

EUROPEAN - ATLANTIC ACTION COMMITTEE ON GREECE

To All Signatories and Friends of the Committee

The objective which this Committee has pursued for the last three years appears to have been reached. International pressure - in NATO, the EEC and the various national parliaments - has undoubtedly helped to keep the Greek issue alive and to prevent the different phases of the dictatorship from consolidating in a position of strength. This contributed to the downfall of the military regime, and we therefore express our very deep gratitude and appreciation to all those who have supported this Committee or worked in other ways for the restoration of democracy in Greece.

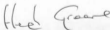
We believe that the aim of Mr Karamanlis will be to restore full political freedom in Greece. It is to be hoped that, aware of the extent of their past errors, the military leaders will co-operate in every possible way and will refrain from intervening in the democratic process in future. Until this goal is realised in the form of genuine democratic elections, which we trust will take place rapidly, the Committee feels that it should maintain a "watching brief" on the situation.

In addition, the forthcoming negotiations for the future of an independent Cyprus must be subjected to very close scrutiny. There are real dangers that if diplomacy of the most determined kind does not prevail, the constitutional arrangements may not be adequate to preclude further conflict in the island. The greatest danger is that a de facto partition may be allowed to emerge. If this were to involve rigidly separated communities and the continuing military presence of the mainland powers it would be virtually a guarantee of disaster. Certainly new wounds have been opened and old wounds reopened by the events of the last two weeks, but a settlement must be based on the potential ability of all Cypriots to live together in peace without external interference. A massive United Nations commitment will probably be needed to ensure the early stages of such a settlement. This is in every way preferable to an attempt to use Greek and Turkish forces to deter each other, which would in all likelihood fail. It is hoped that the Turkish Government will understand and share this view and that the experienced politicians who have come to power in Greece will not feel it necessary to adopt an overly nationalist attitude. There are opportunities as well as dangers, and those who conduct the negotiations will have the eyes of the world, as well as of all Cypriots, upon them.

Finally, although it seems that democracy will indeed be restored in Greece we cannot be complacent about the way in which this desirable situation has been reached. The European-Atlantic Committee has consistently argued that if maximum and concerted international pressure were not applied to compel the removal of the dictatorship, it would end in catastrophe. Today we look to the future, but we are unable to do so without feeling that a considerable burden of responsibility for the bloodshed of the last days rests upon those who went on supporting the military regime from abroad in spite of all logic and repeated warnings. There are many lessons to be learnt from this experience. We conclude in a spirit of hope and again of gratitude for all the valuable support this Committee has had.

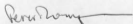
If all goes well, this will be the last communication from the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Sir Hugh Greene
(Chairman)

Yours sincerely



Peter Thompson
(Secretary)