

President Tassos Papadopoulos

Republic of Cyprus

Nicosia, Cyprus

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on behalf of the United States Senate and the American people to express our gratitude to you, your government, and the people of Cyprus for the extraordinary support and kindness extended to U.S. and other citizens leaving Lebanon over the past week. By embracing Americans in need, your country has given meaning to the saying by the great Greek philosopher Epicurus that, "It is not so much our friends' help that helps us as the confident knowledge that they will help us."

Approximately 12,870 U.S. citizens had been transported out of Lebanon by the United States as of July 25, 2006, nearly all of them through Cyprus. The leadership exhibited by the Cypriot government and the generosity of the Cypriot people to accommodate these and the many other citizens of other countries during this trying time will not soon be forgotten by the United States. The safe departure of U.S. citizens from Lebanon has been a critical undertaking, one that the Cypriot government has played a central role in carrying out, both unflinchingly and without question. Your government's work to open Cypriot ports, provide food and water, and facilitate shelter was essential to meeting their needs.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to your government for working effectively and successfully with our Embassy officials and government representatives, in Nicosia, Larnaca and in Washington, and for everything they have done to help U.S. citizens in Cyprus. The Cypriot Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies stationed representatives at the Port of Larnaca around the clock in order to assist foreign nationals arriving in Cyprus. Because many of those transiting Cyprus have remained on the island for several days until chartered flights are available to carry them to their onward destinations, the Cyprus State Fairs Authority generously made its premises in Nicosia available to U.S. citizens as a temporary residence until their departure from Cyprus could be arranged.

We would again like to express our thanks to you, to your government, and to the people of Cyprus for all of your hard work in assisting U.S. citizens in Cyprus.

