Committee: Historical Security Council (HSC)

Issue: The Cyprus Question

Student Officer: Robert Schippers

Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates of the Historical Security Council,

My name is Robert Schippers, and I am 17 years old. I am a student of the Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden and live in Leiden, a city in the Netherlands. Most of my time is spent working for school or my day job. A part of the time I have left is spent on organising and attending MUN's, the flimsy bits of other time are spent watching movies, sailing, and playing games. I attended COMUN as a Student Officer and was part of the staff team of LEMUN 2022.

This year's theme for ACGMUN is breaking barriers. This connects well to the situation in Cyprus because the inhabitants of the island think too much within the confines of traditional borders, despite not being able to find a solution there. The problem with thinking within this system is that people don't realise there are other solutions to complex issues like these.

You can always contact me via my email, robert.schippers@ziggo.nl.

Kind regards,

Robert

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Cyprus is an island country located in the Eastern Mediterranean, north of Egypt and south of Türkiye. The island is divided into two main regions: the Republic of Cyprus, which is the internationally recognized government, and the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The island's total area is 9,251 square kilometres. The island's terrain is mostly mountainous with a central plain. The island's population is around 1.2 million, of which the majority are Greek Cypriots.[1] Turkish Cypriots

---

[1] "Country Overview." *UNHCR | The UN Refugee Agency* , 2017, https://help.unhcr.org/cyprus/country-information/foreign-embassies/.

constitute around 10.2% of the population.[2] The official languages are Greek and Turkish.

Cyprus has been in demand by bigger nations for quite some time. The United Kingdom first took control of the island in 1878 to prevent the expansion of Russian influence. Tensions between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots have been on the rise, since the United Kingdom allowed Cyprus to gain independence. This ultimately led to violence between the two groups, for example an incident called "Bloody Christmas", where 538 Cypriots lost their lives and about 25 thousand Turkish Cypriots were forced to flee.[3] The violence only increased in intensity following the thirteen-point proposal and a coup d'état in Greece causing a junta to take control of the government. The United Nations has tried to ease the tensions and control the violence by sending a mediator to improve negotiations between both sides, these negotiates have thus far achieved very little progress in resolving this issue. The United Kingdom, once the colonial power in control of the island, still has military bases on the island. They are not the only nation with military bases on the island as both Greece and Türkiye have military bases on the island. All three countries strive for control over at least part of the island, since Cyprus has a good position for warfare.
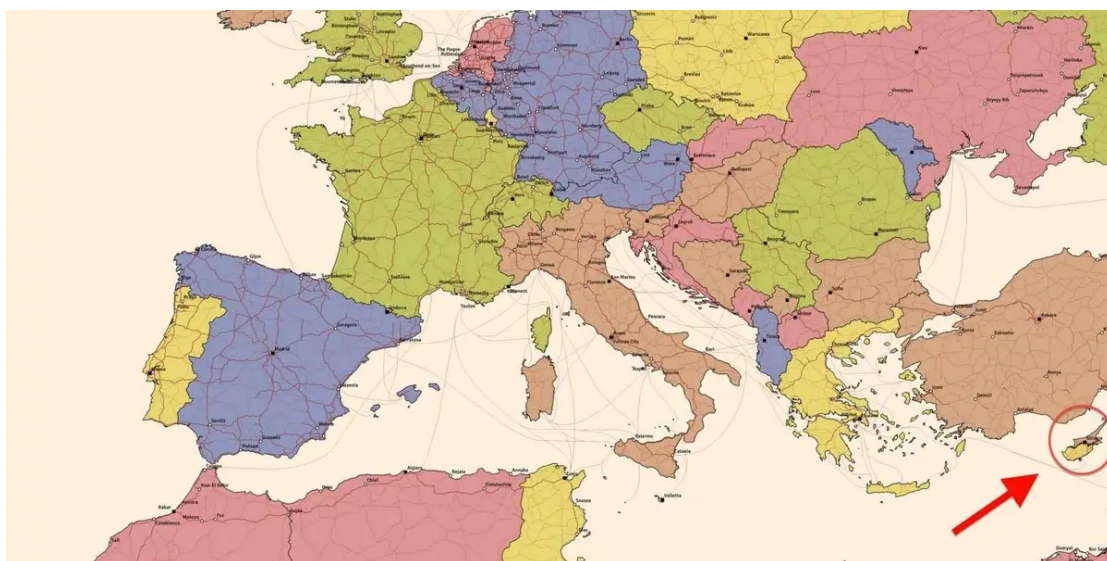

Figure 1: A map of Cyprus in comparison to Europe[4]

[2] "General Information." *Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in Thessaloniki* , http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/consulate/consulate_thessaloniki.nsf/DMLcygeneral_en/DMLcygeneral_en?OpenDocument.

[3] Bir, Burak. "Trauma of 'Bloody Christmas' Still Fresh in Minds of Turkish Cypriots." *Anadolu Ajansı*, 22 Dec. 2022, https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/trauma-of-bloody-christmas-still-fresh-in-minds-of-turkish-cypriots/2770002.

[4] Boesler, Matthew. "Just in Case You Were Wondering: Here's Where Cyprus Is on a Map..." *Business Insider*, Business Insider, 18 Mar. 2013, https://www.businessinsider.com/where-cyprus-is-on-a-map-2013-3.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Enosis

"A movement to secure the political union of Greece and Cyprus".[5]

Taksim

Taksim is a response to the Enosis movement, mainly focused on dividing Cyprus into a Greek and a Turkish part. [6]

Coup d'état

A coup d'état is an unforeseen and unlawful seizure of control over a state, this is often done using violence.

Junta

A junta is a military or political group that takes control of a country by force, leaving the group to rule the country.

Guarantor Nations

The Guarantor Nations are nations that guarantee the independence of another country or part of another country. The United Kingdom, Greece and Türkiye are all Guarantor Nations of Cyprus.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cyprus was under British colonial rule from 1878 to 1960. The island was initially leased to the British by the Ottoman Empire, but it was later annexed by the British government in 1914 during World War I. During this period, the British used the island as a strategic military base and implemented policies to encourage the development of the island's economy. However, British colonial rule was met with resistance from the local population, particularly from the Greek Cypriot community, which sought self-determination and union with Greece. This resistance led to several anti-colonial uprisings, including the National Organization of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA)

---

[5]"Enosis ." *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/enosis.

[6] Kyrie , George. "The Europeanisation of Contested Statehood: The EU in Northern Cyprus ." *Google*, University of Birmingham , 2015, https://books.google.gr/books?id=zdi1CwAAQBAJ&pg=PA30&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false.

struggle in the 1950s. Ultimately, the British withdrew from the island in 1960 and Cyprus gained independence.

From the 1950s to 1970s, tensions between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island of Cyprus increased as the Greek Cypriots pushed for union with Greece (enosis) and the Turkish Cypriots demanded partition of the island. This led to the formation of the Greek Cypriot nationalist organisation EOKA in 1955, with the goal of achieving enosis through armed struggle. EOKA began a guerrilla campaign against the British colonial government in 1956. The Zurich and London agreements were signed in 1959, which established the independence of Cyprus with constitutional guarantees for the Turkish Cypriot minority. Despite this, tensions remained high between the two communities as well as between Greek Cypriots and the British colonial government.

Bloody Sunday, also known as Black Saturday, was a tragic event that occurred on November 21, 1963, in Cyprus. On that day, a crowd of Greek Cypriots had gathered in the capital city of Nicosia to protest the policies of the British colonial government. The demonstration was peaceful but the British colonial police and the Greek Cypriot National Guard, who were under British command, opened fire on the crowd, killing at least 20 unarmed civilians and injuring many others. This event is considered as one of the most violent and controversial incidents of the anti-colonial struggle in Cyprus and is still remembered as a dark episode in the island's history. It was a turning point in the struggle for independence, leading to the fall of the government and the increase of the support for the EOKA-B, the military wing of the National Organization of Cypriot Fighters.

The violence between Turkish Cypriots and the Cypriot National Guard in August 1964, also known as the "Cyprus Events" or "Cyprus Pogrom", was a series of clashes that occurred in the wake of the collapse of the power-sharing government between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots on the island of Cyprus. On 14-15 August 1964, the Cypriot National Guard, which was mainly composed of Greek Cypriots, attacked the Turkish Cypriot quarters of Nicosia, causing widespread destruction and violence, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries. Many Turkish Cypriots were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in enclaves. This event was a major turning point in the Cyprus Conflict as it led to further segregation of the two communities and increased mistrust and hostility between them.

The coup in Greece in 1967, led by the military junta, had a significant impact on the situation in Cyprus. The coup was strongly opposed by the Cypriot President Makarios, who was seen as a close ally of the Greek government and was seen as a potential target by the junta. In response to the coup, Makarios proposed a series of constitutional changes that would shift the balance of power in favour of the Greek Cypriots and away from the Turkish Cypriots. This led to the withdrawal of the Turkish

Cypriot ministers from the government and increased tensions between the two communities. Furthermore, the Junta in Greece supported the idea of Enosis, union of Cyprus with Greece, and this further increased the tensions between the two communities. The crisis in Greece also led to the withdrawal of the British military forces from the island, leaving the Cypriot National Guard as the only military force on the island, which was mainly composed of Greek Cypriots. This further increased the insecurity of the Turkish Cypriot community.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Türkiye

Türkiye has traditionally held the position that the Cyprus issue is a matter of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. It maintains that the island should be a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation, with the Turkish Cypriot community having equal political rights and representation. Türkiye has also advocated for the rights and security of the Turkish Cypriot community, who it argues have been marginalised in past negotiations.

Greece

Greece generally views the Cyprus issue as a matter of invasion and illegal occupation by Türkiye. It maintains that the island should be a unified, independent, and sovereign state, with the Greek Cypriot community being the majority and the legitimate government. Greece argues that the Turkish military presence in Cyprus is a violation of international law and the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus. It also supports the right of all Cypriot refugees, including those of Greek Cypriot origin, to return to their homes and properties on the island.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, as a former colonial power in Cyprus, has traditionally held a position of neutrality on the Cyprus issue. However, the UK has acknowledged the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus and supports its independence, territorial integrity, and unity. The UK also acknowledges the rights of the Turkish Cypriot community and supports efforts to find a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Cyprus issue through negotiations. The UK has also maintained a military presence on the island through its sovereign base areas, citing the need to protect its sovereign interests and support regional stability.

United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus is a peacekeeping mission established in 1964, after the outbreak of inter-communal violence between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The mandate of UNFICYP is to prevent a recurrence of fighting, maintain a buffer zone between the two sides since 1964, and support the return of normal conditions. UNFICYP also assists in the maintenance of law and order, and the protection of civilians, as well as promoting the return of refugees. The peacekeeping force is composed of military and civilian personnel from various countries and operates under the authority of the United Nations. UNFICYP has played an important role in maintaining a cease-fire between the two sides and facilitating peace talks.

National Organization of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA)

EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston) was a Greek Cypriot nationalist guerrilla organisation that sought the end of British colonial rule and union (Enosis) of Cyprus with Greece in the 1950s. EOKA was led by George Grivas and carried out a campaign of bombings and attacks against the British colonial government and its personnel. The organisation's actions contributed to the decision of the British government to grant independence to Cyprus in 1960. EOKA's armed struggle for Enosis was one of the reasons for the inter-communal violence in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

EOKA-B

EOKA-B (EOKA B - meaning "EOKA-fighters") was an offshoot group from EOKA, established as of 1971, which sought the establishment of an independent Cyprus with the participation of the Turkish Cypriots. The group carried out several terrorist attacks and bombings targeting the Turkish Cypriot community and the Cypriot Government. EOKA-B was responsible for many acts of violence and terror, including assassinations, bombings, and sabotage.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1878	United Kingdom takes administrative control of Cyprus.
5 November 1914	United Kingdom annexes Cyprus after the Ottoman Empire joined the war.
1940	The United Kingdom announces plans to unite the island with Greece.

1955	EOKA is established
February 1959-April 1959	The Zurich and London agreements were signed
16 August 1960	Cyprus achieves independence.
30 November 1963	Thirteen-point proposal by Makarios the president and archbishop of Cyprus, he was of Greek descent.
21 December 1963	Bloody Christmas.
27 December 1963	The Joint Truce Force is established.
4 March 1964	The UNFICYP was established following Resolution 186 of the Security Council (UNSC), and the Joint Truce Force was abolished.
August 1964	Armed conflict breaks out between the Cypriot national guard and Turkish Cypriots.
21 April 1967	A military junta is established in Greece following a coup d'état.
May 1968-1971	The Makarios-Denktash talks.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Security Council Resolution 186

UNSC Resolution 186 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on March 4, 1964. The resolution was passed in response to the escalating tensions on the island of Cyprus, which was then a British colony. The resolution called for the establishment of a UN peacekeeping force to be deployed to the island, in order to maintain peace and security, and to prevent any further outbreak of violence. It also called on all parties involved to refrain from taking any action that would further escalate the situation and to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The resolution also established the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which is still active today, and has been credited with preventing a full-scale war between Greece and Türkiye over the island. The goal of the UNFICYP is to prevent a recurrence of fighting and to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions.

Security Council Resolution 193

UNSC Resolution 193 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on August 9, 1964. The resolution reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations to the independence, territorial integrity, and non-alignment of Cyprus, and called for

the withdrawal of the Greek Cypriot National Guard from the island. It also called for the immediate release of all political prisoners and the return of all refugees to their homes. The resolution also called on all parties involved to refrain from any acts of violence, and to cooperate fully with the UN peacekeeping force, which had been established by resolution 186 to maintain peace and security on the island.

It was adopted during a period of escalating tension on the island, following the outbreak of inter-communal violence and the killing of several Turkish Cypriots by the Greek Cypriot National Guard. The resolution was aimed at addressing the humanitarian crisis and preventing further escalation of the situation.

Security Council Resolution 244

UNSC Resolution 244 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on May 22, 1967. The resolution established the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) to supervise the ceasefire, maintain the withdrawal of the armed forces and ensure the safety of the civilians. It also emphasised the need for respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The Zurich and London agreements of 1959

These were agreements reached between Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom to establish the independence of Cyprus and provide for a power-sharing government between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The agreements were signed in Zurich in February 1959 and two months later also in London. The agreements established the Republic of Cyprus as an independent state with a constitutional government. The agreements also provided for the establishment of a vice-presidential system where the Vice-President was Turkish Cypriot, and a power-sharing system where the Turkish Cypriot community would have certain constitutional guarantees, including a proportionate representation in the public service, police, and the judiciary. However, the agreements were not implemented, and inter-communal violence broke out soon after the independence, leading to a political crisis and eventually to the intervention of the UN peacekeeping force in 1964.

The thirteen-point proposal

The thirteen-point proposal by Makarios III was a proposal put forward by Archbishop Makarios, the President of Cyprus, in 1963 to resolve the Cyprus issue. The

proposal was put forward in the context of the ongoing inter-communal violence and political crisis on the island, and the Turkish military invasion that took place in July of that year. The proposal had 13 points which outlined a way to resolve the Cyprus issue through a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. It also proposed the establishment of a federal government with a rotating presidency, a single international personality, and a single citizenship for the inhabitants of the island. It also proposed the return of refugees, the protection of the rights of the Turkish Cypriot community, and the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island. The proposal was rejected by the Turkish Cypriot side and the talks failed to reach a lasting agreement, leading to the continuation of the UN peacekeeping force's presence on the island.

The Makarios-Denktash talks

The Makarios-Denktash talks started in May 1968 is a series of negotiations between the President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios and Rauf Denktash, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, aimed at finding a solution to the Cyprus issue. The talks propose a federal solution for the island, where the two communities would have self-rule in their respective territories but would share certain powers at the federal level. The talks aimed to establish a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation, where both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots would have equal political rights and representation.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Bi-communal, Bi-zonal Federation

This solution would establish a federal government for the island, where the two communities, Greek Cypriots, and Turkish Cypriots, would have self-rule in their respective territories, but would share certain powers at the federal level. This solution would provide for equal political rights and representation for both communities and would protect the rights and security of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Confederation

This solution would establish two separate states on the island, one for the Greek Cypriots and one for the Turkish Cypriots, with a loose confederation between them. This solution would provide for the independence and sovereignty of both states but would also establish a framework for cooperation and coordination between the two states.

Reunification with a federal structure

This solution would re-unite the island of Cyprus under a federal structure, where both the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots would have equal rights and representation in all levels of government. This solution would mean a return of the refugees to their homes, an end to the presence of Turkish troops on the island and a resolution of the property disputes.

It is worth noting that all these solutions have been proposed in the past, and none of them has been successfully implemented to date. Finding a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem has been a complex and difficult process, and it will likely require the willingness and cooperation of all parties involved to reach a comprehensive and lasting settlement.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1967 Kıbrıs Krizi Ve Türk ingiliz Politikaları Dr ... - Dergipark. 13 Dec. 2018, https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/610619.

Bir, Burak. "Trauma of 'Bloody Christmas' Still Fresh in Minds of Turkish Cypriots." *Anadolu Ajansı*, 22 Dec. 2022, https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/trauma-of-bloody-christmas-still-fresh-in-minds-of-turkish-cypriots/2770002.

Columnist, CM Guest. "UNFICYP: A Living Fossil of the Cold War." *Cyprus Mail*, Cyprus Mail, 9 Mar. 2014, https://cyprus-mail.com/2014/03/09/unficyp-a-living-fossil-of-the-cold-war/.

Coskun, Yasin. "The Beginning of a New Era in the Cyprus Problem after the 1967 Crisis ..." *History Studies*, Dec. 2018, https://www.historystudies.net/indir.php?yol=dergi&dosya=1967-krizinden-sonra-kibris-sorununda-yeni-bir-donemin-baslangici-toplumlararasi-gorusmeler20181238f925a.

"Country Overview." *UNHCR | The UN Refugee Agency*, 2017, https://help.unhcr.org/cyprus/country-information/foreign-embassies/.

"General Information." *Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in Thessaloniki*, http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/consulate/consulate_thessaloniki.nsf/DMLcygeneral_en/DMLcygeneral_en?OpenDocument.

Kyle, Keith. "The Main Narrative." *Cyprus*, 15 June 2006, https://web.archive.org/web/20060615004021/http://cyprus-conflict.net/narrative-main.htm.

Makarios. *13 Points (30 November 1963) - Pio.gov.cy*. 30 Nov. 1963, https://www.pio.gov.cy/assets/pdf/cyproblem/13%20points.pdf.

"Report Submitted By Cyprus – Recent Political History And Developments." *Humanrights*, 25 Mar. 2009,

https://web.archive.org/web/20090125115646/http://www.humanrights.coe.int/minorities/eng/FrameworkConvention/StateReports/1999/cyprus/B.htm .

Kyrie , George. "The Europeanisation of Contested Statehood: The EU in Northern Cyprus ." *Google*, University of Birmingham , 2015, https://books.google.gr/books?id=zdi1CwAAQBAJ&pg=PA30&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false.

Pace, Eric. "Tension is Mounting in Cyprus Again, 1971, https://www.nytimes.com/1971/05/31/archives/tension-is-mounting-in-cyprus-again.html.