

CYPRUS BULLETIN

Issued by the Public Information Office
Republic of Cyprus

NICOSIA 23 JANUARY 1972

VOL. IX. No. 2

TALKS BETWEEN CYPRUS AND E.E.C. FOR A LINK WITH THE COMMUNITY

Cyprus Government sole representative of Cypriot people

Talks opening on the 24th January, between Cyprus and the European Economic Community, may well be considered as the last stage in the process for a link between the island and the Community. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, questioned on the matter last week by a CBC reporter said that this stage as a rule results in the conclusion of an agreement.

Mr. Kyprianou said that talks have been held between the Community and Cyprus for some time now, though at an exploratory level. Their object was for the Community to find out about the problems of Cyprus and to collect the necessary data so as to form an idea of the problems and needs of the Island, and on the other hand, for Cyprus these talks aimed at finding out what could approximately be secured with regard to benefits and advantages for Cyprus.

In this respect the usual procedure has been followed. And the usual procedure is in the first place to carry out exploratory talks, not binding on either side. However, the exploratory nature of the talks is relative, in the sense that in the course of these talks substantial matters come under discussion. One could say that a lot of preparatory work has been done in the course of these talks. Rationally speaking, and in view of the preliminary work carried out, the negotiations should not last long, though this will depend on various factors.

The Council of Ministers of the Community, following a report submitted by the Commission as a result of the exploratory talks, has given a mandate to the Commission for negotiations with a view to concluding an agreement. This is the second part of the usual procedure, which at the same time is the final stage in negotiations for an agreement. Of course, after the conclusion of an agreement, there follows the process of implementation of the agreement.

The Foreign Minister also said that it is as yet too early to say how far the Community may go in regard to concessions to Cyprus, just as it is not possible to say how far Cyprus is willing to go in regard to concessions on her part. Of course, various things have been made known with regard to the terms of the mandate and the instructions given by E.E.C. Council of Ministers to the Commission. However, there have to be negotiations. The Cyprus Government has come to certain conclusions on what should be secured so that the agreement to be concluded may be satisfactory to Cyprus, both from the content point of view, that is from

the point of view of solving export problems and so on, and from the point of view of time limits, considering that a link agreement usually provides for various stages, two or three, before final association.

The Foreign Minister clarified that the Cyprus Government, which is ready to start negotiations, will not proceed without taking into consideration the suggestions and views of those sections of the population mostly affected by

the proposed link, i.e. the industrial, commercial and agricultural, and will consult the representatives of these sections during or even before the negotiations. What Cyprus is seeking is an association agreement under Article 238 of the Treaty of Rome, in two or three stages. But before it is decided definitely and finally on what must be secured with regard to specific issues and items the views of the interested sec-

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PRESIDENT MAKARIOS CELEBRATES HIS NAMEDAY



His Beatitude, the President of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios, last Wednesday celebrated his nameday amid manifestations of love for his person and solidarity for his policy by crowds of people from all over the island.

His Beatitude in the morning officiated at the service in St. John's Cathedral assisted by bishops and other senior clergymen. Dignitaries and a thick crowd formed the congregation.

Later the President went to the big hall of the Archbishopric to receive the wishes of his many visitors who included Bishops, other senior clergymen, the President of the House of Representatives, the members of the Council of Ministers, the Greek Foreign-Under Secretary Mr. C. Panayotakos, the President's Adviser, the members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Special Representative in Cyprus of the U. N. Secretary General Mr. Osorio Tafal, the Commander of

the U. N. Peace Force General Prem Chand, the Attorney General of the Republic, the President and Judges of the Supreme Court, members of the House of Representatives, the Commander of the Greek Contingent, the leadership of the National Guard and the Police, Mayors, other dignitaries and a big crowd of people.

The President also received many congratulatory telegrams both from well wishers locally and from abroad. His Beatitude received cables of good wishes from Patriarchs, Heads of Autocephalous Churches and other Prelates, heads of state and government, diplomats, local clubs and unions, educational institutions and individuals.

Photograph shows President Makarios leaving St. John's Cathedral for the Archbishopric to receive the people's good wishes.