



• Kurion Amphitheatre... A "Kypria 2001" venue.

European themes for "Kypria 2001" arts festival

European cultural themes will predominate in the international "Kypria 2001" festival of the arts, the 11th such annual event to be held in Cyprus, which begins on 1 September and will continue until December with a wide-ranging programme of music, plays and other events.

Introducing the Government-organized festival on 23 August, Education and Culture Minister Ouranios Ioannides noted that "Kypria 2001" was being sponsored by the EU Ambassador in Cyprus, Donato Chiarini, and thus would have a pronounced European dimension, while maintaining its established reputation for quality and excitement.

The programme begins with productions by the Cyprus Theatre Organization of Lucian's *Dialogues of the Dead* in the Makarios III Amphitheatre of the Nicosia Blind School. The musical satire then moves on for performances in Limassol, Paphos and Larnaca. The Nicosia and Limassol venues will also stage presentations by the Hebei Theatre Company, a traditional Chinese opera troupe, of their interpretations of the classical Greek tragedies *Medea* and *Antigone*.

The Aristophanes Greek Theatre Organization will be putting on *The Clouds* by their namesake in Nicosia and Limassol, where the well-known Greek folk-singer Dionysis Savvopoulos will be performing with the State Orchestra of Greek Music. Later in the month Kolizey Productions will present the balletic play *Moisseyev*.

Other highlights of the programme in September include flamenco music and dancing by the Compania Andalucia de Danza and a production of Euripides' *Trojan Women* by the Aplo Theatre Company. Musical attractions lined up for October include the works of great Cypriot composers played by the Cyprus State Orchestra and performances by the Warsaw Sinfonia.

•The annual Paphos Aphrodite Festival further enhanced its reputation in its third year in late August and early September, staging performances by the world-famous National Opera and Teatr Wielki of Poland of Verdi's opera *Nabucco* and Lorca Massine's ballet *Zorba the Greek* with music by Mikis Theodorakis. The premiere of *Zorba the Greek* was attended by 76-year-old Theodorakis, who had vowed on turning 75 never to leave Greece again in case he died on foreign soil, but who made the trip to Paphos because Cyprus is culturally Greek. □

Notes & News

•The Government of Cyprus now has a **central website**, at www.cyprus.gov.cy, in Greek, English and (in part) Turkish. Users will find links to all existing official government websites for greater ease of access to information.

•President Clerides on 6 August ruled out an early **Government reshuffle** or the appointment of a new Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus. He noted that the "no Minister has requested to be transferred from his post" and that the current contract of the Central Bank Governor had nine months to run.

•The Holy Synod of the Cyprus Church on 10 August made a further denunciation of the continuing destruction of the island's **cultural and religious heritage** in the Turkish-occupied area. Calling on the international community "to end the outrageous Turkish acts" and to force Turkey to comply with international law, the Synod referred to specific acts of destruction and vandalism against some 500 Christian churches and sacred places in the occupied area.

•Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Costas Thermistocleous confirmed during a visit to an experimental **sturgeon hatchery** at Kalopanayiotis on 2 August that Cyprus could become a producer of caviar, one of the world's most expensive delicacies and currently in short supply. Weighing up to 12 kilos, the 32 fish being raised at the hatchery are all doing well and are expected to produce offspring for commercial fish farms.

•Official figures issued on 10 August showed that expenditure on **research and development (R&D)** in Cyprus increased by 15 per cent in 1999 compared with 1998, from 0.23 per cent of GDP to 0.25 per cent, or €12.4 million. The Government accounted for €6.1 million of R&D expenditure, higher educational institutions €3 million, the business sector €2.5 million and non-profit organizations €0.8 million.

•The 12th biennial **World Congress of Overseas Cypriots**, held in Nicosia on 26-30 August, received a message from President Clerides in which he stressed that the Greek Cypriot side's readiness to resume the UN talks should not be interpreted as weakness or lack of determination to pursue a settlement based on UN resolutions. The Congress adopted resolutions expressing the support of overseas Cypriots for a just settlement based on UN resolutions and the EU's *acquis communautaire*. □

•Cyprus and Greece on 23 August signed an agreement to launch the first of two **TV**



•Space link... Cyprus will soon have a TV satellite.

satellites which will provide communication and broadcasting services for 28 regional countries in time for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. The first satellite will be launched by 31 August 2002 and the second by 31 March 2004, under the control of the Cyprus-based Hellas Sat Consortium. Communications and Works Minister Averof Neophytou said that the next goal was to broaden the Cypriot-Greek co-operation to include Bulgaria and the Vatican.

•Figures released on 12 August showed that **tourist arrivals** increased by 5.5 per cent in the first half of 2001, reaching a total of 1,170,326 compared with 1,109,434 in the



•Sun, sea and sand... What the tourists come for.

first six months of 2000. First-half revenue from tourism was even better, increasing by 11.4 per cent over the first half of 2000 to total €490.1 million. In the three years 1998-2000 tourism to Cyprus rose by 29 per cent in numbers and by 40 per cent.

•The **Department of Antiquities** reported on 10-11 August that important finds have been made at the ancient Idalion site, south of Nicosia, and also in excavations at two sites in the Limassol area. The latest work at Idalion has uncovered further evidence that a palace was built there at the beginning of the Cypro-Archaic period and was reused by Phoenician settlers in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. The most important movable find, now on display in the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia, is a limestone censer in perfect condition consisting of a decorated bowl held by three female figurines painted in red. The new Limassol discoveries include an early Christian timber-roofed basilica and a pottery of the late Bronze Age, including a cooking pot still containing animal bones.

•The Department of Civil Aviation on 16 August banned flights of home-built **microlight and ultralight aircraft** in Cyprus unless prior permission had been obtained. Also banned was the use of fields, roads and beaches as landing and take-off strips. The Department said that "the illegal use of these aircraft endangers life and public property and also endangers the rest of the air traffic". □

CYPRUS NEWS is a monthly publication produced by the Cyprus High Commission. If you wish to receive a regular copy, please write to: The Press Counsellor, Cyprus High Commission, 93 Park Street, London, W1K 7ET, tel. 020 7491 8568, fax 020 7499 1346, email: presscounsellor@chclondon.com

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