

CYPRUS BULLETIN

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Monthly Press Conference at Presidential Palace



MOVES TO CLEAR UP THE SITUATION

His Beatitude's replies on current Cyprus affairs

His Beatitude, the President of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios, had his regular monthly meeting with political correspondents last Saturday and answered questions but by them on current affairs.

Following are the questions and the answers of His Beatitude:

Q.— The crisis in the ranks of the Cyprus Church has since last Wednesday entered a new phase as a result of your decision to declare the Episcopal Throne of Paphos vacant and to proclaim elections to fill the Throne. Do you believe that this action will help clear up the ecclesiastical crisis or will it exacerbate further the ecclesiastical and political problem?

A.— The anomaly existing in the ranks of the Church for some time now, as a result of the well known decision and the relevant actions of the three Bishops, should not be allowed to continue for long and the whole sad situation must soon be clarified and cleared up. It may be argued by some that, since the so-called act of my unfrocking by the three Bishops has been judged and condemned by all Heads of Orthodox Churches as contrary to Canon Law and null and void and, consequently, as not having been made and non-existent, I ought to leave matters as they are with a view to averting any possible upheaval. I do not share this view and I firmly believe that continuation of this situation would not be in the interest of the Church and the Christian flock. Besides, the three Bishops have resorted to actions which did not allow me to remain a passive spectator of events. And I had no other choice and no other way to face the situation except the procedure envisaged by Canon Law, which I have followed. I have proclaimed elections for the filling of the Episcopal Throne of Paphos. My action is not contrary to Canon Law. No decision of the Synod is needed to declare the Bishop of Paphos deposed. Since he has stayed away from his See for more than a year, because of his flock's discontent with him and the fact that he is not accepted by them, he automatically loses his office and the Throne falls vacant. And the Throne being vacant, the spiritual administration and all the powers of the vacated Throne pass to the Archbishop, who becomes *Locum Tenens* and proclaims elections, in accordance with the

procedure envisaged in the Charter of the Church, for a new Bishop. This action is the first step for the purge of the Church.

Q.— The Bishop of Kitium has stated that the Cyprus Church is autocephalous and that your decision to convene a Major Synod is not based on Holy Canons. What is your comment on this?

A.— The Bishop of Kitium has on many occasions spoken with great contempt about the

Patriarchs and the Heads of Orthodox Churches. The Church of Cyprus is autocephalous but not schismatic so as not to take into consideration the other Orthodox Churches. The Church of Cyprus is autocephalous but is governed by Holy Canons, on the interpretation of which the Bishop of Kitium and his associates are not considered to be an authority.

Q.— Are we to surmise that by the declaration of the Episcopal Throne of Paphos as vacant and the proclamation of elections, Bishop Yennadios has lost his office and will not henceforth hold the title of Bishop?

A.— Since he has not been defrocked by a proper Synod, as provided by the Holy Canons he will continue to bear the title of Bishop formerly of Paphos and will enjoy episcopal honours but will have no administrative power.

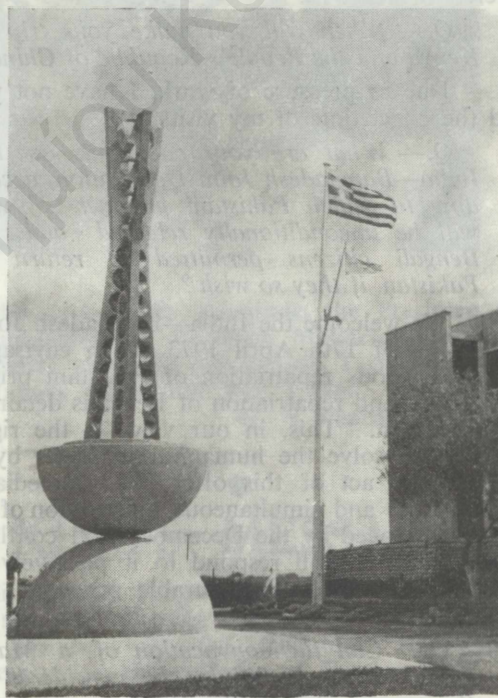
Q.— Do you believe that the four Patriarchates and the Church of Greece will agree to participate in a Major Synod? Have you been in contact with the Patriarchates and the Church of Greece for the convocation of such a Synod?

A.— We shall communicate with the four oldest Patriarchates and the Church of Greece on the question of the convention of a Major Synod. For this purpose we have already sent to the Patriarchate of Alexandria the Bishop Suffragan of Constantia accompanied by Dr. Andreas Mitsides.

Q.— What are your comments on a recent "EOKA B" leaflet threatening clergymen, if they continue to pray for you as Archbishop?

A.— The leaflet constitutes an attempt to terrorise the clergy, and is additional proof of the scandalous interference by General Grivas and his terrorist supporters in church matters and confirms the fact that the decision of the three Bishops for my so-called defrocking has been taken on instructions by the General, who has recently been meddling in Canon Law, interpreting it at will and assigning its implementation to armed men. I am confident that any attempt

MEMORIAL TO FALLEN POLICEMAN



The Memorial Column to the Fallen Policeman erected in the yard of the Force Headquarters in Nicosia. The column was unveiled last month by His Beatitude, the President of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios, who in a speech said that "it symbolizes the feelings of honour and gratitude of the Greek people of Cyprus to the men of the Cyprus Police force who sacrificed their lives on the national altar".

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