

# Research Report

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## GAI – International Security and Disarmament Evaluating negotiations concerning the Green Line in Cyprus

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<b>Forum</b>	GA1- International Security and Disarmament
<b>Issue:</b>	Evaluating negotiations concerning the Green Line in Cyprus
<b>Student Officer:</b>	Imene Hamdi-Cherif
<b>Position:</b>	President

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## Introduction

In 1960 the Island of Cyprus gained its independence from Great Britain. 77% of Cypriots are of Greek origin whilst 18% are of Turkish ethnicity. At the point of independence the government defined 'elaborate power-sharing arrangements' amongst the two groups. The fundamental aspects of the agreement stand as follows: A Greek Cypriot was to be elected as president by his or her own community and a Turkish Cypriot vice president was to be elected by his or her own community. A treaty of alliance among Greece and Turkey was signed which requested the provision of 950 Greek soldiers and 650 Turkish soldiers to be deployed to the island so as to defend the island. From 1960-1963 the island was very much in a stable state however Turkish Cypriot had different prospects for the Island than the Greeks. Most Greek Cypriots were hoping to unite the island with the Republic of Greece (enosis) whilst the Turks preferred the partition of the island and to unite the Turkish zone with Turkey.

## General Overview

The deterioration of the diplomatic relationship between the Greeks and Turks came aught when the Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios III proposed constitutional reforms which favoured the Greek Cypriot ideals of what the future of Cyprus entailed. In 1964, the Turkish community began to take a step back from all national organisation and began to take matters in its own hands, somewhat proclaiming independence from the Greek Cypriots. Violence between both communities spurred between 1963 and 1964 and crept up again in 1967. In each of these cases international pressures mediated the situation and it is thought that they actually prevented the use of Turkish military intervention.

It was on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1964 that the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established in order to maintain order within the region. A United Nations buffer zone was put in place which stretches across 180.5 Kilometres, along the



renowned 'Green Line.' The zone covers an area 346 km<sup>2</sup>. The Buffer Zone is controlled by the UNFICYP and is home to 10,000 people **Fig.1 UN Buffer Zone** and is evidently the only place where Turkish and Greek Cypriots live side by side. The Green line partitions the island into two parts 37% of which is occupied by the Turkish army and Turkish Cypriots whilst the Greek Cypriots occupy the southern part of the Island.

In 1974 the Greek Cypriot military Junta replaced President Makarios with a more extremist supporter of enosis. Turkey believed it in its rights and basing it on the agreement reached in the treaty in 1975 deployed troops into the region and by August 25<sup>th</sup> took control of 37% of the Island. This consequent military action was condemned by Greek Cypriots as thousands of Greek Cypriots were<sup>1</sup> displaced and had to seek refuge. Following these events, Greece withdrew from NATO condemning the fact that NATO did not prevent Turkey's military action and ties between the United States of America and both Turkey and Greece were strained as both parties claimed that they had not received enough support from Washington. Furthermore, Turkey then submerged into an extended state of instability.

In the aftermath of the mentioned events, namely in 1975 the Turkish Cypriots declared their government: 'Turkish Federated State of Cyprus' (TFSC) and in 1983 the Turkish Cypriot leader declared the official 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' a declaration of independence which is not recognised by the international community apart from Turkey. Their constitution is comprised of a 50 seat parliament. The leader of the TRNC stated that the recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a sovereign state is a precondition if opposition parties are to hold talks in order to look into the future of Cyprus. He welcomed cooperation with the United Nations. Since then the United Nations has tired effortlessly to obtain both parties' approval of any possibly peace building frameworks however to this day non have been overwhelmingly successful.

Cyprus has been officially divided since 1974. 76% of its inhabitants are located in the southern-two thirds of the Island whilst the Turkish Cypriots which comprise 19% of the population occupy the unofficially recognised 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' (TRNC) which is only recognised by Turkey. Approximately 36,000 Turkish troops occupy the area with a mission of providing security. Since the late 70's the United Nations Peace keeping forces (UNFICYP) have maintained a buffer zone between the opposing sides of the Island. 'Since the late 1970s, the U.N., with U.S. support, has promoted negotiations aimed at reuniting the island as a federal, bicomunal, bizonal republic.'<sup>1</sup> The first major framework that was put under discussion in relation to the issue was the renowned *Set of Ideas* drafted by the United Nation's Secretary general on April 5<sup>th</sup> 1992. Unfortunately this document which focused on establishing peace with regards to overall settlements was unsuccessful in its pursuit for peace. Following this proposed framework both sides accepted 'U.N. confidence-building measures in principle' (source : CRS Report for

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<sup>1</sup> CRS Report for Congress



Congress) however these were never put physically implemented. More in relation to previous attempts at resolving the issue are highlighted further down in the report.

## Major Parties Involved

### UNFICYP

The United Nations peacekeeping force was established in 1964 in order to prevent fighting to reoccur in Cyprus. One of its main objectives has been to restore order and instil stability. After the Greek Cypriot Coup and the consequent Turkish invasion in 1974 the UN Security Council has informed the UNFICYP that its fundamental objective is to prevent the situation in the region from one day erupting into war. Although there have been no major violations of the cease fire line over the past four decades the organ still controls the area. They publish any observations made with regards to the political situation in the region. The current Secretary General-Ban Ki Moon has stressed that this mission should not be take for granted as it is an extremely costly operation and future speculation of the possible removal of the UNFICYP from the buffer zone have been witnessed.

### The Republic of Cyprus and The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

The Cypriot government makes significant contributions to the UNFICYP on an annual basis somewhat signalling its appreciation of the operation. On top of what was highlighted earlier in the report recent elections in 2008 led to the appointment of new leader: Dimitris Christophias pledged to restart reunification talks. In April 2008 the newly appointed Greek Cypriot leader met with the Turkish Cypriot in the Buffer Zone area of Nicosia leader in the hope of coming to an agreement which would entail the reunification of the Island. The talks led to a very symbolic outcome: the re-opening of the 'Ledra Street' - a crossing which has come to symbolise the division of the nation.

### Timeline of Key Events

1963-1964 – Violence between the Turkish and Cypriots.

1964- The Turkish Cypriots proclaim some form of independence from the rest of the island.

4<sup>th</sup> March 1964- United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established in order to maintain order within the region

1974- The Greek Cypriot military Junta replaced President Makarios with a more extremist supporter of enosis.



1975- Turkey believed it in its rights and basing it on the agreement reached in the treaty it deployed troops into the region and by August 25<sup>th</sup> took control of 37% of the Island.

1983- Turkish Cypriot leader declared the official 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' a declaration of independence which is not recognized by the international community apart from Turkey.

5<sup>th</sup> August 1992- First major framework that was put under discussion in relation to the issue was the renowned 'Set of Ideas' drafted by the United Nation's Secretary general .

December 4<sup>th</sup> 2001- After a year intensified tensions and no direct communication, both leaders decided to meet once more and drew up a date on which they would both hold official talks.

31<sup>st</sup> March 2004- Anan introduced a final and revised peace plan.

2004- Cyprus became a member of The European Union.

Since then, numerous resolutions have been drafted in relation to the issue, namely in the Security Council.

### Relevant Documents

1. CRS Report for Congress – Cyprus: Status of U.N negotiations and related Issues  
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33497.pdf>
2. 2011 UN Security Council Resolution concerning Cyprus  
<http://www.un.int/cyprus/r1986.htm>
3. All Security Council Resolutions Concerning Cyprus  
<http://www.un.int/cyprus/resolut.htm>
4. The Set of Ideas  
[http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/moi/pio/pio.nsf/0/372B6BAF332C88E3C2256D6D00348CF1/\\$file/Set%20of%20Ideas%20\(1992\).pdf](http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/moi/pio/pio.nsf/0/372B6BAF332C88E3C2256D6D00348CF1/$file/Set%20of%20Ideas%20(1992).pdf)
5. Various documents in relation to the Annan Plan  
<http://www.hri.org/docs/annan/>

### Evaluations of Previous attempts to solve the issue

Once Cyprus rose to become a potential member of the European Union and prospects of its possible membership spread, negotiations in relation to settlement offers intensified. In December 1999, a round of indirect talks began between the UN SG at the time (Kofi Annan) and following five rounds Mr. Annan presented a list of so



called ``Observations`` with regards to the parties' contribution to the talks and following this event Mr. Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader did not partake in any talks for just over a year. After a year intensified tensions and no direct communication, both leaders decided to meet once more on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2001 and drew up a date on which they would both hold official talks. Following the talks which took place in early January 2001, Kofi Annan drafted a 'comprehensive settlement plan' which revolved around government models found in Switzerland and Belgium, however once more The Secretary General's efforts had not met any success.

The major events that followed stand as follows: Elections were held on the Turkish side of the island in order to appoint a new Turkish Cypriot government which was presumably was determined to establish peace. With a degree of optimism circulating across the political sphere the United Nations held talks anew in 2004 and as one may have guessed by now: they failed. Meetings, summits and talks continued in Switzerland between both Greek and Turkish senior official in the hope of putting an end to tedious battle. Anan introduced a final and revised peace plan on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 and this document was met with the following reaction:

1. 76% of Greek Cypriots rejected the plan
2. 35% of Turkish Cypriots rejected the plan.

Judging from the outcome it would only seem logical for Kofi Annan to somewhat place the blame for such results on the Greek Cypriot president at the time: Tassos Papadopoulos.

After Cyprus became a member of the European Union back in 2004, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders met with UN official including the UN undersecretary at the time to once mark embrace new talks with particular reference to 'issues that affect day-to-day life'. Any positive outcomes from the talks have yet to be implemented.

No major developments with regards to this issue have occurred since then and with rising pressure from the International community to end the isolation of Turkish Cypriots so as to bridge nay economic gaps between them and the remaining Cypriot population and hopefully one day establish the reunification of the nation.

### Possible Solutions to the Issue

The 3<sup>rd</sup> operative clause in the 2011 UN Security Council resolution (1986) encompasses the basic elements necessary if these negotiations are to succeed: They must increase the involvement of the civil society seeing as it the people that are affected and will be affected should any changes take place, the leaders must pick up speed and intensify their negotiations- this can be done by ameliorating the atmosphere in which these talks take place. Both parties need to enter these talks



with an optimistic and constructive attitude. Although these points may seem vague and simple, the fundamental issue lies here. If both parties refuse to come to an agreement it is simply worth abandoning all negotiations, however the problem essentially affects the people and happiness, peace and stability are three pillars that need to be resorted and promoted within the region.

## Bibliography

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