

12 September, 1997

The Editor, Parikiaki
534A Holloway Road
London, N7 6JP

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been reading your columns with ~~a~~ great interest. In them, I have seen genuine people who wants to give support to the people of Cyprus, be it Greek or Turkish, who wants to put an end to the bloodshed and hatred. Everyone has been complaining about the division of the island, separation of the communities, lack of common organisations and the difficulties faced by the communities coming together.

I agree that it is rather difficult to come together in Cyprus so long as the Attila Line and the Turkish occupation exist. However, there are not any Attila Lines in London, or are there? Greek and Turkish Cypriots have been living in London for a long time, and yet I have hardly seen any moves towards a common aim by their organisations. Turkish and Greek Cypriots have been bombarded with nationalist propaganda to ensure that they stay separately in London as well. Are there not any common grounds -leaving Cyprus Problem aside- to work together. For example, don't the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in Haringey and Enfield have common problems that can be combined to create a synergy?

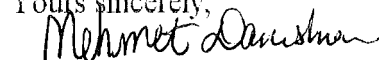
I watch the GREEK and TURKISH schools, bombarding Cypriot origin children with nationalistic and chauvinistic propaganda under the pretext of teaching them Greek/Turkish language during weekends, and feel very sad. These are the same children that are school mates during weekdays. As they grow older, and as a result of this they begin to feel stranger to each other, and break off their friendship. Is it not time to put an end to these schools of nationalism? I am not against the teaching of Greek and Turkish language to the new generation. What I am against is the segregation of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot children when they are being taught Turkish and Greek.

Here are two small challenges to all peace loving Cypriots in London:

1. Let us put an end to the segregation of 'Greek and Turkish Cypriot' weekend schools and teach both languages under the same roof without nationalism. Organise and encourage the children to take part in common cultural activities in the same schools.
2. Let us put an end to separate "Council of Greek/Turkish Organisations" and create a single COUNCIL of CYPRIOT ORGANISATIONS.

These are not grand plans. We must not forget that it is from these small things that great things emerge.

Yours sincerely,


Mehmet Danisman