

The Honorable John Howard,
Prime Minister of Australia

RESOLUTION

**Adopted on the 24th day of August 2007
at the 15th World Congress of Overseas Cypriots**

WHEREAS, delegates to the 15th World Congress of Overseas Cypriots, a large number of whom are Australian citizens, have convened in Nicosia, Cyprus between 21 and 24 August 2007, to discuss the current situation in the island,

WHEREAS, the Government of Cyprus and Greek Cypriots remain firmly committed to the solution of the Cyprus problem and the reunification of their country and the people of Cyprus,

WHEREAS the Government of Cyprus and the Greek Cypriots are ready and willing to engage in direct and substantive negotiations to reach a lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem, using the good offices of the U.N. Secretary General, and with full regard to the principles of the U.N., and take into full account the areas of concern of the Greek Cypriot community for the common good of all the people of Cyprus;

WHEREAS, Australia supports a solution to the Cyprus problem based on the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the EU *acquis communautaire*,

WHEREAS, the Government of the Republic of Turkey continues to occupy illegally almost 37 percent of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, continues to be in violation of the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations, and continues to violate human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Cyprus,

WHEREAS, the Government of Turkey continues to illegally settle people from Turkey in the occupied area of Cyprus, and has changed the demographic structure of the island,

WHEREAS, for the last thirty three years, due to the intransigence of the Turkish side, little progress has been achieved on issues of a profound humanitarian nature such as the investigation of the fate of the missing persons,

WHEREAS, the Government of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership continue to violate the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriot residing in the occupied area,

WHEREAS, the illegal sale of Greek Cypriot property in the occupied area and the massively increased construction activity on Greek Cypriot land, touches upon the sensitive issue of property settlement and imposes serious obstacles to any initiative for the solution of the Cyprus Problem,

WHEREAS, the Government of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership continue to show intransigence in the pursuance of a final, lasting and viable solution and seek recognition of the illegal pseudo-state.

Resolved:

WE REAFFIRM that the present status quo in Cyprus is unacceptable and that Turkey's military presence on the island is in flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 3212 (1974) unanimously approved by the United Nations General Assembly;

WE WELCOME the unwavering commitment of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to continue working for a solution that will meet the hopes and aspirations of both communities with a common future for all Cypriots within the European Union, without third parties dictating that future;

WE BELIEVE that a just, viable and workable solution to the Cyprus problem should be based on the principles of international law, the EU *acquis communautaire*, and in accordance with the United Nations Resolutions;

WE BELIEVE that the welfare and prosperity of the people of Cyprus lie with the economic integration of the two communities and the unification of the economy of Cyprus, and not with the encouragement of separatist tendencies;

WE CALL UPON the Government of Australia and the international community to impress upon Turkey to fulfill its obligations emanating from the United Nations Charter, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (541/1983 and 550/1984), as well as the European Union law, especially in view of Turkey's status as an EU candidate country;

WE URGE the immediate and unconditional implementation by Turkey of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights that found Turkey responsible for the continuous violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Greek Cypriots, such as the decisions of the Fourth Interstate Case of Cyprus v Turkey, the Case of Loizidou v Turkey and other relevant cases;

WE URGE the immediate and unconditional implementation by Turkey of all United Nations resolutions on Cyprus, calling for the withdrawal of its occupation troops and the repatriation of illegal settlers, the return all refugees to their homes in safety, the restoration of human rights and fundamental freedoms to all Cypriots, the full and effective investigation of the fate of all missing persons and the immediate and unconditional return of the city of Varosha to its lawful inhabitants;

WE EXPRESS our hope that the upcoming meeting between the leaders of the two Cypriot communities will result in the implementation of the July 8th 2006 agreement, that will open the path for a comprehensive settlement.

WE REASSURE you, Prime Minister, of our strong commitment, constructive cooperation and goodwill towards justice and peace in Cyprus.

Haris Sophoclidis
President
World Federation of Overseas Cypriots

Philip Christopher
President
Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus

Michael Christodoulou
President of the Federation of Cypriot Brotherhoods and Communities of Australia and
New Zealand
Vice President of the World Federation of Overseas Cypriots