

House President pledges to work for all the people



•New House President Demetris Christofias.

AKEL party leader Demetris Christofias was elected as President of the new House of Representatives on 7 June, his elevation to the second highest post in the state hierarchy being AKEL's most important acquisition of political power since its foundation in 1941 as successor to the Communist Party of Cyprus.

The AKEL leader's victory was assured by the decision of the Democratic Party (DIKO) to back his candidacy against that of Democratic Rally (DISY) leader Nicos Anastasiades. AKEL had become the largest parliamentary party in the May elections with 20 of the 56 seats against 19 for DISY, so that DIKO's nine-strong contingent gave Mr Christofias a majority. He was also supported by the four deputies of the Movement of Social Democrats (KISOS), while the single members of the four other parties represented in the new House abstained.

Mr Christofias said after his election that he would "co-operate productively" with President Clerides (the founder of DISY) in the interests of the Cypriot people, but stressed that the House had its own special role to play.

•The party spokesmen in the new House were also elected in June. AKEL re-elected Andreas Christou, whereas contests in the other two major parties resulted in new faces being appointed, namely Demetris Syllouris for DISY and Nicos Cleanthous for DIKO.□

Mandate renewed

The Cyprus Government welcomed the UN Security Council's six-month renewal of the mandate of the UN Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) on 15 June, particularly its reaffirmation of previous resolutions calling for a federal solution to the Cyprus problem.

Adopted unanimously, Resolution 1354 extended the UNFICYP mandate until 15 December and urged the Turkish Cypriot side to rescind the restrictions imposed on the Force's operations in June 2000 and to restore the military *status quo ante* at Stovilia. It also called on the parties to address the issue of missing persons "with due urgency".

•The UN Secretary General's latest report on Cyprus recorded that as of May 2001 UNFICYP consisted of 1,216 troops, 35 civilian police and 183 civilian staff, with Argentina providing the largest contingent. It gave the budgeted cost of the Force in the year from 1 July as \$40,697,145 net, of which a third (\$13,565,715) would be covered by a voluntary contribution from the Cyprus Government and a further \$6.5 million by one from Greece.□

Turkey censured again on Loizidou

The Cyprus Government expressed satisfaction at the adoption by the Council of Europe's Ministerial Committee on 26 June of a further resolution deploring Turkey's refusal to accept rulings of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the Titina Loizidou property rights case and calling on member states to take action to bring about compliance.

The resolution was the Committee's third since the original ECHR ruling in 1997 that Ms Loizidou's rights to her property in Kyrenia had been violated by the Turkish occupation regime and its award of \$900,000 in compensation and costs in 1999. It condemned Turkey's "manifest disregard" for the rule of law in rejecting the ruling and expressed its resolve "to ensure with all means available" that Turkey complied with its international obligations.

Cyprus Government Spokesman Michalis Papapetrou on 27 June noted that the latest resolution was stronger than previous texts and demonstrated that Turkey's isolation had become "more pronounced". Attorney

General Alecos Markides welcomed the fact that the Committee had for the first time called on member states to take action to bring about Turkey's compliance.

Turkey's immediate rejection of the latest resolution was deplored by Council of Europe Secretary General Walter Schwimmer, who dismissed in particular the Turkish contention that the Loizidou case was a "political" issue. He stressed that the ECHR ruling was "a purely legal question" and that Turkey's non-compliance could not be justified by the absence of a political settlement on the Cyprus problem or delayed until one was reached.

•Lawyers for Panicos Tziakourmas and his family on 12 June filed a suit against Turkey at the ECHR in respect of his abduction by Turkish forces in December 2000 and his detention in the occupied area until 26 April. The British authorities confirmed their readiness to provide evidence about the circumstances of the abduction, which occurred within the Dhekelia UK sovereign base area.□

Kasoulides appeals for help on missing

Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides on 23 June formally called on the Turkish Cypriot side to co-operate on a humanitarian basis in investigations into the fate of missing persons in Cyprus. He also renewed the Government's call for relatives of the missing, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot, to give blood and other information that could assist with DNA identification of exhumed remains.

Speaking at an annual commemoration of those missing from the 1974 hostilities in Cyprus, Mr Kasoulides recalled that the Government had decided unilaterally to carry out exhumations after the Turkish Cypriots had refused to honour a 1997 agreement providing for co-operation on identification of victims. The work had started in mid-1999, by a team led by Prof. William Haglund of the US-based Physicians for Human Rights and including scientists from the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, and had so far identified the remains of 108 persons, of whom 26 were believed to be among those previously listed as missing.

Mr Kasoulides said that the relatives of missing persons, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot, had "a basic right" to find out what happened to their loved ones and that the co-operation of the Turkish Cypriot side

would assist with this humanitarian endeavour. He stressed that the Government made no distinction between the two communities, but that identification of Turkish Cypriot remains could only be achieved on the basis of co-operation.

The response of Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş to the Government's proposal was predictably intransigent. "We do not give Greek Cypriots even a single bit of dust", he asserted on 25 June, demanding instead that "the bones of our missing people" should be returned. He also declared that the Turkish Cypriot side intended to file a suit at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) about the Greek Cypriots' "maltreatment" of Turkish Cypriots.

Cyprus Government Spokesman Michalis Papapetrou responded by regretting that Mr Denktaş "once more blocks the way forward and essentially acts against the interests of the relatives of Turkish Cypriot missing persons". On the Turkish Cypriot leader's intention to file a suit against the Cyprus Government at the ECHR, Mr Papapetrou commented that it was "interesting" that he had suddenly discovered international law and human rights conventions and that the Government would give careful study to any resultant Turkish Cypriot suit.□



•Laid to rest with honour... Burial service for two of the newly identified 1974 missing.