

Nancy Crawshaw = The ^{Cypriots} Rebel ~~is~~

References,

AKEL. Reform Party of the Working People;
founded 1941 at Skarinnou 30.
early political activities, tactics of violence 31-3,
domination of trade unions 31, 53.
record in the municipal elections 31, 34, 42,
members tried and imprisoned for seditious conspiracy. 32-4.
replaces the Communist Party 24.
Campaigns for self-government 37-8, 40.
rejects Winster plan 39.
drops self-government from programme after meeting leader
of Greek Communist Party 41
contacts with international communism 41, 49, 81 and fn. 381.
pursues popular front tactics 41, 49, 51-2, 54, 257
discussion within 41, 53;
initiates plebiscite proposals 46-7.
opposition to bases 51-4, 140, 151.
friction with the Ethnarchy 51, 53-4.
relations with Makarios 51, 53, 151, 308.
purge of dissidents, extremists gain control 53.
proscribed by British, members ~~disinterested~~ 150-2.
its opposition to violence in the national struggle 151.
clashes with EOKA 151, 256-7, 281-2, 307-9.
suspected by Grivas of colluding with the British 152, 281-2
released from detention 256.
denounces EOKA's murders of leftists 307.
Supports Makarios as sole representative in future negotiations 308
opposes passive resistance 311.
ban on lifted 355.
Supports John Klontzas in first presidential election 355
switches allegiance to Makarios in first parliamentary
election 362;
contacts with the USSR 381-2,

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The Socialist Truth in Cyprus – London Bureaux

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(1) "The rise of the Cypriot Communist Party in the 1920s constituted a more serious challenge than did the British to the political monopoly of the Church, since the authority of the communists stemmed from the people. The communists, moreover, were at variance with the Church since during the greater part of British rule they were opposed to Enosis which, in terms of Marxist clichés, they regarded as a substitute of one form of imperialism for another."
(The Cyprus Revolt, Nancy Crawshaw, p. 26
First published 1978, George Allen & Unwin.)

"... Reports of pending clashes between the Church and the Communists prompted the authorities to ban the Communist Party of Cyprus in 1933." p. 27, *ibid.*

1940 onwards:
"The war years were marked by an intensive revival of political activity, in which the communists held the initiative." p. 30, *ibid.*

"The trade union movement was also given official encouragement by the setting up of the first Labour Department and the enactment of the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Law on the pattern of legislation in Britain. The same year the Cypriots formed the Pan-Cyprian Trade Union Committee (PTUC). [p. 30]

"By far the most important political development was the foundation of the Reform Party of the Working People (AKEL), which was sponsored by moderates as well as by leftists and met for the first time in 1941 at Skarinnou. AKEL at this stage was primarily concerned with the immediate task of providing an alternative to the right wing at the forthcoming

2)

municipal elections and was welcomed by the Cyprian authorities as a healthy antidote to the nationalist politicians backed by the Church and obsessed with 'Ethos' and 'bathing butchers'!

After the German invasion of Russia AKOZ formed an anti-fascist front, and its subversive character and Communist affiliations soon came to light."

p.31

War years - industrial and economic unrest.

December 1942 employees on defence and other works went on strike for higher wages and seven trade unionists were sent to prison after threatening the life of a blackleg. A general strike was planned for 27 August 1943 in protest against the high cost of living but was called off on the grounds that it was illegal. - p.31

" ---, tension was also increased by the revival of the traditional hostility between the Church and the Communists. In 1943 the Greek trade unions split into nationalists and left-wing groups. At its third conference held in Larnaca a year later the PTUC declared itself to be an inseparable part of AKOZ, 'its guide in the political, social and economic struggle'. A small right-wing union, the Cyprus Workers Confederation (SEK), was eventually formed under the leadership of Michael Pissas, a fanatical Ethosist. SEK was closely associated with the Church and functioned from the archbishopric." p.31.

(3) In the municipal elections, postponed until March 1943 owing to the evacuation of the town dwellers, AKEL scored sweeping victories in Gressol and Fonguste.
p-31.

1942 - onwards.
" 28 August AKEL held a protest strike as a 'day of expression for the people's national feelings'.
p-32

" At Leftonko an Akelist addressed a meeting and a dispute broke out between rival factions of Greek Cypriots.

" In December, eighteen left-wing trade unionists, including Zia Ardes, Secretary General of the PTUC and a member of AKEL's Central Committee, were tried for seditious conspiracy.

Opening for the prosecution on 17 December the Attorney-General, Stelios Pavlides KC, submitted that the accused, all of whom were members of the PTUC, an illegal organisation by treason of Bachushes, had conspired to overthrow the Government 'by Revolution. Pavlides then defined the aim of the PTUC:

-- the overthrow of the existing regime and the establishment of a socialist state by revolution in accordance with Marxist theory. To achieve this, the trade unions are not to be looked upon as labour or trade organisations but as parts of a political party. The accused are next out in search of a party to lead them; it must be a party which is conducted in accordance with the Marxist proletarian formula and the accused had no hesitation in proclaiming

(4) that this party should be the AKEZ party.
p. 32

21-January 1946, twelve were accused and sentenced to eighteen months and the remainder to one year's ^{imprisonment.} ~~imprisonment.~~

The PTC was proscribed, but was eventually replaced by the Kinyran Federation of Labour (KFL). 1946, p. 33.

A communist sympathiser Leslie Solley. Solley was dismissed from the Labour Party in 1949 for his communist sympathies.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies Arthur Creech Jones, ^{in his reply stated that such charges were} The encouragement of propaganda for the overthrow of the Constitution of Cyprus by revolution, the overthrow by violence of the established Government of Cyprus and the overthrow by violence of organised government,
--- p. 33.

26 May 1946 AKEZ won the ~~main~~ four main towns in the municipal elections under the banner 'National Co-operation'.

By 1946 AKEZ had established itself as the only well organised political party in the island. It already had a record of solid achievement in social welfare and other fields. The party was not entirely composed of communists, having attracted men of influence and moderation. Thousands of workers looked to the

(5) trade unions associated with AKEL as the only organisation capable of protecting and advancing their interests. The right-wing unions, sponsored by the Church and obsessed with politics, were mostly ineffectual. The British administration tended to be entranced at local and international level for its 'tolerance' and even 'encouragement' of the Cypriot Communists. p-34.

Cyrus Sulzberger wrote in the New York Times, 17 May 1949 - "It is understood the Colonial office has feared that the encouraging of the conservative parties among the island's predominantly Greek population would serve only to build up the idea of Etnos - As a result Communism has been permitted to spread while Greek nationalism has been held in check". p-34.

'The communists worked well in municipal and labour affairs with their opposite numbers in administration. The problem for the authorities was how to contain communism and preserve law and order without proscribing the only constructive political movement in Cyprus. p-34.

The Labour Government and abortive reforms.

1946. The ban on the return to Cyprus of the Cypriots exiled after the 1931 riots was lifted.

July 1947 Consultative Assembly.
Avel General Secretary Philip Tonanou and
the five mayors Kleantes and Sefers.
demands for constitution -

⑥ The nationalists hailed the event as a decisive victory - the defeat of the British and the Stalinists. AKEL protested strongly and continued to press for full self-government.

p-39.

As a result of the fiasco of the Constitutive Assembly the nationalists gained great advantages not through any enlightened policy of their own but because of the mistakes made by their opponents - the British and ~~Red~~ Communists.

p-39.

AKEL's recourse to violence after the war had jeopardised the chance for a relatively advanced constitution which would have facilitated the acceptance of self-government by its leaders and the moderates in 1948.

Social and economic unrest. Friction.

Between the extremists of the right and the left - bitterness was intensified during the Greek Civil War by AKEL's support for EAM

p-40.

Industrial strife reached a climax in 1948.

13 January miners in the CMC, went on strike for higher wages and a 48hrs week. Police open fire on strikers.

Strike went on until May and was only broken then by black-leg labour organised by the church.

In August miners at Amianos struck for a month and employees in the building trade for sixteen weeks. p-40

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Kaynak Yayınları. (2) 8 Ekim 88.

Sayfa 13-22, B. Savaş içinde Kıbrıs'ta Meclis'in durumu
ve politikası. AKEL

AKEL 53-57, II. Enosis hareketinin Hızlanması 1946-1950,
61-66 - 67-68 AKEL,
79-81 AKEL

163 AKEL

168-169. AKEL

Kıbrıs Komünist Partisi.

135

141

145-146.