

CYPRUS BULLETIN

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HIS SPIRIT LIVES ON

The land of Cyprus opened up on August 8, and took in its greatest leader. High up in the hills of Troodos, above Kykko Monastery, His Beatitude Archbishop Makarios III, President of the Republic of Cyprus since 1960, was buried in a simple mausoleum, commanding a panoramic view of all the island.

He had chosen the spot himself and had asked his architect to design a simple burial place with doors facing East and West to allow "lots of light" inside.

Heads of State and Government and some two hundred officials from over sixty countries came to Cyprus to participate in the funeral service. Thousands of people lined the flag-festooned streets, church bells tolled and guns thundered a last salute.

Women wept as the coffin borne on a gun carriage arrived at the Church of Evangelistria in Pallouriotissa.

The coffin, covered by a Cypriot and a Greek flag, was placed in the centre of the church under the dome. After the religious service, there were funeral orations by the Bishop of Paphos, representing the Cyprus Church, the acting President Mr Kyprianou, on behalf of the State, and the Greek President Mr Tsatsos.

Following the laying of wreaths, all the foreign dignitaries filed past the coffin to pay their last tribute.

Then the coffin was placed on the gun carriage again and taken in procession to Stassinos Avenue where it was transferred to a hearse.

On the way to Kykko monastery crowds of people gathered on both sides of the road which was strewn with myrtle and laurel branches. Large white signs on the sides of the hills read: "Makarios Lives".

As the cortege approached Kykko, the sky darkened and rain fell, as if the heavens shared the grief of the Cypriot people.

After a short prayer at Kykko Monastery where the Archbishop had served as a novice and received his education as a boy, the coffin was taken in procession up to the burial place from where his village of Panayia can be clearly seen.

