

2006 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

Prepared by
the American Hellenic Institute

House of Representatives
Candidate _____

Party _____ State _____ District _____

*Below are questions on issues of concern to the Greek American
community.*

CYPRUS

2006 marks the sad 32-year anniversary of the Cyprus problem. Since 1974, U.S. policy on the Cyprus problem has been a foreign policy failure. On May 1, 2004 Cyprus became a member of the European Union of families as a divided and occupied nation, its northern part being under illegal Turkish military occupation.

The effort by the United Nations to resolve the Cyprus problem in 2003-4 under the so-called Annan Plan was flawed because, as written, it was undemocratic, unworkable and not financially viable. It also violated key UN resolutions and the EU's democratic norms and *acquis communautaire*.

The U.S. in its own interests of providing peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean needs to support a solution for Cyprus based on democratic values.

Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos initiated a meeting with Secretary-General Kofi Annan on February 28, 2006 aimed at reviving talks to achieve a settlement of the Cyprus problem under a fair and workable solution. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) praised President Papadopoulos' initiative on the Senate floor on March 9, 2006 for promoting a new U.N.-sponsored initiative to resolve the division of the island of Cyprus. Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) on March 18, 2006 at the American Hellenic Institute's annual awards dinner said, "I want to say with respect to

Cyprus I join with my colleagues from the Senate side Olympia Snowe and Senator Sarbanes in congratulating President Papadopoulos on his recent meeting with Secretary General Kofi Annan and his interest in restarting the discussions with respect to bringing a resolution to the Cyprus problem.”

QUESTIONS:

(1) Do you support a settlement of the Cyprus problem through negotiations based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation in a sovereign state, incorporating the norms of constitutional democracy, the EU *acquis communautaire*, all UN resolutions on Cyprus, and the pertinent decisions of the European Court of Humans Rights?

Yes No

(2) Do you support a settlement for Cyprus that would be democratic, fair, workable, financially viable and just for all the people of Cyprus?

Yes No

(3) Do you support the immediate demilitarization of Cyprus?

Yes No

(4) Do you support the prompt return to Turkey of the over 120,000 illegal settlers from Turkey with all costs to be borne by Turkey, the aggressor?

Yes No

(5) Do you support the immediate tearing down by Turkey of the Turkish Green Line barbed wire fence across the face of Cyprus?

Yes No

(6) Do you support a property recovery and compensation system for the 180,000 Greek Cypriot victims of Turkey’s aggression paid for by the aggressor Turkey?

Yes No

(7) Do you support the rights of all Cypriots to buy property and live wherever they chose without being limited by ethnic quotas?

Yes

No

(8) Will you support legislation in the 110th Congress similar to H.R. 857, American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act?

On February 16, 2005 Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) introduced the bipartisan *American Owned Property In Occupied Cyprus Claims Act*, H.R. 857. The bill, initiated by the American Hellenic Institute, now has 32 co-sponsors. This bill will enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies in U.S. courts with either the current illegal inhabitants of their land or the Turkish government.

Yes

No

AEGEAN SEA BOUNDARY

On May 23, 2006, a Greek F-16 collided with a Turkish F-16 near the Greek island of Karpathos. The Greek pilot was killed, while the Turkish pilot ejected safely. Greece intercepted the Turkish F-16 in response to their weekly violation of Greek airspace.

Turkey has made claim to one-half of the Aegean Sea and refuses to take its claim to the International Court of Justice at the Hague for a binding ruling. The U.S. should publicly state that the maritime boundary in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey has been long-established by treaties. The relevant agreements are the Lausanne Treaty of 1923, the Italy-Turkey Convention of January 4, 1932, the Italy-Turkey Protocol of December 28, 1932 and the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty, under which the Dodecanese Islands and adjacent islets were ceded by Italy to Greece.

The U.S. is a signatory to the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty and is obligated by U.S. law to carry out its provisions. The State Department has failed to declare publicly what the law is and should do so now. The U.S. should also vigorously repudiate any challenge to the treaty-defined boundary and should urge Turkey to submit its claim to the International Court of Justice in the Hague for binding arbitration.

H.Con.Res.137, a bipartisan resolution was introduced by Representative Robert E. Andrews (D-NJ) in April of 2005, expressing the view of the House of Representatives that the boundaries by Greece and Turkey in the Aegean have been long-established by treaties and anyone disagreeing should take their claim to the International Court of Justice at the Hague. This bipartisan resolution has 31 co-sponsors.

QUESTION:

Will you support similar legislation in the 110th Congress?

Yes

No

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

The Turkish government has tolerated assaults against its Greek Orthodox religious minority, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and continues the illegal closure of the Greek Orthodox Halki Patriarchal School of Theology in Istanbul. The U.S. law expressed in Section 2804 of the Fiscal Year 1999 Appropriations Bill, calls for the Turkish government to safeguard the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its personnel, and its property, and to reopen the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in North America led a panel discussion at the U.S. Helsinki Commission on March 16, 2005 which presented a clear picture of how religious human rights violations by the Turkish government have been working to exterminate the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Orthodox community in that country.

U.S. Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Congressman Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) stated: "The concern of this Commission is the protection of religious rights and freedoms. Turkey's treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate violates its obligations under international human rights law." Mr. Smith blamed Turkey for systemically attempting to prevent the activities of the Patriarchate by disallowing the opening of the Halki Theological School forcibly closed in 1971, destroying churches by creating hurdles preventing their repair, denying the Patriarchate the opportunity to purchase and or sell property and not recognizing the Patriarchate's "Ecumenical" status, in effect, denying its universal status.

QUESTION:

Do you agree that the U.S. should use its influence with the Turkish government ensure the protection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by supporting Section 2804 of the Fiscal Year 1999 Appropriations Bill, as well as assuring that positive steps are taken to reopen the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology, and to establish conditions to ensure religious freedom in Turkey?

Yes

No

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM:

Participation in the visa-waiver program is of high importance to Greece, as it will facilitate short-term business travel and enhance tourism between our two nations. Greece's participation should be equally important to the U.S., as it will make it easier for millions of Americans of Greek descent to welcome their Greek relatives and friends to our nation.

Greece has met all the technical requirements for participation. The new machine-readable passports comply with all relevant provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization. And Administration officials have recognized that Greece's new "state of the art" passports should serve as a model for other countries. In addition, if a passport is lost or stolen, both Schengen Information System (SIS) and the Interpol database (EASF), to which the United States has direct access, are immediately updated.

Based on our shared democratic values, Greece and the U.S. have been allied in every major international conflict of the 20th century. Today, Greece and the United States continue to stand united, combining forces in facing the challenges of the new millennium, including the global war on terrorism.

Greece was deemed ready for prompt participation in the Visa Waiver Program in 1999. Given all that Greece has accomplished in the interim, it is inconceivable that Greece remains the only Schengen country that does not participate in the program.

QUESTION:

Would you provide support by urging the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security to include Greece as a full member in the Visa Waiver Program?

Yes

No

Albania

Although some improvements have been made lately in the conditions and treatment of the Greek minority, continuing acts of discrimination and persecution tolerated by the government of Albania against the nation's ethnic Greek minority constitute subtle ethnic cleansing aimed at making the Greek minority feel isolated, powerless and vulnerable so that they will abandon their homes and move south to Greece.

Albania successfully sought a census to measure the Albanian minority in neighboring FYROM, while its government resists the demand of the European Union to measure its minorities, so it can continue to claim that the Greek minority is small when it constitutes at least 10 percent of the country's 3.5 million population.

As a reflection of its traditional support of protecting minority rights, the United States should maintain regular contact with the Albania government to monitor the issue and to ensure that minority rights are protected.

QUESTION:

Would you support hearings on the issue of Albania's treatment of its minorities?

Yes

No

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

When Marshal Tito fashioned the puppet "Socialist Republic of Macedonia" from the southern Yugoslav province of Vardar-Banovina in 1945, he did so to foment disorder in northern Greece in furtherance of his plan to communize the Balkan Peninsula and gain control of the key port city of Salonica. "Macedonian" nationalism was a product of Tito's fabrications. The then U.S. Secretary of State Edward Stettinius in a circular airgram to diplomatic officers on December 26, 1944 wrote:

"This Government considers talk of Macedonian 'nation,' Macedonian 'Fatherland,' or Macedonian 'national consciousness' to be unjustified demagoguery representing no ethnic nor political reality, and sees in its present revival a possible cloak for aggressive intentions against Greece."

The Truman Doctrine with its military aid to Greece enabled the Greek forces to defeat the communist insurgents supported by Tito and Stalin in the Greek Civil War 1946-1949. The "Macedonia" issue stems from the 1991 secessionist Skopje regime's naming itself in the most provocative way possible as the so called "Republic of Macedonia" and requesting worldwide recognition.

The State Department's reversal of policy on November 4, 2004 by the recognition of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as the "Republic of Macedonia" was an act of disgraceful proportions as it relates to our staunch ally and supporter in the Balkans, Greece. This act is harmful to U.S. interests in the Balkans. Since antiquity, the name Macedonia referred to a geographical region, not to a nationality. Ever since U.S. recognition of this entity, FYROM has become increasingly intransigent in negotiating with Greece over the name.

QUESTION:

Do you support the U.S. in pressing the government of FYROM to negotiate with Greece for a solution to the name issue which does not include the word “Macedonia”?

Yes

No

U.S. POLICY TO TURKEY

The U.S.’s successful prosecution of the war against Iraq without access from Turkey proved Turkey’s marginality as a strategic military resource in the region. Over the years, other actions have raised considerable doubt over Turkey’s reliability as a strategic ally. Today, the U.S. has access to alternative military facilities in the region including countries in the Middle East, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and in Iraq itself.

Turkey is a proven unreliable ally who refused to allow the U.S. in 2003 to use bases in Turkey to open a northern front against Saddam Hussein dictatorship because she wanted \$6 billion more- in addition to \$26 billion irresponsibility offered by the Administration through then Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz- for a total of \$32 billion. An administration official called Turkey’s negotiating tactics “extortion in the name of the alliance.”

Turkey’s unreliability is not new. During the Cold War, Turkey actively aided the Soviet military to the serious detriment of the U.S.. During the 1973 Mid-East War, predating the Turkish invasion of Cyprus by one year, Turkey refused the United States military overflight rights to resupply Israel and granted the U.S.S.R. overland military convoy rights to resupply Syria and Iraq, and military overflight permission to resupply Egypt. In the 1977-78 conflict in Ethiopia, Turkey granted the Soviets military overflight rights to support the pro-Soviet minority of Ethiopian communist insurgents led by Colonel Mengistu who eventually prevailed. In 1979, Turkey refused the U.S. request to allow the U.S. to send 69 U.S. marines and six helicopters to

American military facilities at Incirlik in Turkey for possible use to evacuate Americans from Iran and protecting the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI), a member of the International Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, said, “ It’s my belief in the larger picture, what the United States has to do is fundamentally reexamine its relationship with the nation of Turkey. If the United States comes to the realization that our interests as it has always been is in dealing with other just nations to advance the cause of constitutional government and human rights, I believe that this course of action will be beneficial to everyone.”

QUESTION:

Will you support a fundamental reexamination of United States relations with Turkey?

Yes

No