



Address by the President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Nikos Anastasiadis on the 50th anniversary of the Greek Community of Margate

My Fellow countrymen,

It is with great emotion that I send this salute on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Greek Community of Margate, on the feast of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, in honour of whom the church in your community is dedicated, and in which you continuously worship since 1964.

Please accept my message as a small token of support and appreciation of the difficult daily struggle to maintain your identity in your host country, but also of your interest in the survival of Cypriot Hellenism.

We monitor continuously and with great interest your activities. Your contribution to your motherland is undoubtedly invaluable because we see with admiration the achievements and progress made in your country of residence, for which I would like to express our thanks and congratulations.

The Greek Community of Margate, the majority of whom came from Cyprus, is known in Great Britain because it established for fifty years now the celebration of the Blessing of the Waters, always with the participation of the Archbishop of Thyatira and the town's local authorities, but also with dozens of mayors and local deputies from surrounding towns. Your community is a living example of cooperation, solidarity and mutual respect between the local element and an ethnic minority, the Greek-Cypriot community of Margate.

Your example guides us as well, in the struggle for the reunification of Cyprus and the reunion of all the inhabitants of our country within the framework of a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem, which will give the opportunity to the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to create conditions of prosperity, stability and security for all.



We remain firm in our goal so that the solution to our national problem should lead to the creation of a modern and functional EU Member State which respects the principles of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all legal residents and will create the conditions for peaceful coexistence, cooperation and security for all Cypriots.

On behalf of the Cypriot State and the Cypriot people, I would like to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your perennial efforts to develop good relations with our British friends. This relationship benefits not only yourselves and your British hosts, but could also help us, the Cypriot Hellenism in our struggle to be successful.

As a consequence of the efforts and the contribution of the Cypriot community in England, a historic agreement was signed in January 2014, during my visit to London. The end result was that the British government released, after efforts lasting 54 years, 200 sq. kilometers of land from the British bases. This created better prospects for many Cypriots in the difficult circumstances that Cyprus finds itself in, and we hope it is the precursor for further agreements.

I wish you all the best on your Anniversary. I am convinced that you will continue with the same vigour and the same intensity so that you are successful in your adopted country, whilst at the same time sharing our vision for solution to the problems faced by our homeland and that the reunification of Cyprus will soon become a reality.

21/10/2014
