

Turkey must apologise

LAW EXPERT SAYS ANKARA CANNOT HAVE ITS WAY THROUGH FORCE

By **Demetra Molyva**

Turkey must apologise for what it did to Cyprus in 1974 and comply with its obligations under international law, an American former senior UN official and current professor of international law said this week.

Geneva-based Alfred de

Zayas said in an interview to The Cyprus Weekly:

"Turkey has to apologise for raping Cyprus in 1974 and remove every single one of its troops from the island, return properties to their rightful owners and allow the Greek Cypriots to return to their homes and property as has been decided by the European Court of Human Rights many times.

"If the Turks want to be taken seriously by the world, they cannot do it by force.

"They have to show that they are willing to join a club

like the European Union and that they are willing to accept its rules which include the treaty of the European Union and its principles of liberty, democracy, the rule of freedom, human rights and the principle of self-determination," he added.

He was in Cyprus over the weekend to address an international conference on displaced Greeks, hosted by the Kyrenia refugees association "Adouloti Kerynia" and organised by Greeks from Pontus, Smyrna, the Calde-Assyrians and Armenians.

The problem with the Cyprus issue, de Zayas said, is not merely that Turkey refuses to cooperate but that the international community, including the US and Europe, tolerate it and no sanctions are imposed.

"If there is a concerted policy of disinvestment in Turkey, that is stop investing or sell any investments in Turkey, that would hurt and Turkey would realise that if it wants to play the game and be an economic partner of other countries it has to respect human rights and international law by clearing up the Cyprus problem."

De Zayas believes Greek Cypriots can afford to be patient a little longer and the outcome would be that Turkish Cypriots will realise they have more in common with the Greek Cypriots than with

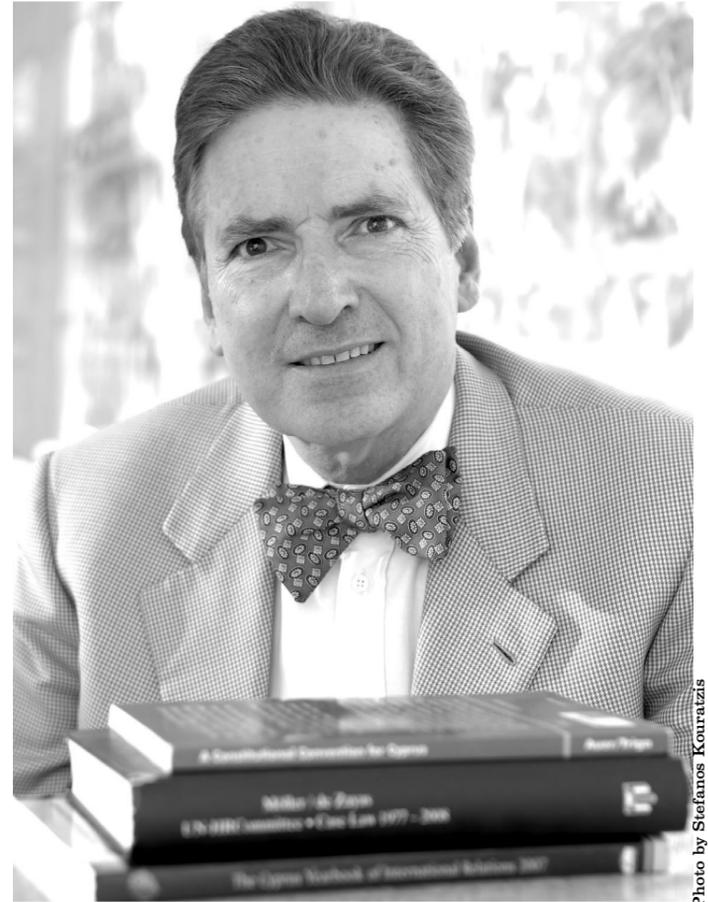


Photo by Stefanos Kouratzis

Economic interests

He is convinced that the Cyprus problem is directed by economic interests that imply sacrificing principles and the law.

"What I have noticed in the case of Cyprus is a manifestation of intellectual dishonesty on the part of international politicians, like the US and Britain," de Zayas said

"They are trying to reverse the roles so that the victims, the Greek Cypriots become the bad guys, because they don't accept being run over and being bulldozed by the big guys."

"Turkey wants like a thief to keep the fruits of the crime. It has illegally invaded Cyprus and they are still sitting there because they have had to connivance of the US, the UK and the European Union.

"So what we have here is a manifestation of intellectual political dishonesty at a level that is breathtaking," he added.

Condemning the Annan Plan as fundamentally flawed, he expressed concern that many international politicians want to revive it although they do not actually say so.

With regards to the settlers, he believes the matter has to be addressed on a case-by-case basis because they are human beings and cannot just be thrown in the bin.

"These people were politically used and are victims like everybody else."

the Turks. "The unrest in the north, which has already begun, would expand and there would be a desire of the people of northern Cyprus to reach a settlement with the Greek Cypriots on their terms and not on Ankara's."

"If Turkey wants to be a respected member of the international community, it must abide by international law.

"It cannot expect that by threatening or bullying little states."

Curbing small arms proliferation

NICOSIA CONFERENCE SHEDS LIGHT ON GLOBAL SECURITY ISSUE

By **Annie Charalambous**

A two-day seminar in Nicosia on small arms and light weapons opens the way for pilot legislation to be drafted on this global security issue.

"Legislation is the first step," participant Disy MP Christos Stylianides, who is also the parliament's representative at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), told The Cyprus Weekly over the weekend.

"A resolution (adopted at the end of the seminar) on model legislation on small arms and light weapons within the EU and the rest of the world is the goal of this seminar," he added.

But he also disclosed that Cyprus is a centre for trade of small arms, saying that: "we have a lot of arms dealers here, it is a problem".

The seminar was organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the House of Representatives.

It brought together some 25 participants from the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America.

Registered participants from strife-torn Libya and Egypt failed to show up due to the explosive situation in their countries.



Photo by Stefanos Kouratzis

LEGISLATION NEEDED: The panel at the inter-parliamentary seminar on proliferation of small arms and light weapons

"What is important for Cyprus is the fact that - given its geographical location and its very good relations with its neighbouring countries - can be a bridge of dialogue and co-operation," said Stylianides.

"Cyprus is the place for peaceful dialogue in the region," he added.

House President Marios Garoyian opened the seminar saying that hundreds of millions of small arms and light weapons are circulating world-

wide.

"The impossibility of efficiently regulating and controlling their transfer and trading are a serious threat to security, sustainable development and social cohesion," he added.

"This phenomenon is connected to major threats, such as armed conflicts with great human and material losses, displacement of populations, organised crime and terrorist acts," he also said.

He then called for a legally binding Treaty that sets international common rules on the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons.

Welcoming all initiatives undertaken in this region, such as those by the Arab League, as well as by international and regional networks for small arms and light weapons in the Middle East and North Africa, he said: "These initiatives need to be encouraged further. All the more so, amid rapid chain reactions and developments in the region with unknown results and geopolitical consequences".

Vice president of the Parliamentary Forum, Ibrahim Sorie, said: "We are having our meeting at a critical time for the region.

"Several parliaments are recently dissolved and a new spirit of free elections is likely to change the political landscape."

This is, indeed, a time for parliamentarians to come together for reflection and dialogue, he added.