its September 12 statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus noted that, "The terrorist attacks were attacks not against the United States and its people but against the international legal order, democracy, freedom and the most fundamental of all human rights, that of the right to life. Yesterday, terrorists attacked humanity and human dignity." The statement continued, "Yesterday's events underline that the members of the international community, both individually and collectively, must redouble their efforts in a more systematic and coordinated manner to fight terrorism and its sponsorship."

The Cyprus Government, adopting a decision by the European Union, declared September 14 a Day of Mourning for the victims. Flags were flown at half-mast, while high-ranking officials and ordinary people signed a book of condolences at the U.S. Embassy in the capital of Nicosia. Many Cypriots laid flowers at the Embassy.

Overseas Cypriots have also denounced the terrorist attacks against the US, describing them as "barbaric acts against humanity." The International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), the World Federation of Overseas Cypriots (POMAK) and all their member organizations worldwide, said they were devastated by the terrorist attacks against thousands of people in the U.S. and that "these barbaric acts against humanity prove nothing but the apathy and sickness of those committing them. Our prayers are for the families and with those missing and unaccounted for, and we praise those individuals who have given themselves selflessly, helping to the best of their abilities."

Sadly, at least one American of Cypriot descent was killed in the attacks. Michael Tarrou, 38, an air steward, and his fiancée Amy King, were aboard United Airlines flight 175, which crashed into one of the World Trade Center towers. United States Ambassador to Cyprus Donald Bandler expressed gratitude for the sympathy and support received from the Cyprus government and people and expressed his condolences "to Cypriots who have lost members of their family and friends in this tragic and senseless attack."

Unfortunately, the commemoration of Cyprus's Independence Day is also clouded by the fact that 37 percent of the Mediterranean island nation's territory continues to be occupied by a hostile foreign power, as it has been for more than a quarter of a century. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, who fell victim to a policy of ethnic cleansing, were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country. 1,493 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, have been missing since 1974; the remains of another Cypriot American were found and identified in 1997, following an investigation mandated by the United States Congress.

In 1983, in flagrant violation of international law and the treaties establishing the Republic of Cyprus and guaranteeing its independence and territorial integrity, Ankara promoted a "unilateral declaration of independence" in the area under its military occupation. The U.S. Government and the U.N. Security Council condemned the declaration and attempted secession. To date, no other country in the world except Turkey recognized the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

In a landmark May 10, 2001 decision, the European Court of Human Rights found Turkey responsible for continuing violations of human rights, emphasizing that the Republic of Cyprus is the sole legitimate Government of Cyprus and pointing out that Turkey is engaged in the policies and actions of the illegal occupation regime.

Since 1974, the U.N. has adopted numerous resolutions on Cyprus that call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the island, the return of the refugees to their homes in safety and respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. The Security Council stated in 1999 that, "a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded and comprising two political equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions, in a bicomunal and bi-zonal federation and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession." These parameters were reiterated by the Security Council on June 11, 2001.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus accepts these parameters as the basis for negotiations leading to the reunification of the island. However, Rauf Denktash, the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot side, backed by Ankara, withdrew from the peace talks last November and earlier this month rejected U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's invitation to resume the talks on September 12, claiming the ground had not been prepared for talks and insisting on his demand for recognition of his self-styled regime in Turkish occupied Cyprus.

On September 26, 2001, the U.N. Security Council expressed disappointment over the "unjustified decision" of the Turkish side to decline an invitation by the U.N. Secretary General to resume the search for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus in New York in September. The Council stressed that "progress can only be made at the negotiating table" and urged all those concerned to cooperate with Kofi Annan and his Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto to help move the peace process forward. Council members encouraged the Secretary General and his Special Adviser to "continue their efforts using the guidelines in Security Council resolutions 1250, namely that there should be no preconditions, that all issues are on the table, that both sides should make a commitment in good faith to negotiate until a settlement is reached and that there should be a full consideration of relevant U.N. resolutions and treaties." They also gave their "full support to the Secretary General's efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem."

Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. Sadly, the people living in the occupied area continue to be mired in poverty. Today, Cyprus is one of the leading candidate nations to join the European Union in the next round of expansion, in 3 to 4 years. On June 19, 2001, a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 164) was introduced, "expressing the sense of Congress that security, reconciliation, and prosperity for all Cypriots can be best achieved within the context of membership in the European Union that will provide significant rights and obligations for all Cypriots." The measure has 60 co-sponsors.

On September 15, 2001, U.S. State Department Special Coordinator for Cyprus Thomas Weston reiterated Washington's "unwavering support" for U.N. efforts to find a negotiated settlement in Cyprus and said that the Republic's European Union accession process offers "an incentive" towards achieving this objective. He also said that Turkey, through its engagement with the EU for membership, can and should contribute towards a Cyprus solution. "U.S. policy is very clear on Cyprus" EU accession: we support Cyprus' accession and we believe the accession process offers an incentive and it is helpful to achieve a settlement in Cyprus," Mr. Weston said, noting that Washington continues to back the EU Helsinki conclusions which say a political settlement in Cyprus would facilitate accession but it is not a precondition for EU membership. He added, "we believe that Turkey, through its political dialogue with the EU and the national program it has put forward, can and should contribute towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question."

The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring. The people of Cyprus stand with the American people at this time of tragedy in the United States, and share in the firm resolve to uphold the ideals of freedom, justice and democracy threatened by the evil hand of terrorism. For our part, on this important day, we continue to stand with the people of Cyprus in the continuing wish for a bizonal, bicomunal and federal Cyprus, created on the basis of the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNA VAYDA

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great woman who passed away last month. Mrs. Anna Vayda was 91 years old and a vibrant woman all her life. She was instrumental in the chartering of the American Veterans and American Veterans Auxiliary. In 1946, she came to Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress on providing a national charter for the organization. Through her many trips and tireless efforts, she met the likes of former Speakers John McCormac, Frances Roberts and Tip O'Neill. In addition to

lobbying for the national charter, she played a central role in gaining women veterans full membership in the American Veterans and not just the Auxiliary.

Mrs. Vayda is survived by a son, Joseph Vayda; her brother, Walter Zupkofska; nine grandchildren, including my good friend Eva Geoppo; twenty great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. They are a testament to Mrs. Vayda's long and successful life. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who mourn her loss.

VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I am asking that these statements be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

ON BEHALF OF ETHAN CASAVANT AND JAIME SANTERRE—REGARDING EDUCATION IN VERMONT PRISONS, MAY 7, 2001

Jamie Santerre. Ethan and I visited the Chittenden Regional Correctional facility.

Ethan Casavant. We spoke with Mary Tripp, a teacher at the facility, one of three. There is her and John Long, who are both full-time teachers, and there is one who is based on independent study and special ed. I don't remember her name, though.

Jamie Santerre. The facility was built in the late 1970s. In the 1980s, the facility had an open library, where people who went there could only get their GEDS. And the classes that they have now, which are like math, social studies, art, English and science, they started in 1998, where anyone under 22 without a high school diploma had to attend in an attempt to get their high school diploma.

Ethan Casavant. Just to touch up on that a little bit, even if, say, you are 16 years old and you drop out of high school and end up going to the prison system, you have to go back to the schools to graduate or get your diploma. They won't let you just get off of it or get out of it. But, anyway, the classes are Monday through Friday, like any other school. There is independent study and regular class, like three, four people to a class. There is three classrooms, an art room, and one with science and social studies, that you can't do labs or like chemistry or physics or anything like that, because they can't trust the inmates with any of those materials. The materials are also supplied to them for free so that they can, you know, use them all and learn just like anybody else. They have a library that they can use. For resources, they have some computers, but they don't have Internet access for safety reasons, or any of

that. Anything they need to download off the Net, the teachers do before the classes and go over it. The Vermont Correctional Facilities school system are the only schools in the state that require literacy competency before you graduate. Any other high school, you don't have to be fully literate to graduate. And Mary Trip, the teacher we talked to, said that about 20 percent of the population of the inmates attend class regularly. And if you get the diploma from their high school, you have just as good a chance of getting a job as you would from graduating from any other school. You know, you might just not like it for personal satisfaction.

ON BEHALF OF DEREK WONG, DREW ARNOLD, TERICIA SAVAGLIO, AND ALEX WHITTELSEUI REGARDING BROADCASTING EXECUTIONS TO THE PUBLIC, MAY 7, 2001

Alex Whittelseui. We are from Rice High School, obviously, and our topic was the issue of the morality and ethical viewpoint of broadcasting executions to the public, because we felt it was important, because the upcoming execution of Timothy McVeigh is actually going to be televised and shown on a closed-circuit in the Oklahoma City area. And we feel that that is not going to make justice, it is more going to just make—how do I say this?—just make it worse, because of the fact that it's going to almost glorify what Timothy McVeigh did, and how he is going to die a martyr. And we just feel it shouldn't be shown on TV, and that it is just wrong to do that.

Theresa Savaglio. To begin with, a little bit of background on the execution. He is dying by lethal injection, which is a series of three shots. First he is given a sedative. They are using sodium pentetate. And then they are going to inject pancurium bromide to stop his respiration, and then finally potassium chloride to stop the beating of his heart. That is actually one of the most common forms of capital punishment, because it is the least painful. According to Amnesty International, they believe that any form of execution violates basic human rights, which are stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and which the United Nations adopted this declaration in 1948. And so they believe that, since we are a member of the United Nations, we should also use this and ban executions. They think that any person sent to death should be able to appeal to a higher court, which we do allow. And Timothy McVeigh's execution is going to be the first capital punishment case for the federal government in, I believe, maybe 38 years. So it is a pretty big issue. Amnesty also believes that, no matter what reason the government uses to execute their prisoners in its custody, and no matter the form of execution, the death penalty can't be separated from human rights, because you are taking this person's life from them. And another interesting aspect of this is that the cost of executing a person and the process to lead up to that is more expensive than life imprisonment, because of all the appeals and court costs.

Congressman Sanders. Okay.

Alex Whittelseui. From a pool of randomly picked 2,621, 1,494 people said that they would not view the execution—which is 57 percent—and 1,127 said they would. And that is just kind of to throw out the fact that most Americans would not want to watch this execution.

Derrick Wong. Those who said they would not watch the execution said that they could not draw anything from seeing a death on television. And they said that an execution

on TV would only act as entertainment for our society, which then becomes a pity. People against televised executions are concerned for the condemned's feelings, and of his or her family's feelings as well. They say that it is bad enough that a person has to die for their actions, and that televising it would not have a positive effect. Some say that Phil Donahue wants the execution to be televised because it is his sad attempt to be on primetime television, and those opposed are concerned with the issue of ethics and the morals. There is a huge controversial issue of whether the televised execution of Timothy McVeigh, which is coming up on May 16th, and there is a lot of arguments that his execution should be televised, even among those who oppose capital punishment. Even Timothy McVeigh wants his execution to be televised, because he hopes that he will become a martyr for the people with the same intentions as him, getting revenge against the government. Ashcroft approved a closed-circuit televising of the execution for the 250 to 300 survivors and families of the deceased, but there be no public viewing to the general population. Anti-death penalty activist, Sister Helen Prejean, said that the execution could happen, but she is against it. However, she does not feel it should be televised, and she is the author of *Dead Man Walking*, and believes that criminals being put to death would just grow if you have it televised. She is aware of assertions that the executions are good for the families of the killer's victims, but says that she does not believe that, and that she has watched the victim's families going through this, watching the person die, waiting for them to die, and being promised it was going to give them closure, and coming out with an empty chair at their dining table, but it hasn't done anything to bring back the life of their loved ones. Execution have been behind closed doors since the 1930s, and in a quote by Richard Tietzer, he supports televising executions because it used to be very public and not done behind prison walls, meaning the more people that know about the death penalty, the better they are going to be able to judge it, and the whole process is carried out in the people's name and they should know if those acting in their name are doing so carefully and humanely. Some view the media as vultures descending on the execution in Oklahoma City to feed on McVeigh's infamy. 1,400 journalists have registered for credentials with the Bureau of Prisons to cover the May 16 execution, at Terre Haute, Indiana, with more reporters in Oklahoma City. The media wants to feed off the fact that there hasn't been a federal execution since 1963. Walter Genic, a journalist professor from southern Illinois, at the University of Carbondale, said that McVeigh's execution is going to be another media orgasm. It is sensationalist lust. And the general feeling from a mother of a daughter who was murdered said that she doesn't feel that it is appropriate to execute someone, especially being televised, because it doesn't do anything except show that this person is dying, and you know that they're dying from witnesses there.

Drew Arnold. There were 23 electrocution executions recorded between 1983 and 1999 in Jackson, Georgia. They were aired on a New York radio program on WNYC, and they said that it was their journalistic responsibility to air the executions. VPR decided not to air them, because, just because it exists doesn't mean it has to be made public. And people don't need to see their taxes at work killing prisoners.