

FACTS ABOUT CYPRUS

CYPRUS is the third largest island in the mediterranean with an area of 3,572 sq. miles (9,250.8 sq. km). Total population in mid 1973 (last estimate) was 634,000 of whom approximately 81.6% Greek and 18.4% Turkish Cypriots. The island is basically an agricultural country with agriculture contributing around 20% to the GDP in recent years and offering employment to 36% of the economically active population (pre-invasion figures).

FOLLOWING long years of foreign rule the island became independent in 1960 and set on a course of planned economic development managing by mid-1974 to achieve a level of growth and a standard of living by far above that of neighbouring countries. Visitors to the island were full of praise for the laboriousness of its people and the steady growth of the economy.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

Area : 3,572 sq. miles, 9,250.8 sq. km.

Population : 634,000 (mid 1973 estimate)

Greek Cypriots 81.6%

Turkish Cypriots 18.4%

Occupied area : 40% of total area.

Refugees : 200,000 Greek Cypriots expelled from 142 villages and from the towns of Famagusta (40,000)

Kyrenia (5,000) and Morphou (12,000),

80,000 Turkish Cypriots

50,000 homes destroyed

5,000 families lost their breadwinner, one child in 125 has become an orphan.

1.4% of the Greek Cypriot population killed or missing — a percentage unequalled in recent history.

50,000 Turks from the mainland were brought over and settled in the houses and properties of the expelled Greek Cypriots.

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



The upward trend was brought to an abrupt end on 20 July, 1974, when Turkey, a country which had guaranteed Cyprus independence, invaded the defenceless island with a fully fledged army, spreading death and destruction and in a matter of few days reducing to ruins what had been achieved through long effort and toil. The operation undertaken by Turkey, was most appropriately self-styled "Attila Operation".

TURKEY has ignored repeated resolutions by the United Nations calling for an end to the invasion and occupation of the island which was undertaken on the pretext of restoration of constitutional order, disturbed by a coup staged by the Greek Junta to overthrow the President of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios. But even after the return of the President to the island and the restoration of constitutional order the aggression continued and the occupation army remained in the island to back up Turkey's policy of promoting partition. The Turkish troops firmly hold 40% of the island's territory from which they forcibly expelled the Greek Cypriot population reducing to refugees in their own country 200,000 Greek Cypriots who were forced to flee to the government controlled south, while some 80,000 Turkish Cypriots were also forcibly removed or lured to the north in an effort to create purely Greek and Turkish areas as a step towards eventual partition. The uprooting of more than one third of the population from their homes and properties depriving them of their means of livelihood and the destruction of the island's resources brought havoc to economic development plans and created new priorities for the government programmes.

The primary objective was now to provide prime necessities for the thousands of refugees who had to be housed, fed and given medical care. Tremendous problems were created for housing the 200,000 Greek Cypriots who found temporary accommodation in tents, makeshift huts, under trees or in unfinished blocks of flats. By June 1977 out of the total of 200,000 only 51,666 persons (26%) had been given acceptable accommodation in newly built settlements. For 65,403 (33%) housing was unsatisfactory because it lacked fundamental facilities, while 55,934 (28.2%) were housed in very unsatisfactory accommodation (makeshift sheds) and 25,485 (12.8%) in extremely unsatisfactory housing.

EFFECTS ON EDUCATION

34.6% of school buildings occupied or affected.

41.1% of primary school children displaced.

3 of 8 technical schools out of use affecting 29.7% of pupils.

* Due to the fact that the whole Greek Cypriot population (82%) has been forced to concentrate in 60% of the country, abandoning schools and other educational facilities, difficulties are experienced in the educational sector. To cope with the situation the Education authorities have made provisional arrangements for classes on a shift basis in the remaining schools, a system which cannot, however, continue without destructive effects on educational standards.

CYPRUS AFTER ATTLILA'S INVASION

Some resources under occupation

40% of total area of the island, fertile and rich in resources representing :

70% of total gross output from all sources.

33.7%—36.2% of housing (48,600 households belonging to Greeks).

45.6%—46% of total plant production of which 78.8% citrus, 67.2% cereals, 45% olives, 24.7% potatoes, 100% tobacco, 85.6% carrots, 65% green fodder.

48.3% of all agricultural exports.

46.0% of all domestic exports.

32.7% of manufacturing labour force.

26% of manufacturing output.

55.6%—56% of mining and quarrying output.

64.6% of tourist accommodation capacity.

86.6% of tourist accommodation capacity under construction.

70.3% investment in Hotel accommodation.

HEALTH SERVICES DISRUPTED

Public Health Services seriously affected. Two out of six major hospitals occupied.

Eight out of 17 rural health centres occupied.

- A most difficult task faced by public and private health services is the provision of medical care to the 200,000 displaced persons of all ages. Existing capacity of accessible hospitals and out-patients departments cannot cope with the needs of these unfortunate people. Special arrangements have been made, but it is evident that continuation of the occupation of major hospitals and other health centres by the invading forces which deny their use by the state authorities and private practitioners cannot but have adverse effects on the people's standard of health.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS

A large number of important ancient monuments dating as far back as the 3rd millenium B.C. as well as religious sites known for their Byzantine treasures, were cut off behind the enemy lines and are thus inaccessible for inspection and protection by the competent Government authorities. There have been substantiated reports of looting and destruction. The world press has reported instances of Cyprus antiquities including Byzantine icons finding their way to European markets. The cultural heritage of Cyprus is in grave danger.

Moreover there is evidence that Greek Orthodox Churches were turned into mosques for moslen worship by the invasion troops while in other cases places of Christian worship were turned into army depots or sheepfolds.

LAND OWNERSHIP

According to data dating back to British Administration:

The Greek Cypriots own	60.9%	of the total area
The Turkish Cypriots	12.3%	
Others own	0.5%	
State land is	26.3%	

Percentages of privately owned land are as follows:

Greek Cypriots	82.7%
Turkish Cypriots	16.7%
Others	0.6%

Employment

Employment statistics show the dark contrast between the normal year of peace, prosperity and full employment conditions (1973) and the post invasion period of destruction and mass unemployment (1974). Thousands of people lost all their means of subsistence, homes, jobs, property and had to rely on the state for their economic survival. The level of unemployment at the end of 1974 reached unprecedented heights being 24.5% of the economically active population as opposed to only 1.2% in 1973. To deal with the situation the government increased substantially the level of expenditure providing the displaced with the necessary allowances to meet their economic needs. At the same time with the help of foreign aid it implemented an intensive programme of reactivation aimed at creating the greatest possible number of employment opportunities. The outcome was a speedy recovery and an upturn of economic activity increasing employment and reducing unemployment to 8.2% by the end of 1976 a level of unemployment still considered relatively high by international standards.

Immigration

The destructive effects of the Turkish invasion with its consequent heavy unemployment and mass poverty had led many people to seek employment abroad as a temporary measure. The period prior to the invasion was characterised by inflow of immigrants who were returning to seek employment in a booming economy. This positive flow of people became negative outflow for the years immediately after the invasion. However more recently with the improvement in the economic outlook of the country there are signs that the flow is again reversing.

HUMAN LOSSES

The Turkish invasion has brought island-wide human suffering.

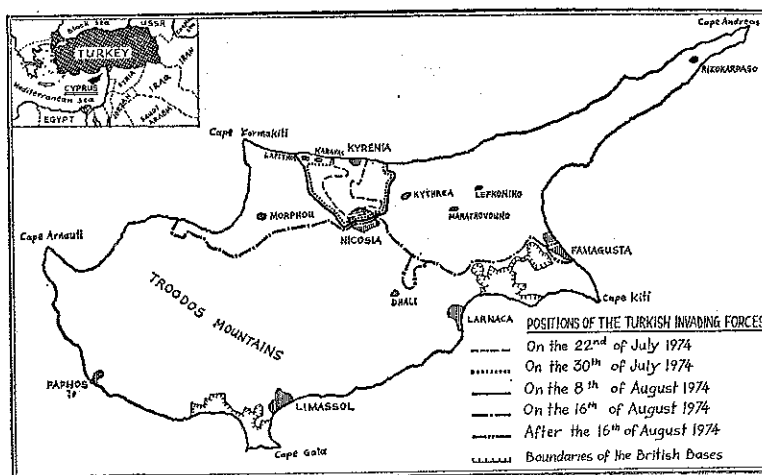
The thousands of dead and missing and the hundreds of people of all ages killed in cold blood by the invaders (including whole families) added to the 200,000 refugees, show the extent. There is not a single family in Cyprus which has been unaffected.

Communications

The sector of Communications suffered a serious blow due to the invasion. A lot of vehicles were destroyed; a large part of the road network is within the presently occupied area; the Famagusta port, the main port of the Island through which more than 80% of the general cargo was handled is under Turkish occupation. Finally, the whole fleet of Cyprus Airways has either been destroyed or was trapped, subjected to continuous damage, in the Nicosia Airport which was closed to civil aviation since July, 1974.

In order to face the consequences of the invasion and assist in the reactivation process in the sector of communications and the economy as a whole the Government implemented a number of policy measures and initiated relevant programmes and projects, including construction of new and/or improvement of existing road connections which became necessary as a result of the invasion.

- The Government and the Cyprus Port Organization are working on projects for extension of Limassol and Larnaca ports and the construction of a new port at Paphos. During the last three years storage facilities of ports were extended and improved.
- Since February, 1975, air communications with the rest of the world are carried out through the Larnaca Airport. The Airport was fully equipped with all the necessary modern equipment required by the relevant international regulations.



Foreign Trade

Cyprus foreign trade followed a speedy recovery in 1976 after the serious setback it suffered as a result of the Turkish invasion in 1974. In 1976 imports (CIF) rose to £177.8 mln. compared with £157.4 mln. in 1973 and £113.7 mln. in 1975. The increase over 1973 was 13% while over 1975 it was 56.4%. These high rates of import growth provide an indication of the degree of reactivation of the economy and the associated income and demand generation.

At the same time the economy showed an excellent export performance and domestic exports rose to £85.7 mln. in 1976 compared with £51.4 mln. in 1973 and £49.0 mln. in 1975. The chief impetus to increased exports was provided by industrial products whose exports rose from £15.0 mln. in 1973 to £47.7 mln. in 1976. The level of agricultural exports was also higher in 1976 (£29.4 mln.) than in 1973 (£26.5 mln.) despite all the adverse effects of the invasion, due to favourable prices for potatoes, table grapes, vegetable etc. Re-exports were also much higher and reached £19.6 mln. in 1976 compared with £9.1 mln. in 1973 because of the Lebanese crises.

Tourism

Tourism re-couped very fast from the effects of the invasion. In 1976 the number of tourists that visited Cyprus reached 180,000 compared with 47,000 in 1975 and 152,000 in 1974. Despite this fast growth in tourist arrivals, Cyprus has not yet attained its pre-invasion tourist levels. The 1976 tourist traffic is still below that of 1973 by 32%. The rise in the number of tourists in 1976 is also incidental and is due to the Lebanese crisis. More than 43% or 77,887 of the tourists in that year came from Lebanon. Only 19% came from U.K. compared with 44% in 1973 while tourists from Western Germany, Sweden and the U.S.A. which in 1973 made up 24% of the total, in 1976 formed only 6.2%.

Tourist expenditure also rose steeply in 1976 and reached £20.7 mln. compared with £5.4 mln. in 1975, £13.9 mln. in 1974 and £23.8 mln. in 1973. These include expenditure incurred by excursionists whose numbers in 1976 were very much below those of 1973 i.e. 34,489 and 168,770 respectively.

EFFORTS FOR SETTLEMENT

On 12 February, 1977, at a meeting of the President of the Republic Archbishop Makarios, with the Turkish leader, Mr. Rauf Denktash in Nicosia, in the presence of the UN Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the following guidelines were agreed for the resumption in a substantive and meaningful manner of the intercommunal talks in search of a Cyprus settlement, which had been at a standstill for about a year :

- “ (1) We are seeking an independent, non-aligned, bi-communal federal Republic ;
- (2) The territory under the administration of each community should be discussed in the light of economic viability or productivity and land-ownership ;
- (3) Question of principles like freedom of movement, freedom of settlement, the right of property and other specific matters are open for discussion taking into consideration the fundamental basis of a bi-communal federal system and certain practical difficulties which may arise for the Turkish Cypriot community ;
- (4) The powers and functions of the central federal government will be such as to safeguard the unity of the country, having regard to the bi-communal character of the State ”.

Following this it was agreed to hold talks in Vienna under the auspices and personal direction of the UN Secretary General and the two sides undertook to submit concrete proposals on the two basic issues of the Cyprus problem, the territorial and the constitutional and to comment in a substantive manner on each other's proposals so as to ensure meaningful discussion conducive to a settlement.

The talks were held in Vienna from 31 March to 7 April, 1977. The Greek Cypriot side put forward concrete proposals on the territorial issue including a map indicating the regions proposed to come under Greek and Turkish Cypriot administration respectively. The Greek Cypriot interlocutor also made substantive comments on the constitutional proposals of the Turkish Cypriot side, which were not concrete in any form but vaguely drafted principles and submitted also comprehensive constitutional proposals. The Turkish Cypriot side rejected the Greek Cypriot proposal on the territorial aspect did not make any meaningful or substantive comments or put forward concrete proposals indicating its own position on this issue.