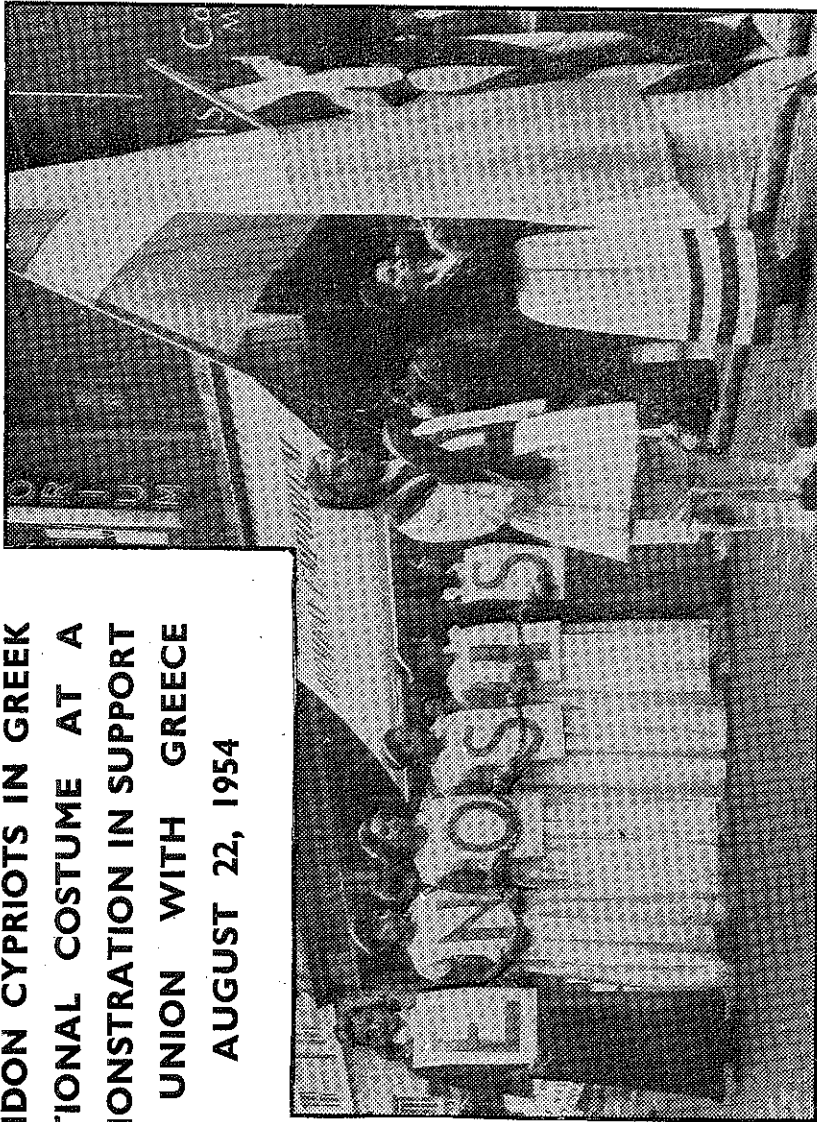


**LONDON CYPRIOTS IN GREEK  
NATIONAL COSTUME AT A  
DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT  
OF UNION WITH GREECE  
AUGUST 22, 1954**



# **THE FACTS ABOUT CYPRUS**



Secondary School pupils demonstrating in support of Enosis

**PRICE 6d.**

Published by "VEMA" 56 Bayham Street, London, N.W.1

Scanned / Transcribed by  
The Socialist Truth in Cyprus – London Bureaux

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/intro.htm>

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/english/home/index.php>



## THE GREEKNESS OF CYPRUS

Out of the 500,000 population of Cyprus, 400,000 are Greeks, and the rest are other minorities, mainly Turks.

Cyprus, throughout the ages since the dawn of its history, has been predominantly Greek. Greek civilisation and culture has always prevailed despite long years of foreign occupation.

Professor Hill, in his book "History of Cyprus" (Vol. 1, pp. 83-84) says: "By 1200 B.C. Cyprus was well colonised and definitely Greek."

Ancient Greece was divided into various kingdoms such as the Kingdom of Athens, of Sparta, etc. The names of the Greek kings of Cyprus—Evagoras, Zeno, Cinyras and others—are mentioned by all historians as reigning in Cyprus many years B.C.

Cyprus enjoyed national freedom also within the Greek Byzantine Empire for 800 years from 395 A.D. onwards.

From the 14th to 19th centuries, Greece and Cyprus were both under the Turkish yoke. During the Greek revolution of 1821-28, the Greek Cypriots played a prominent part and bishops, peasants, and shepherds were hanged by the Turkish imperialists.

Sir Ronald Storrs, an ex-governor of Cyprus, wrote in his book "Orientations" (p. 550): "The Greekness of Cypriots is, in my opinion, indisputable. . . . No sensible person will deny that the Cypriot is Greek-speaking, Greek-thinking, Greek-feeling, Greek."

Sir Winston Churchill, speaking in the legislative Council of Cyprus in 1907 when he was Under-Secretary for the Colonial Office, said: "I think it is only natural that the Cypriot people who are of Greek descent should regard their incorporation with what may be called their mother country as an ideal to be earnestly, devoutly and fervently cherished. Such a feeling is an example of the patriotic devotion which so nobly characterises the Greek nation."

## CYPRUS UNDER THE BRITISH

Cyprus was sold to Britain by the Turks in 1878 for an annual payment of £92,800. This money was extorted from the Cypriots by the imposition of a special tax. From 1878 until 1927, the Cypriots paid a total of £4,500,000 in the form of this tax.

In 1882, a constitution was granted to Cyprus whereby nine Greek members were elected to a legislative council. Another six members were officials appointed by the governor together with three Turks. This Council was under the chairmanship of the British governor who had the right of veto.

In 1925, the Legislative Council was enlarged to twelve elected Greek members on the one hand and nine appointed officials and three Turks on the other—again under the chairmanship of the governor and his advisers.

During the life of this constitution, not a single bill proposed by the elected Greek members in the national interest of Cyprus was passed in the Legislative Council.

## THE CONSTITUTIONAL FARCE

In 1931, however, one of the Turks voted with the 12 elected Greek members against a taxation bill. The governor therefore imposed the taxation by a Colonial Office decree and, as a result, there was an uprising among the people of Cyprus who demanded Union with Greece. Thousands were imprisoned and brutally beaten. The Constitution was swept away.

Since 1931, Cyprus has been administered from Whitehall. The Cypriot people have no voice at all in the direction of their affairs. In 1948, a new constitution was offered to Cyprus providing for a majority of Greek elected members in a consultative assembly but again the governor still had the right of veto. The whole people therefore rejected it and demanded Union with Greece.

On July 28, 1954, it was announced that a constitution would be imposed by the British Government on Cyprus. It is even worse than the one operated from 1882 to 1931—and much worse than the 1948 Constitution which was rejected—because it provides for a majority of the legislative council members to be appointed by the governor.

## THE CYPRIOTS WANT UNION WITH GREECE

From the very first day of British occupation, the Cypriot people demanded the Union of Cyprus with Greece. Since then various national delegations have been sent to Britain and to the U.N.O. demanding the Union of Cyprus with Greece.

In 1950, all political parties asked the government to hold a plebiscite to find out what the Cypriots thought about ENOSIS (Union with Greece). The government refused and so the plebiscite was organised by the Archbishop of Cyprus. In this plebiscite 96 per cent of the Greek people of Cyprus voted for Union with Greece. No one voted against. If the teachers and government employees had been able to vote the result would have been 100 per cent for Enosis.

In 1915, the British Government asserted that Cyprus would be given to Greece if Greece came into the war on the side of the allies. Although the pro-German King of Greece refused, Greece came into the war on the side of the allies when he was forced, by the Greek people two years later, to leave Greece. But Britain did not keep its pledge and Cyprus was not given to Greece.

## CYPRUS ROBBED OF ITS WEALTH: PEOPLE LEFT IN POVERTY

Cyprus is an island rich in mineral wealth. But its resources are in the hands of foreign capital. In 1952 alone, the American, British, Dutch and Danish companies who own the mines of Cyprus exported £10,374,836 worth of minerals. They made out of this a net profit

of £5 millions. The total amount paid out in wages and salaries to the miners was only £1,281,000.

The total sum of Cyprus' national income is £35,833,000. From this, profits of enterprises amount to £18,428,000 (51.43 per cent); interest to £899,000; rents £4,892,000; wages and salaries to only £11,614,000. Profits, interest and rents total 67.59 per cent of Cyprus' national income.

Poverty and unemployment force thousands of young men and women to leave their beautiful island every year. Most of them come to Britain in search of jobs. Young peasants, full of life, are forced to take up the worst jobs that can be found in the basements of the big West End hotels and restaurants because they do not know the English language and, as a result, they very soon become physical wrecks.

In Cyprus the cost of living today is steadily rising especially as more British troops are transferred there, and it is already as high as in Britain. But the average weekly earnings in 1953 in the mining industry were 83s. 5d. and, in engineering 58s. 2d. Prices are high and beef costs approx. 3s. 9d. per lb. and sugar 11½d.

Thousands of families live in stables, wooden barracks, slums and even in caves. Although the government of Cyprus collects some £8 millions per annum in direct and indirect taxation, *not a single worker's flat was built by the government during the past two years.* But hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent on the building of police stations.

Like all other colonies, Cyprus is backward industrially with but a very limited light industry. Raw materials extracted from the mines are exported and so the great majority of Cypriots are peasants and farmers.

Although this majority has to eke out its living on the land, in recent times, 87,000 acres of fertile land has been confiscated for military purposes and this confiscation is still going on. Whole villages have been forced out of their native land and, against the will of the people, Cyprus is being transformed into a major strategic position.

## PERSECUTION OF THE PEOPLE

Persecution in Cyprus is widespread. Thousands of Cypriots have been sent to prison for months or years, or have had to pay heavy fines because of the monstrous illiberal laws in operation.

Congresses of working class organisations, meetings of the potato, vine and other producers, peace meetings and even meetings of earthquake victims, have been banned by the Government.

In 1945, in a small village called Lefkoniko, three peasants were killed and many wounded whilst they were peacefully celebrating the Greek national day of independence.

In 1946, the whole leadership of the T.U.C. of Cyprus—18 members—were imprisoned, some for 12 months and others for 18 months



London Cypriots demonstrating in support of Enosis and in protest against the anti-secession laws gagging the press in Cyprus. July, 1954.

for their trade union activities. They were all released after 11 months thanks to the tremendous protest by the British Labour movement.

In 1949, the elected Mayor of Limassol and his Council were jailed for changing the name of a street from "R. Palmer Street" (R. Palmer was a former British Governor) to "28th October Street" (to commemorate the Greek Resistance to Mussolini's attack on October 28, 1940).

Schoolteachers with many years experience have been dismissed by the government because they favour Enosis. Greek history is prohibited in the schools of Cyprus and the children are forced to learn and sing a foreign national anthem.

## THE ANTI-SEDITION LAWS

The monstrous and dictatorial laws announced on August 2, 1954, by the government, are not new but have been in existence for many years. But they were relaxed during the anti-fascist war when 26,000 Cypriots volunteered for the British army and the Cypriot people supported the allied war effort.

It was during this period that the Cypriot people built up and strengthened their working class organisations which today are the strongest political force in the island.

Now the anti-sedition laws are to be enforced—according to the announcement. These laws outlaw all Greek political parties in Cyprus because all parties base their policies on Union of Cyprus with Greece.

In addition, the leaders of any party advocating Enosis will be imprisoned for five years and members of such parties for two years. Editors of newspapers supporting Enosis will be jailed for five years and the papers will be suppressed for three years. British newspapers which write about Enosis are prohibited in Cyprus and any newspaper publishing quotations on the Cyprus question from the official Hansard report of the House of Commons proceedings, will be liable to suppression. Any Cypriot who dares say—even in his own house—the word "Enosis" can be put in jail.

While the whole Greek-Cypriot people demand Union with Greece, the British Government has declared that Cyprus will never be allowed to change sovereignty and it has decided to transfer the H.Q. of the Middle East Command from Egypt to Cyprus.

The provocative attitude of the British Government has united all parties in Cyprus from right to left.

A general strike on August 12, 1954, in protest against the constitution and the re-enforcement of the anti-sedition laws, was 100 per cent successful. The mayors of Cyprus—right and left—are co-operating in united protests; the editors of right and left-wing newspapers are co-operating. And the Archbishop of Cyprus, Makarios, for the first time, meets and discusses matters with the General Secretary of the Cypriot People's Party, A.K.E.L.

The Cypriot people demand the Union of Cyprus with Greece

without any conditions and without granting military bases to any foreign power.

Sir Winston Churchill told the House of Commons that a single H-bomb could destroy the British base in the Suez Canal. What would be the fate of Cyprus if a single H-bomb were dropped there?

The people of Cyprus know very well what sort of a regime exists today in Greece but they also know that governments come and go but the unconquerable Greek people always remain. Those who say Greece is a poor country do not know the facts. Greece could be a rich country but, like Cyprus, its resources are exploited today by the foreign masters of the present Greek Government.

The present monarcho-fascist regime in Greece was imposed on the Greek people by the British Tories when, in 1944, just after the liberation of Greece from the Nazis, Sir Winston Churchill ordered British troops to intervene in Greece and prevent the setting up of a democratic regime.

Unity between the Greek people of Cyprus and their brothers in Greece will tremendously strengthen the power of the whole Greek nation in their fight for a peaceful and democratic Greece. Anyone who has in mind the history of Greece in the last 30 years will know that the heroic Greek people have swept away at least eight dictatorships and the present monarcho-fascist regime imposed by British imperialism in 1944 and maintained today by the Americans, is trembling under the pressure of the Greek people.

The Cypriot people have no quarrel with the British people. On the contrary, they respect them and their Labour Movement as well as their traditional feelings of international solidarity.

This is why the Cypriot people appeal to them today for help because they clearly see the distinction between those few who oppress the Cypriots, Malaysians, Kenyans and other colonial peoples and the vast majority of the great democratic and fair-minded British people.

---

This booklet is published by the Greek-language paper *Vema*, 56 Bayham Street, London, N.W.1, to which requests for further information, speakers for organisations, etc., should be made.

**LONDON CYPRIOTS IN GREEK  
NATIONAL COSTUME AT A  
DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT  
OF UNION WITH GREECE  
AUGUST 22, 1954**

