

**RECOGNITION OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS  
AS A BASIS FOR A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION OF  
THE CYPRUS CONFLICT**

I. Background

1. When in 1959, after years of diplomatic efforts by Archbishop Makarios and the Greek government, accompanied by the murderous activities of a Colonel Grivas and his adjutants, agreement was reached between England, Greece and Turkey on the future government on the island, the road opened towards the creation of an independent Republic of Cyprus. There was a close and dangerous confrontation of Greek claims to exclusive ownership of the island, and Turkish interest directed against another "Greek" island off its southern shores as well as Turkish responsibility for a decent political status for more than 120,000 Turks in Cyprus. This confrontation, in turn, aroused concern in both East and West – the West being interested in regional peace amongst its NATO allies whereas the East was more interested in trouble and conflict in the South-Eastern region of the NATO alliance. The problem of reconciling, or overcoming these interests, was enhanced by the economic, social and military superiority of 80% Greek Cypriots over 18% Turkish Cypriots, most of the latter living intermingled with Greeks in numerous mixed villages, and further, when through their recent experience of intercommunal fighting, the interest of Turkish Cypriots in security and political equality made them natural allies of the English in their struggle for the defence of the previously existing public order. No wonder, under these circumstances, that the agreements, without which there could not exist an independent but unified Republic of Cyprus, were delicate and the new State vulnerable and fragile.

The essence of agreements reached in 1959 was, however, relatively simple and very logical. The Greeks of Cyprus needed neither protection nor guidance in any of their affairs, whereas a position of principal political equality of the Turks of Cyprus could not be preserved without special and protected rights. Therefore, it was these rights which became the main object of the agreements of Zürich and London of 11th and 19th February, 1959. The formula found comprised independence and non-alignment of the new Republic, separate majorities of Greek and Turkish representatives passing laws of decisive impact on Turkish interests, guarantees of Turkish participation in government,

