

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 676

To expose and halt the Republic of Turkey's illegal colonization of the Republic of Cyprus with non-Cypriot populations, to support Cyprus in its efforts to control all of its territory, to end Turkey's illegal occupation of northern Cyprus, and to exploit its energy resources without illegal interference by Turkey.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2012

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

To expose and halt the Republic of Turkey's illegal colonization of the Republic of Cyprus with non-Cypriot populations, to support Cyprus in its efforts to control all of its territory, to end Turkey's illegal occupation of northern Cyprus, and to exploit its energy resources without illegal interference by Turkey.

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus is an independent, sovereign nation-state;

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus, as the only sovereign state on the island of Cyprus, is a member of the United Nations, the European Union, and other key international organizations;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stated that the Republic of Cyprus is “strategically important”;

Whereas Cyprus is a close friend and partner of the United States in the volatile eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas Cyprus and the United States share basic values of democracy and market-based economies;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 939 of July 29, 1994, reaffirms that a solution to the Cypriot issue must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality, and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions, in a bicommunal and bizonal federation, and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey illegally occupies the northern area of Cyprus with an armed force of 43,000 Turkish troops;

Whereas Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 states, “the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”;

Whereas in 1954, Turkey ratified the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949;

Whereas Turkey is attempting to colonize the part of Cyprus it occupies by sending hundreds of thousands of its citizens to live permanently on Cyprus;

Whereas the demographic makeup of the indigenous population of the Republic of Cyprus is approximately

675,000 Greek-Cypriots, 90,000 Turkish-Cypriots, and 8,000 others;

Whereas this demographic makeup is being dramatically and illegally altered by the influx of non-Cypriot colonists sent from Turkey;

Whereas the number of Turkish colonists who have been transplanted to Cyprus is estimated to be at least 200,000 and could be as high as 500,000 based on statements of Turkish-Cypriot opposition leaders, trade unionists, and journalists;

Whereas the occupation regime rejected the Council of Europe's recommendation to have an island-wide census carried out by a competent international organization by blocking such a census in the occupied area;

Whereas Turkey's colonization plan was publicly exposed when Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Turkish-Cypriots protesting against the transfer of Turkish colonists in the summer of 2011, "If you don't want us to send people, you need to have more babies.";

Whereas Turkey's attempt to portray its illegal occupation and colonization practices as protecting Turkish-Cypriots from Greek-Cypriots has been brought into serious question by recent history including the 17,000,000 intercommunal visits without violence since 2003;

Whereas Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots have a history of peaceful coexistence for nearly all of their 400 years together;

Whereas according to Turkish-Cypriot opposition leaders, nearly half of all Turkish-Cypriots have left the country for Great Britain, the United States, or Australia since Turkey's colonization of Cyprus began to the point that

today less than 90,000 Turkish-Cypriots live in the occupied area;

Whereas according to the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot “Communal Democracy Party”, Turkish-Cypriots are “in danger of extinction both in terms of the population and culturally”;

Whereas in recent years, the Republic of Cyprus along with other countries in the eastern Mediterranean, including Israel, have discovered vast reserves of natural gas within their territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ);

Whereas Cyprus and Israel recently signed an agreement defining the boundaries of their respective EEZ’s, and on that basis are proceeding with the exploration of the area’s natural gas reserves;

Whereas a United States company is currently developing hydrocarbon deposits in the offshore EEZ’s of Cyprus and Israel;

Whereas these developments are potentially significant for the energy security of Europe;

Whereas the United States Government supports the sovereign rights of Cyprus and Israel to explore hydrocarbon deposits in their respective EEZ’s;

Whereas in a classic colonialist attempt to exploit the national wealth of Cyprus, Turkey is attempting to extend its illegal occupation and control of parts of Cyprus to include Cyprus’ EEZ so it can unjustly seize and exploit the energy resources which are rightfully the property of the Republic of Cyprus;

Whereas Turkey's drive to capture the energy resources of the Republic of Cyprus has been accompanied by a variety of provocative and bellicose actions including—

(1) sending warships off of Cyprus' southern coast to escort a Turkish research vessel looking for hydrocarbon deposits;

(2) Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan publicly warning that his country would “retaliate even more strongly” to any further mineral exploration by Cyprus around the island;

(3) Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu warning of a “necessary response” if Cyprus went ahead with its energy development plans;

(4) Turkey's European Union Minister Egemen Bagis threatening that, “This is what we have a navy for. We have trained our marines for this. We have equipped the navy for this. All options are on the table. Anything can be done”;

(5) conducting air and naval military exercises south of Cyprus in the area of exploration; and

(6) declaring invalid the agreement between Israel and Cyprus demarcating their EEZ's;

Whereas the highest levels of the United States Government privately urged Turkey to not follow through with its threats against Cyprus for exercising its sovereign right to explore its own natural resources;

Whereas on April 26, 2012, Turkey began illegally drilling for oil and natural gas on the island of Cyprus, clearly within the Republic of Cyprus' sovereign territory, and named a well “Turkish homeland”, as the first in a “drilling package” that also includes exploration throughout Cypriot waters;

Whereas Turkish efforts to colonize areas of Cyprus and exploit its natural resources have even led certain leading Turkish officials, such as European Union Minister Egemen Bagis, to call for “annexing northern Cyprus to Turkey”, which would be in direct violation of the United Nations Charter and United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus; and

Whereas 40,000 Turkish-Cypriots protested against Turkish austerity measures during demonstrations last year, with hundreds shouting and holding signs reading, “Ankara, get your hand off our shores”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) respects and accepts the sovereignty of the
3 Republic of Cyprus as the only sovereign state on
4 the island of Cyprus;

5 (2) urges the Government of the Republic of
6 Turkey to respect, accept, and formally recognize
7 the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus over all of
8 the territory of the island of Cyprus, end its illegal
9 military occupation of Cyprus, and accept and fully
10 implement all United Nations Security Council Reso-
11 lutions on Cyprus;

12 (3) supports the Republic of Cyprus in its plans
13 to explore and exploit energy reserves within its Ex-
14 clusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and praises Cyprus
15 and Israel for working cooperatively to develop the
16 energy holdings in the region;

1 (4) urges the Government of Turkey to cease
2 all activities and plans to further develop energy re-
3 sources illegally within the territory and EEZ of the
4 Republic of Cyprus;

5 (5) opposes Turkey's threatening statements
6 and naval movements designed to keep Cyprus from
7 exploiting its energy resources;

8 (6) expresses serious concern about Turkey's
9 ongoing efforts to colonize the area of northern Cy-
10 prus by sending hundreds of thousands of non-Cyp-
11 riot Turkish citizens to Cyprus;

12 (7) considers the Government of Turkey in
13 grave violation of Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Con-
14 vention of 1949 by transferring parts of its own ci-
15 vilian population into occupied northern Cyprus; and

16 (8) urges the Administration to call on Turkey
17 to end its illegal colonization of Cyprus with non-
18 Cypriot populations, end its illegal occupation of
19 northern Cyprus, and end its illegal interference
20 with Cyprus' exploitation of its energy resources.

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