



NORTHERN CYPRUS

Land of Peace
and Tranquility



Turkish Republic Of Northern Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Oct. 1, 2014

Dear Reader,

I would like to provide you with information regarding the ongoing negotiation process in Cyprus between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides and also provide general information about our country.

In order to fully comprehend the reasons behind the Cyprus problem and the negotiation process to find a lasting settlement, it is necessary to have an understanding about the genesis of the problem. The Republic of Cyprus was founded in 1960 in accordance with international treaties. The Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples, in their respective capacities as two political equals, entered into a partnership, setting up a joint state. The legitimacy of the 1960 republic lay in the joint presence and effective participation of both peoples in all organs of the state. Neither of the parties had the right to rule the other or assume the right to be the government of the other or the island as a whole in the absence of the other in all organs of the state and its government.

The partnership Republic of Cyprus was destroyed by the Greek Cypriot partner's onslaught on the Turkish Cypriot partner in December 1963, when all Turkish Cypriot members in all the state organs were forcibly ejected from their positions. Turkish Cypriots did not accept this attempted takeover of the partnership state by the Greek Cypriot side and, through their decisive resistance, prevented the Greek Cypriot side from extending its authority over the Turkish Cypriot people. In consequence, since December 1963, there has not been a joint central administration in the island capable of representing the whole of Cyprus, either legally or factually. Each side has since ruled itself, while the Greek Cypriot side has continued to claim that it is the "Government of Cyprus."

Separate, simultaneous referenda were held on April 24, 2004 in the TRNC and South Cyprus on the comprehensive settlement plan of the U.N. secretary-general that was finalized and submitted to the two sides on March 31, 2004. The plan was approved in the Turkish Cypriot referendum by 65 percent, clearly demonstrating that the expressed will of the Turkish Cypriot people is in favor of a comprehensive settlement in the form of a new partnership based on the principles of equal status, bizonality and political equality of the two peoples. On the other hand, 76 percent of the Greek Cypriot people rejected the plan, proving beyond doubt that, in overwhelming majority, the Greek Cypriot side is not ready to enter into a power-sharing arrangement with Turkish Cypriots but, instead, opts to continue to enjoy the benefits of the title of the "Republic of Cyprus," which was usurped through force of arms in December 1963.

Even though the Turkish Cypriot people have clearly done their part and utilized their right to self-determination toward the establishment of a new partnership in the island, the international community did not live up to its promises to lift the unnecessary restrictions and obstacles on the social, economic and political development of the Turkish Cypriot people. ***It must be remembered that in his report to the Security Council dated May 28, 2004 (S/2004/437), the U.N. secretary-general called upon the international community to "cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate the unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development (para. 93)."***

The separate simultaneous referenda also confirmed the



fact that there exist two equal peoples on the island, neither of which represents the other. Consequently, it would be untenable to claim that there is a single authority to represent the whole island, disregarding the reality that any solution in Cyprus requires the consent of both sides and both peoples. Moreover, the absence of a political settlement in Cyprus cannot justify the illegal Greek Cypriot claim to be the government of the "Republic of Cyprus" when it is, in fact, the Greek Cypriot side itself that has dismantled the Constitution, violated international agreements and wrecked the partnership set up as a result of which an exclusively Greek Cypriot administration came into being.

After a standstill period in the aftermath of the Annan Plan, on March 21, 2008 the Turkish Cypriot President Mehmet Ali Talat and the Greek Cypriot Leader Demetris Christofias agreed to establish working groups and technical committees and the commencement in due course of full-fledged negotiations based on the results of these working groups and technical committees. In the course of this process, the two leaders managed to reach on their own convergences on various issues, which was later compiled by the two sides and emerged as a "convergence paper." Although Dr. Eroglu stated his commitment following his election on April 2010 as the new Turkish Cypriot president that he is willing to continue the negotiations from where they were left off, Mr. Nikos Anastasiades, who was elected as the Greek Cypriot leader in February 2013, refrained from making any commitments regarding the previously reached convergences and insisted that the two sides should agree on a joint statement before resumption of the negotiations.

After a period marked by intense discussions and diplomatic exercise, a joint statement was finally concluded by the two leaders on February 11, 2014, following the bold and constructive steps taken by the Turkish Cypriot side, which created an opportunity for the two sides to reach a solution for the first time since the referenda on the Annan Plan. With their joint statement, the two leaders agreed that their goal is to achieve a bizonal, bicommunal federation with political equality and that this federation will have a single sovereignty as defined and enjoyed by all U.N. member states under the U.N. Charter and which emanates equally from Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. ***The federation will be composed of two constituent states of equal status, and neither side will claim authority or jurisdiction over the other.***

It has been seven months since the resumption of negotiations upon the announcement of the joint statement.

Thus far, the two sides have been able to complete only the preparatory phase of the negotiations, namely the screening and discussion of substantive core issues and tabling of proposals. In order to expedite the process, what should have been done from the very beginning was to confirm the past convergences, but the Greek Cypriot side announced that it would not accept the previously reached convergences in order to move forward. In order to step up the momentum of the process, the leaders announced on September 17, 2014, in the presence of Mr. Espen Barth Eide, the new U.N. special adviser on Cyprus, that agreement was reached to move to the next phase of structured negotiations with a view to bridging the gaps through real negotiations on unresolved core issues and to increase the pace of their meetings.

The Turkish Cypriot side remains fully committed to a mutually acceptable settlement on the basis of the established U.N. parameters and expects the Greek Cypriot side to reciprocate in the same constructive manner so as to facilitate the reaching of a settlement as soon as possible and the holding of separate simultaneous referenda thereafter.

I also would like to provide some general information about our country, which is a peaceful, welcoming and safe destination attracting tourists from all over the world. The island of Cyprus is at a historically and strategically significant location, situated at the crossroads between East and West. For this reason, many civilizations have ruled the island and left their mark on its cultural heritage. The untouched beaches and natural beauty of the island have also earned it the title "a corner of earth touched by heaven."

All the hotels and other tourist facilities situated within the boundaries of the TRNC are functioning according to international standards. The legislation in force regarding the permits, licenses and functioning regulations are on par with that of the European Union. Moreover, the crime rate in North Cyprus, which is being internationally monitored, is well below that of South Cyprus and the European average. ***Furthermore, the TRNC enjoys a year-round moderate climate, which is ideal for various sporting and cultural activities, such as mountain climbing, scuba diving and paragliding, and offers a fusion of Turkish and Mediterranean cuisine. Moreover, our country is also considered "an oasis of higher education" with its 11 universities and 63,765 students from 116 countries and teaching staff from 65 countries.***

The TRNC has a modern and well-equipped airport (Ercan) and two seaports (Famagusta and Kyrenia), which are fully operational. In this connection, data show that Ercan has become a steadily growing airport that serves over 2 million passengers every year. Thousands of tourists mainly arrive each year in North Cyprus via Ercan. There are thousands more who arrive from the Larnaca airport in South Cyprus and cross over to the North to spend their holidays. Many Greek Cypriot citizens also use Ercan airport for travel purposes.

I would like to underline that all United States citizens are most welcomed in our country, and I have no doubt that they will enjoy their stay in Northern Cyprus and leave our island with good memories.

Yours sincerely,

Özdil Nami
Minister of Foreign Affairs

A new destination in the Eastern Mediterranean: Karpaz Gate Marina

Karpaz Gate Marina is at the heart of one of the most attractive areas of the Eastern Mediterranean, amid the unspoiled beauty of the Northern Cyprus Karpaz Peninsula.

It is the perfect starting place to explore the area's pristine waters, untouched bays and sandy beaches.

The marina has established itself as a premium tourism and sailing destination since it opened in 2011. It is only an hour's drive from Lefkosa (Nicosia) and Girne (Kyrenia).

Karpaz Gate, one of the most modern marinas in the Eastern Mediterranean, was constructed as the result of one of the most significant foreign investments ever in Northern Cyprus.

The Israeli business community invested \$100 million into the marina, opening a new tourist gateway to the North Cyprus and Karpaz region.

Karpaz Gate Marina was designed to meet all the needs of boaters and other visitors with bars, a beach club, cafes, restaurants, a chandlery, duty-free shopping and extensive boat maintenance facilities. Other attractions and amenities include a water sports center, Hemingway's Restobar, a fitness center and the Mephisto Diving Center, as well as a 108-foot infinity swimming pool at the luxury beach club.

The marina has the



capacity for 300 yachts ranging from 16 to 180 feet. All yachts in the harbor are protected from weather.

For divers, Karpaz Gate Marina offers warm, clear waters and a unique geological seabed. Beginners and more

advanced divers can explore sites at the eastern tip of the island such as the Grand Canyon and the Lighthouse Reef.

Karpaz Gate Marina is the first of its kind in Cyprus to acquire Gold Anchor status, the highest accolade available

for marinas around the world. After a rigorous appraisal, the Yacht Harbor Association awarded the elite status in July 2013 after praising the marina's ambiance and customer service.

For more details or

information on yacht accommodation packages, contact the Karpaz Gate Marina office at 90-533-870-29-83, email info@karpazbay.com or visit the website at KarpazBay.com.

General information

- The International Council of Marine Industry Associations granted Karpaz Gate the Clean Marina standard in July 2013.
- Turkey is just 48 miles away from the northern shore, or panhandle, of the Karpaz Peninsula.
- The marina can accommodate up to 12 super yachts.
- The 3,600 square yards of dry storage area include modern, fully equipped workshops and a 300-ton travel lift.
- Karpaz Gate Marina is a port of entry with duty-free status.
- The marina produces its own fresh water and has a pump-out station and waste treatment center.
- Visitors and property are protected by 24/7 CCTV and security personnel, as well as access control and access cards for each area.
- Wi-Fi access is available and is complimentary for spot holders.
- Shore services include an on-site mini-market, a chandlery, a laundry room, an international currency ATM, a brokerage and a boat sales office.



The island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean is 40 miles from the coast of Turkey, 60 miles from Syria and 250 miles from Egypt. It is the third-largest island in the Mediterranean after Sicily and Sardinia.

Cyprus is at a historically and strategically significant location, at the crossroads between East and West. Many civilizations have ruled the island and left their marks on its cultural heritage.

Traces of a historic and cultural heritage in the 1,310-square-mile Northern Cyprus go back 10,000 years. The first signs of human occupation on the island date from 8,000 B.C.

Since the Neolithic period, marks have been left by civilizations including the Phoenicians, Assyrians, Egyptians, the Ptolemaic Dynasty, Persians, Hellenes, Romans, Byzantines, Lusignans, Venetians, Ottomans and the British.

Tourism continues to be one of the main engines of economic development in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. According to 2014 estimates, tourism contributes 9 percent to gross domestic product. The occupancy rate this April was 31 percent. Visitors from Turkey and the United Kingdom make up the biggest share, but the number of tourists from European and Eastern countries has increased significantly in the past few years. The island's pristine beaches and natural beauty have earned it the title "A Corner of Earth Touched by



Tourism in the TRNC

Heaven.”

The moderate climate of Northern Cyprus is typical for the Mediterranean. The summers are long and hot, and the winters are short with little rainfall. Cold winds, frost and snow are virtually unknown. January low temperatures average 50 degrees Fahrenheit, and the average high in July is 104 degrees. The annual mean temperature is 59 degrees.

Vacationers enjoy the golden sandy beaches, beautiful mountains, castles, abbeys, palaces, rare plant species and tranquil environment, as well as the warm hospitality of the Mediterranean people.

All the hotels and other tourist facilities within the boundaries of Northern Cyprus

are functioning according to international standards. The laws pertaining to the permits, licenses and functioning regulations are on par with those of the European Union. The crime rate, according to international monitors, is well below those of Southern Cyprus and Europe.

Luxury hotels, family hotels, boutique hotels and ecotourism hotels have been constructed in recent years. Tourists swim in the clear waters of the Mediterranean, and amenities include fine buffet dining, conference and seminar halls, swimming pools, water parks, environmentally integrated green spaces, recreation and entertainment activities and gaming facilities.

A modern and well-equipped airport (Ercan) and two

seaports (Famagusta and Kyrenia) are fully operational. Ercan International Airport has grown steadily and now serves more than 2 million passengers a year. Thousands of tourists arrive each year in Northern Cyprus via Ercan, and thousands more arrive from Larnaca International Airport in Southern Cyprus and cross into the North to spend their vacations. Many Greek Cypriot citizens also use Ercan for travel.

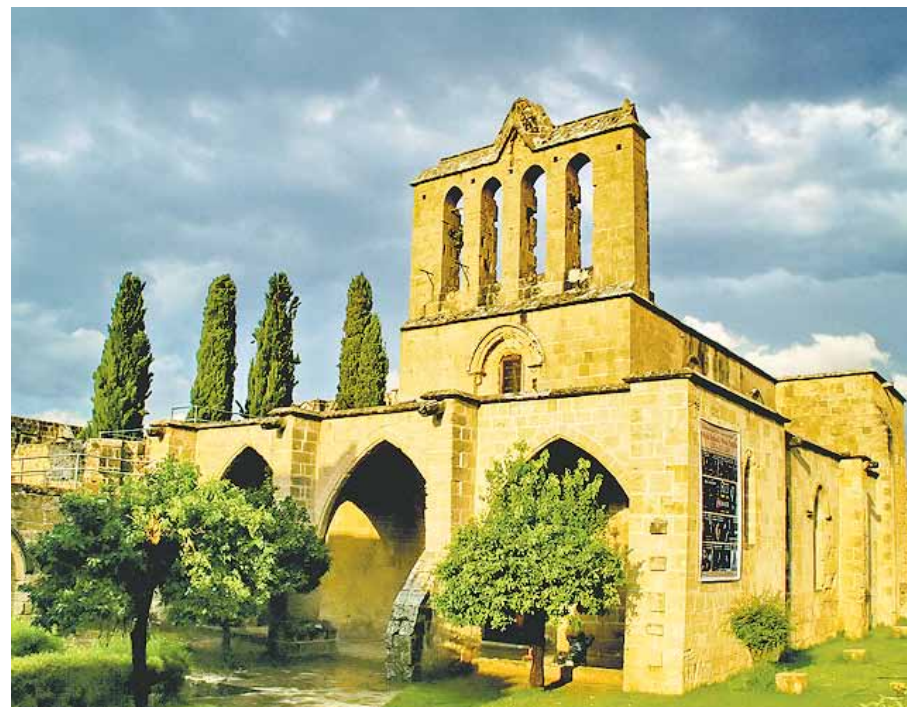
The number of people visiting Northern Cyprus has continued to increase. In 2011, records show, 801,326 people came from Turkey and 220,763 from other countries. In 2013, these numbers were 923,308 and 309,445 respectively. They show only the people coming

through the Northern Cypriot air and sea ports. In 2003, with the border open, many visitors came from the South to visit. Last year, 1,814,708 foreigners visited.

The number of bed nights and occupancy rates also have increased. In 2011, the total number of bed nights was 2,287,869 and the occupancy rate was 41.4 percent. In 2013, these figures were 2,877,564 and 47.9 percent respectively. In 2013, the four top nationalities whose people stayed in tourist accommodation establishments were Turkey, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands.

By the end of August this year, the total bed capacity reached 19,346 — 69 percent in the Kyrenia region, 7 percent in Gazimağusa region, 19 percent in the İskele region, 4 percent in the Lefkoşa region and 1 percent in the Güzelyurt region.

The number of tourist accommodation establishments corresponding to total bed capacity is 132. Of these, 17 are five-star hotels, four are four-star hotels, 10 are three-star hotels, 17 are two-star hotels, 18 are one-star hotels, five are Class II holiday villages, five are boutique hotels, one is a special-class hotel, 29 are tourist bungalows, two are apart hotels, three are traditional houses, one is a holiday home and 17 are tourist guesthouses. Other establishments are under construction with a total bed capacity of 6,250.



Higher education in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus



Strategically important for education and for social, cultural and economic development, the higher-education sector constitutes 40 percent of the economy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This is why higher education is an integral part of governmental policy and why Northern Cyprus is considered an oasis of higher education.

The population of Northern Cyprus is roughly 300,000. Its 11 universities have 63,765 students: 34,206 from Turkey, 12,505 from the Northern Cyprus and 17,054 from 114 other nations. Faculty members come from 65 countries. This depicts the international character of higher education in Northern Cyprus.

Northern Cypriot universities are:

- Eastern Mediterranean University.
- Girne American University.
- Near East University.
- Lefke European University.
- Cyprus International University.
- Middle East Technical University.
- Istanbul Technical University.
- Mediterranean Karpaz University.
- University of Kyrenia.
- British University of Nicosia.
- Cyprus Social Sciences University.

The higher education institutions offer:

- Associate degrees.
- Undergraduate degrees.
- Master's degrees.
- Doctoral degrees.

All higher education institutions established in Northern Cyprus are audited and accredited by

the autonomous Council of Higher Education for Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination. All universities are affiliated and recognized by the Higher Education Council of Turkey. The autonomous council is an associate member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and a full member of the International Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. It also is a full member of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education and a board member of the Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of The Islamic World.

Many of the Northern Cypriot universities are accredited by numerous international authorities and are full members of the European Universities Association, the International Association of Universities and the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World.

Degrees from Northern Cypriot universities are recognized and accepted all over the world. Students receive quality education at international standards with relatively low tuition fees and various choices for dormitory/accommodation facilities. The system offers an education environment predominantly in the English language. Financial assistance to prospective international students in the form of scholarships and grants are available from the universities and the Northern Cypriot government.

Why there should be direct flights to Northern Cyprus

By Rachel Avraham

There are not many places nearby that Israelis can visit that are inexpensive and not hostile. However, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a place that Israelis can visit, enjoy for relatively little money and be welcomed for who they are. There should be direct flights so Israelis can more easily visit Northern Cyprus.

These days, there are very few places

for Israelis to visit for vacation that are geographically close to Israel and inexpensive, and where the population is not hostile toward Israeli people. With the advent of the Arab Spring, visits to Egypt and Jordan are no longer advisable for Israelis. The vast majority of the population is not only hostile. Both countries are in the middle of revolutions, making visits very dangerous for any foreigner. Other countries in the Arab Middle East aren't even options for Israeli tourists

because of the absence of diplomatic relations.

Greece is not too far away geographically. But with the rise of the Golden Dawn Party, which is neo-Nazis and the fourth-largest political party in the country, the environment in Greece is not welcoming for Jewish people. Aside from that, the Greeks use the euro, which is an expensive currency for Israelis. Regarding the Greek side of Cyprus, while it is safe to visit there as an Israeli, the basic problem with going there is that everything is very expensive for Israeli passport holders. It is not an affordable vacation for Israelis.

So where can Israelis travel to that is nearby and relatively inexpensive and where the population is not hostile toward Israelis? This year, my husband and I decided that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was the ideal place to vacation. There are many beautiful historic sites from many historical periods. There are magnificent medieval castles, such as the one in St. Hilarion and Kyrenia, which houses the archaeological remains of the oldest ship in the world, dating to the times of Alexander the Great.

There are ancient ruins, such as the beautiful mosaics in Soli and Salamis, which has the potential to be as great of a tourist attraction as Pompeii, given the fact that it contains the remains of an entire ancient city dating back to the 11th century B.C. that was destroyed by Arab pirates in A.D. 648. The Old City of Famagusta has an uncanny resemblance to the Old City of Rhodes, with its numerous souvenir shops, restaurants, historic sites and general magnificent atmosphere.

The beaches in Northern Cyprus rival the beaches in Israel. Not only are they prettier, but they are also easier to swim in. From the port city of Kyrenia,

one can take a day trip on a boat, visiting different beaches that the island has to offer while enjoying the Mediterranean waves. My husband and I enjoyed these wonders while staying in a three-star hotel that was much cheaper and better quality than the average hotel in Eilat. Even without direct flights existing to Northern Cyprus, it was cheaper to fly Pegasus into Northern Cyprus than it is to fly into Limassol on the Greek side of the island.

Every Turkish Cypriot person we met was very friendly. No one seemed to have problems with Israelis at all. We did not hide from anyone where we came from, and I even walked around wearing Star of David earrings. Although they are Muslim, Turkish Cypriots are very secular and don't have any problem with Jewish people. Their government is also very liberal, secular and democratic. Freedom House ranks TRNC freer than Turkey.

There is only one impediment that might prevent Israelis from visiting Northern Cyprus, and that is the fact that there are no direct flights. When you are flying from Israel, it is very silly to need to fly to Istanbul just to reach Northern Cyprus, which is geographically closer. Many Israelis don't want to have to waste so much time reaching a vacation destination that is so close. For this reason, the Israeli government should seriously consider initiating direct flights to Northern Cyprus, so more Israelis can take advantage of this prized tourism destination without having to fly via Turkey. Political calculations related to Israeli policy on the Cyprus conflict should not have to block Israelis from enjoying such a wonderful and affordable travel destination.

<http://www.jerusalemonline.com/news/world-news/around-the-globe/opinion-why-there-should-be-direct-flights-to-northern-cyprus-7919>



VIEW FROM CAPITOL HILL



Hon. Mark Meadows of North Carolina in the House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my support for the people of the island of Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots have agreed to come to the table and begin negotiations with their Turkish counterparts. The United States stands by its commitment to peace in the Eastern Mediterranean. While this is merely the beginning of what could be a

very long process, it deserves our commendation. A peaceful resolution would set an example of stability in a region beset by turmoil, tumult and upheaval. The Turkish Cypriot people have been isolated for too long. They have desired a unified island for nearly half a century, and this new start is a significant step toward their reinstatement into

the political, economic and social structure of not just the island of Cyprus but also of the entire world. Mr. Speaker, I restate my resolute support for the start of talks between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. It is important that we encourage both sides to remain at the table and negotiate in good faith. I also implore our State Department to continue to

be resolute in supporting these talks. The power of diplomacy is strong. The world is watching and waiting with hopeful anticipation.



Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas in the House of Representatives

prosperous future for all Cypriots. Over time, members of this House have delivered, and will deliver, statements denouncing Cyprus' status quo, while placing all responsibility of it with Turkey and its actions in 1974. It is scarcely noted that in 1963, as a result of ethnic tension, Turkish Cypriots were compelled to leave the joint institutions of the Republic of Cyprus. This hostile environment for the Turkish Cypriots continued and, in 1974, the Cypriot National Guard, supported by Greece's military junta, launched a coup to secure enosis — or unification — with Greece. Following the

coup, animosity toward Turkish Cypriots increased and the Cyprus that was once unified became an environment where the Turkish Cypriots no longer felt safe nor welcome in their home country. Turkey defends it was within its rights to protect the population as a guarantor power under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee. Each year, we hear from one side that a final settlement can be achieved once Turkey withdraws its forces from the island. The Turkish government has previously stated time and again its desire for a final settlement that protects the rights and freedoms of both

communities, and will allow Turkish troops to return home. Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan called again this week for a political settlement based on mutual consensus and the political equality of both communities. Turkish Cypriots demonstrated their desire for the reunification of the island through their support — a decade ago — of the Annan Plan, which contained drastic compromises for both communities, yet was rejected by the Greek Cypriot community. The continuing isolation of Turkish Cypriots from the international community in the 10 years since

while Greek Cypriots, as the Republic of Cyprus, utilize EU membership and the global flows of commerce, is an imbalance that must be redressed. The only solution to this imbalance, and the status quo in total, is a comprehensive agreement where the rights and equality of both communities are recognized, respected and maintained. Both parties will have to give if common ground is to be secured. I call upon both sides to continue their efforts on this front and express my hopes that the administration will do everything within its power to support such a process.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the 40th anniversary of the division of Cyprus, and to encourage a final settlement that makes possible a reunited island and a shared, peaceful and



Hon. Ed Whitfield of Kentucky in the House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the heels of the 40th anniversary of a divided Cyprus. A division that has left both Turkish and Greek Cypriots bogged down in an unacceptable status quo that continues to impede economic and social progress on the island. Until these differences are resolved, all Cypriots will feel the negative effects of this division and Cyprus will be unable

to realize its full potential in the international community. This past February represented a significant shift in the deadlock when both Cypriot leaders resumed long-stalled negotiations and issued a joint statement outlining principles the two sides will use to work toward a reunification of Cyprus. Both sides have met regularly since this announcement and real progress

is being made. That said, many controversial issues remain and the path forward will be a difficult one. This makes it even more important that the United States Congress, the administration, the United Nations, Turkey, Greece and other stakeholders remain engaged and continue to encourage expeditious, good-faith negotiations on both sides. I believe these negotiations

represent a historic opportunity to put all Cypriots on a path to peace and prosperity. During this process, it's important that all parties remain focused on the future of Cyprus and refrain from inflammatory dialogue that serves only to derail progress. A comprehensive settlement is within reach, and I would encourage my colleagues to support this effort.

Turkey builds massive pipeline to send drinking water to thirsty Cyprus



gas pipelines that typically rest on the ocean floor, the Baris Su will “hang” about 800 feet below the surface, its high-density polyethylene segments held up by a series of poles running down to the seabed.

Environmental groups have raised some concerns about the long “tethers” holding up the pipeline and whether the project can withstand tsunamis, earthquakes and the Mediterranean’s submarine traffic. But because the pipe carries water, not oil or gas, backers say any ecological damage would be limited.

Still, the project remains politically fraught on an island that has resisted past efforts at political reunification. Turkey, which first sent its troops to the northern part of the island when ethnic clashes broke out in 1974, remains the only country that officially recognizes the Turkish Republic. A U.N.-backed referendum for political reconciliation in 2004, considered the best chance to date for a settlement, fell apart after the majority Greek Cypriot community voted it down.

By **DAVID R. SANDS**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An ambitious pipeline project linking reservoirs in Turkey to the parched, isolated Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is on track to bring much needed drinking water to the island by year’s end.

Engineers behind the Baris Su (“Peace Water”) project said earlier this month they passed the halfway point on the 66-mile undersea pipeline, and could be delivering fresh water from Turkey to Turkish Cypriots for drinking and agricultural development by the end of the year.

When completed, the \$500 million-plus pipeline is projected to deliver some 19.8 billion gallons of water annually and give the ethnic Turkish enclave significant new economic and political leverage in the standoff with the majority Greek Cypriot community that has kept the Mediterranean island divided for four decades.

Turkish officials, including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who visited the island this month, say they hope the prospect of a reliable water source will spur the local economy and give fresh impetus to reconciliation talks between the two communities. Mr. Erdogan told Turkish Cypriot leaders the water could be used by both the Greek and Turkish

communities, but only “as long as [Greek Cypriots] take the hand of peace we are offering.”

Water is a constant concern for the island, which has intensified desalination and conservation efforts in recent years to compensate. The Cyprus News Agency reported in August that the island’s reservoirs were at only 37 percent capacity, down from 73 percent a year earlier. The Baris Su pipeline is designed to meet the Turkish Republic’s drinking and irrigation needs through at least 2040.

“Water is like oil and gas for the region,” Veysel Ayhan, director of the International Middle

East Peace Research Center, an Ankara think tank, told the online regional news service Al Monitor.

Beyond its political implications, the pipeline represents what experts say is a remarkable engineering feat and one Turkish officials say they could replicate in exporting water to other markets in the region.

Other countries, including China and Spain, have built giant networks to transport fresh water to regions that need it, but the Cyprus project will include several unique features.

Project engineers have constructed dams on both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides, but the

heart of the project is a 50-mile underwater pipeline crossing the Mediterranean. Unlike oil and



TRNC Water Supply Project

The TRNC Water Supply Project, which will transport drinking and irrigation water to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus from Turkey with a 50-mile-long pipeline, will be completed by the end of the year. The pipeline project will use an undersea crossing suspension system, the first of its kind, to supply 45 million square feet of drinking and irrigation water to Northern Cyprus annually. Within this framework, 23 million square feet will be used for drinking purposes and 22 million square feet will be

allocated for irrigation. The water will be transferred from the just-completed Alaköprü Dam in southern Turkey. The total cost of the project is budgeted at \$432 million, including \$25.2 million for structures in Turkey, \$348 million for the undersea pipeline and \$14.9 million for the structures in Northern Cyprus. Northern Cyprus has limited underground and surface water resources because it is an island, but the water project will improve development potential significantly over an estimated 50 years.

One of the island’s biggest plains, the Mesarya, has not been able to sustain agriculture efficiently because of the Mediterranean climate, which is susceptible to droughts. The project’s irrigation potential will help farmers work the 11,920 acres of land. If the Turkish and Greek Cypriot administrations reach a cooperative agreement, the pipeline project could be extended to the south part of the island, serving as an instrument of peace and trust between the communities.