

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 320

Supporting the removal of Turkish occupation troops from the Republic of Cyprus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Supporting the removal of Turkish occupation troops from the Republic of Cyprus.

Whereas the United States has shown consistent interest in resolving the Cyprus issue and has encouraged every effort in that direction;

Whereas the recent signing by the President of the Republic of Cyprus of the European Union Accession Treaty on April 16, 2003, has opened new avenues for the resolution of the division of the island;

Whereas Turkish troops have been in Cyprus ever since the illegal occupation of 1974, and the number of occupying troops has increased over the last three decades so that there are now over 30,000 Turkish troops in the nation,

making Cyprus one of the most militarized countries in the world;

Whereas the Greek Cypriots recently implemented a package of good faith measures designed to assist their Turkish Cypriot compatriots by ensuring that the Turkish Cypriots can enjoy the same rights and privileges enjoyed by all other citizens of Cyprus, such as free movement of goods, improved healthcare, education, trade, and employment opportunities;

Whereas a resolution of the Cyprus issue may materially advance the chance of Turkey to proceed with its accession to the European Union; and

Whereas the recent opportunity of contact between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots provided by the opening of crossing points by the occupation authorities has demonstrated that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can live in harmony without animosity and within the rule of law of the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) wishing to accelerate the momentum for the
3 reunification of the Republic of Cyprus, urges as a
4 further step, the immediate withdrawal of the Turk-
5 ish troops of occupation;

6 (2) calls upon the Administration of the United
7 States to advocate for the immediate withdrawal of
8 Turkish troops from the occupied territories of the
9 Republic of Cyprus; and

10 (3) expresses its strong support of the recent
11 decision by the European Parliament to demand the

- 1 removal of the Turkish occupation forces from the
- 2 northern one-third of the Republic of Cyprus.

