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WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS IN CYPRUS ERIM DEMANDS SEPARATE, EQUAL TURK COMMUNITY

ATHENS, Sat. (UPI) — Turkish-Greek relations hinge on a settlement of the Cyprus problem and Turkey will not settle for anything less than a separate and equal community for its citizens on the island, Turkish premier Erim Nihat said today.

"Other problems can be solved through talks and good faith, but the Cyprus problem has taken on such proportions that we should find a solution which can satisfy both sides," Erim said in an interview with the Athens News Agency (ANA).

Erim explained that his government could accept nothing less than two separate Greek and Turkish communities on Cyprus as provided by the Zurich and London Agreements of 1959.

"If Greek-Cypriots want to grant minority status to the Turks, there can be no solution because there are international treaties that have established two communities with mutual obligations and rights, he said.

"Once we obtain constructive results on Cyprus we could inaugurate an inspired policy toward Greece, with the conviction that public opinion would support it," he said.

Last month, Premier George Papadopoulos, in an in-

terview to a Turkish newsmen, suggested that Greece and Turkey leave Cyprus alone and try to promote their relations on the basis of their common interests.

"They urge me to put Cyprus aside and to improve our relations. This is theoretically possible, but one has to take into consideration political realities," said Erim.

Erim said that Turkish public opinion does not believe that Cyprus President Archbishop Makarios is acting independently of Greece.

Erim said Makarios violated the agreements of 1959 between Greece and Turkey for the settlement of Cyprus. "These agreements established the rights of the Turkish community. Now the archbishop is asking for the alteration of this legal status. The Turkish Government is asking for the restoration of the Turkish community's violated rights," he said.

The Turkish leader said that the present intercommunal talks between the Greek and the Turkish communities in Cyprus have stalemated after three years and that a new effort should be made.

"We should start from the point that whatever happens to Cyprus is a test for Greek-

Turkish relations," said Erim.

"Once the Cyprus problem, which poisons our relations, is settled we will be able to inaugurate a new phase of relations. We could reach a special agreement between the two countries like those existing between Anglo-Saxon countries. Our countries could expand the security zone they have established in their areas, he said.



Turkey's Premier Erim