

Forum: Historical United Nations Security Council

Issue: The Question of Reunification of Cyprus 2010

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Introduction

Following the military intervention of Turkey in 1974, after a Junta attack which led to the death of 10,000 Turkish Cypriots, several UN members met within the Security Council with Turkey, Greece and Cyprus acting under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, article 4. The initial division of the island was followed by the aggression of Turkey because of a disagreement with the guarantor powers, which include Turkey, the U.K and Greece, where the mentioned countries couldn't form together to help Cyprus after their constitution was overthrown, and it was in their power to help fix the Cypriot Government.

The question of reunification of Cyprus in 2010 is a very important dynamic for the world today. The reunification of Cyprus was planned to lead to a bicomunal federation, yet with the meetings of Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, the issue was not resolved. The question began on the 26th of May, 2010, when the newly elected Turkish Cypriot leader Derviş Eroğlu held his first meeting with the Greek Cypriot leader Dimitris Christofias alongside UN forces which were present to mitigate. This was a breakthrough since the topic has been ongoing since the 20th of July 1974. These talks focused on key topics for the possible reunification of Cyprus, and the topics of governance, economy and financial support were discussed.

At a certain point, discussions faced a more heated turn when the topics of territorial disputes were brought up. The Turks were not keen on giving up their 37% territorial claim. With the hopes being high for the discussions, a breakthrough was



not met by the two leaders and the issue has continued to this day. The issue is complex, with legal issues for both parties. Turkey declares that they will not move forward with a unified Cyprus, yet the outcome remains a mystery.

Definition of Key Terms

1. Cyprus Conflict

The issue between Turkey, Cyprus and Greece. It has been ongoing since July 15th, 1974. The only result that has been established is that Turkey now owns 37% of the island, on the Northern part. It has been named the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as of 1983.

2. Green Line

A zone which the UN has taken over control of with peace keepers, and has created a buffer zone also known as the Green Line. The zone splits Nicosia in half and it is a demilitarized zone.

3. Treaty of Guarantee

The 1960 Treaty of Guarantee which was signed by Turkey, Greece and the UK, was to provide and establish the independence of Cyprus. This treaty was established in order to help Cyprus and if the integrity of Cyprus was to be affected, the countries who signed could provide military intervention in order to provide stability in the region.

4. Guarantor Powers

The Guarantor Powers are Turkey, Greece and the UK. These countries are responsible for keeping the national integrity of Cyprus at peace and containing the power to intervene any time.



5. UN Resolutions

Certain UN resolutions such as 535 or 550 were established and heavily condemned the newly established Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

6. Annan Plan

A UN announced plan by the former Secretary General Kofi Annan. It was proposed to lead a bizonial, bicommunal Cyprus by the Turkish and Greek powers.

7. Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) was established after the invasion of Turkey on the northern part of Cyprus. Exactly 37% of the island now belongs to the TRNC.

8. Enosis

Enosis was the political plan proposed by Greece to Cyprus. It was a cause of violence and tensions between Greece and Turkey. The entire issue arised because of Enosis.

9. Attila Line

The Attila Line was the line created by turkish military corospondence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots to establish security and peace.

10. Operation Attila

Operation Attila was the first and second military operations set by Turkey to guarantee safety and peace to their Turkish Cypriot citizens. These operations proved successful seeing that Turkey got 37% of the island and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was established.



Background Information

a. Coup d'État in Cyprus

The entire issue began with the coup from the Greek Cypriots which overthrew the Cypriot president Makarios III. This intervention directly disregarded the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, and on the 15th of July, a Junta-led organisation displaced the president along with around 10,000 Turkish Cypriots. Following the events that took place, Turkey sent a military intervention on the 20th of July, leading to a breach in Article IV of the Treaty of Guarantee, which states that no military intervention can be forged without the support and backing of the other guarantor powers, which are Greece and the UK. Due to this breach, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) met on the 24th of July to discuss the issue. Under Article IV, Turkey, Cyprus and Greece were invited to join the meeting to mitigate the issue. An immediate ceasefire was called to action.

b. Atilla I and Turkish Intervention

Atilla I was the first military intervention that Turkey acted within. It started on the 20th of July and lasted for 2 days. Turkish troops landed in Kyrenia, with the objective of keeping their population in Cyprus safe. With their intervention, the Turkish army claimed a lot of the land for a temporary period of time. They were successful for saving the lives of the Turkish Cypriots, yet the other guarantor powers deemed this action to be a breach of multiple treaties and a violation on the UN. Turkey was accused on war crimes, yet they retaliated by stating they were only



protecting their citizens. Certain members believed that Turkey should withdraw from the island, leaving their citizens to fend for themselves. The Turkish military answered these calls with aggression which led to a UN implemented ceasefire. However with the ongoing Turkish invasion, the ceasefire was terminated.

c. Atilla II

Atilla II was the second military intervention that Turkey launched in the northern Cyprus region. Along with their 15,000 soldiers on the island at the time, Turkey deployed another 30,000 and began making more territorial claims. The invasion began on the 14th of August, where Turkey launched attacks on Famagusta with the intent to capture it, and they led their forces to Morphou and Karpasia. When the attacks began to subside, they advanced toward Nicosia. The conflict was ended during the battle of Agios Dometios. Turkish forces captured the Greek camps, yet the Greek Cypriots remained at key positions to prevent a complete takeover. After the conflict ended, Turkey claimed 37% of the island, and started bartering for a divided state solution.

d. De Facto Partition and Declaration of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)

After the Turkish intervention on the Northern part of Cyprus, Türkiye officially declared their ownership of 37% of its territorial claim. Within this announcement, the UN took immediate action, creating a UN buffer zone, also known as the Green line. On the 15th of November, 1983, the claimed territory was named the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, yet it was only recognised by Turkey. Henceforth, the UN heavily condemned the republic and resolution 550 was passed, which denounced the creation of the republic and ruled the whole issue unlawful. To this day, the only split capital city remains Nicosia, split in half by the Green Line.



e. The Annan Plan and Cyprus's EU Accession

The Annan Plan, named after the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The plan was enacted to lead Cyprus into a bizonal, bicomunal federation. It was agreed that a rotating presidency would be appointed, led by both Turkish and Greek Cypriots. A condition on this agreement was that the Turkish Cypriots had to give up Morphou to the Greek Cypriot rule. The referendum was published, and the two majorities voted. 76% of Greek Cypriots voted no, and in a surprising turn of events, 65% of Turkish Cypriots voted yes. With the votes leaning towards no, the referendum was turned over, and within a week of the failed referendum, Cyprus was acceded to European Union (EU) status as a full member, yet the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was excluded from the EU accession.

f. Renewed Talks and Convergence Agreements

The renewed talks and the convergence agreements between Cyprus and Turkey were led in 2010. It was when the newly appointed president of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Derviş Eroğlu set a meeting with the communist leader of Cyprus, Dimitris Christofias. These meetings were mitigated by UN members, yet nothing was determined. The Convergence Agreement of 2010 led for new political structure, governance and decision-making, property issues. EU laws and security. These talks haven't solved anything as of this day yet hope remains high.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

1. Cyprus (Republic of Cyprus & Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus)



The Republic of Cyprus is the center of the conflict. The country was finally released from British colonialism in 1960, the same year that the Treaty of Guarantee was signed by the United Kingdom, Turkey and Greece. Cyprus is no stranger to being invaded, with the country posing a colorful history of invasion and never having complete control over their country. On July 15th 1974, Greece proposed a plan known as Enosis with Cyprus. The plan was to intervene with the government and create a bicomunal rule with both Greece and Cyprus. During Enosis, mass devastation followed with the death and displacement of Cypriots on both Turkish and Greek sides. Following these incidents Turkey invaded the north of Cyprus with the intent of protecting their citizens and promising to pull out after peace and security was placed. In the following years, Cyprus was split in two with 37% of the island being taken by Turkish military forces. Plans were proposed to unify the country once more, yet with resistance from both sides, none were passed in a lawful manner. Cyprus remains divided today.

2. Turkey

The Turkish rule over the northern part of Cyprus is a severe issue that still resides today. With Turkey using military aggression on the 20th of July, 1974, they were found unlawfully containing territory. Turkey tried to justify their actions by stating that they were just trying to protect their citizens in the northern and the whole of Cyprus, they lead heavily against Article IV in the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, which states that military aggression towards Cyprus can only be acted upon a unified matter with the Guarator powers deciding whether or not to intervene. Turkey also stated that they were upholding their role as said power, due to the constitutional regime of Cyprus being unstable. Turkey followed their own path, and led both Attila I and Attila II. Both military interventions proved successful for Turkey, and they later on formed the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which was only solely recognized by Turkey and Turkey alone. The UN heavily condemned Turkey for the actions they took and they installed a buffer zone also known as the green line in Nicosia to prevent other accidents happening.



3. Greece

Greece was another huge part in this conflict. They were the sole reason for the national sovereignty of Cyprus being inflicted with the Enosis agreement. Greece, who serves a huge role in the issue by being a Guarantor power along with a signatory on the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee. They were given the role of protecting Cyprus along with the UK and Turkey to help Cyprus create a safe and protected country. Greece has been involved in many diplomatic efforts, and has been a proud supporter of a unified Cyprus. In 2010, a difficult time for Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot leader met with the Turks to discuss the possibility of said unification, yet with a proposed referendum, 70% of the Greek population voted against the unification, stating they didn't want to share their EU accession with the Turks, and the referendum was dismissed.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
15 July 1974	Greek-led Coup in Cyprus
July 20, 1974	Turkey Invades Cyprus (Operation Attila I)
August 14, 1974	Turkey Launches Operation Attila II
July 19, 1975	Creation of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus
November 15, 1983	Declaration of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)
1984	UN Resolution 550
December 1995	EU Accession Talks Begin for Cyprus
November 12, 2002	The Annan Plan Announced
March 2003	Opening of the Green Line



April 2004	Cyprus Referendums on the Annan Plan
May 1, 2004	Cyprus Joins the European Union
December 2004	EU Offers Direct Trade with the Turkish Cypriot Community
February 2008	Cyprus Presidential Election and Resumption of Talks
March 21, 2008	Opening of the Ledra Street Checkpoint
June 2008	Agreement on the Property Issue
July 2009	The Christofias-Talat Talks
November 2009	Christofias-Talat Talks on Governance and Economy
May 2010	Restarting Negotiations and Convergence Agreements
October 2010	Convergence Agreement on Federal System
November 2010	Finalizing Negotiations on Property and Territory

Relevant UN Resolutions and Other Documents

a. Resolution 535

https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/48838/files/S_RES_535%281983%29-EN.pdf

The Resolution 535 was the first major step taken to help ease the conflict. Its clauses are very well written to aid all parties relating to the issue.

b. 1960 Treaty of Guarantee



<https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/default/files/document/files/2024/05/cy20gr20tr600816treaty20of20guarantee.pdf>

The Treaty of Guarantee was the first signed document on the issue of Cyprus becoming a legal country. The treaty stated that all guarantor powers should be held accountable if the stability of the government were revolted.

c. Resolution 550

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Cyprus%20SRES550.pdf>

d. The Convergence Agreement

https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/euro/enlargement-euro-area/convergence-criteria-joining_en

e. The Annan Plan

<https://www.prio.org/publications/6879>

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

There were countless possible attempts to solve the issue as the documents above and mentioned around the resolution have stated. The issue is still in large with all the solving documents provided. Such as the Treaty of Guarantee, which with its intricate clauses especially Article IV, which states that if any issues arise in the social integrity of Cyprus, any guarantor powers such as the UK, Turkey and Greece have the right to call a meeting to discuss their actions. With Turkey moving along with its own regime, the other powers considered them accountable for all the damage caused. The issue continues to be a rising one however with the state of the world the problems solution seems hopeful.



Possible Solutions

The issue between Cyprus, Greece and Turkey is not one that's easy to solve. A solution that might seem plausible is by firstly consulting the guarantor powers and calling towards a meeting. The meeting's primary issue would be the land division on the regime. Turkey should provide a case that states why they should either inherit the land or keep a part of it in order to provide the needs of all countries within the issue. The government of Cyprus should also be led by a changing democratic regime. The presidency should be split between both Turkish and Greek Cypriots to avoid further tensions. If the countries present fail to comply, tariffs and sanctions of 13% shall be placed on the non-complying countries' exports, due to both Greece and Turkey being export countries. The UN should mitigate this meeting, and the P5 members shall not use any bias, however yet look at the issue with a new set of eyes so to speak. With this method, a possibly unified and secure Cyprus may be formed.

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