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The Premier of Turkey says :

## GREEK - TURKISH TIES HINGE ON SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE

ATHENS, July 24 (ANA) — On July 15, the President of the Turkish Government, Mr. Nihat Erim received at his office in Ankara the Director-General of Athens News Agency, Mr. Christoforos Bitsides, to whom he granted an exclusive interview.

ATHENS (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-Cypriot 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 towards Greece, with the conviction that public opinion would support it," he said.

Last month, Premier George Papadopoulos in an interview 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 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 stala-

ted 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.

Mr. Erim stated in detail, the views of his Government on the Greek-Turkish relations and explained Turkey's position in the Balkans and towards the developments in Eastern Mediterranean. The Turkish Premier underlined the need for the return of the Greek-Tur-

kish relations to the "beautiful period" of 1930-1940 with a direct aim the signing of special agreements and to the ideal of Ataturk-Venizelos. Mr. Erim expressed the view that for the achievement of closer cooperation between Greece and Turkey the immediate solution of the Cyprus problem is necessary.

Mr. Erim also made an appeal "to all friends of Turkey and Greece to help these two countries, so that they may reach a conclusion mutually acceptable." He said that Turkey does not seek the island's partition, under the prerequisite that the regime of Cyprus will not be altered basically from the treaties of 1960.

Concluding the interview, Mr. Erim told Mr. Bitsides.

"I am very happy because I

have met you and talked with you about things concerning the two countries, and I hope that you will return to your country with very good impressions and that you will explain there are persons in Turkey who sincerely believe in a friendship, a very close alliance between Turkey and Greece. I am convinced that in spite of the existing difficulties a peaceful solution will eventually be found for the Cyprus problem. This is not only my wish but also my strong desire. And as long as I am Prime Minister of the Turkish Government I shall devote myself for this case."