



PRESS RELEASE

HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA
50-M, SATYA MARG, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI

STATEMENT BY MENTERI LUAR NEGERI
YB TAN SRI M. GHAZALI SHAFIE ON
THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT AT CYPRUS

Malaysia does not favour any move that would lead to the dismemberment of a sovereign nation. In respect of Cyprus, Malaysia has and will continue to fully support the equality of rights and legitimate demands of the Turkish Cypriot Community as co-partners with the Greek Cypriot Community within the framework of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. Malaysia's position is that the Turkish Cypriot Community has the right to be heard at all fora where the inter-community question of Cyprus is raised.

H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktash in his declaration has clearly stated that there is a deep desire on the part of the Turkish Cypriots to find a just and durable solution and that the proclamation of independence "will not hinder but facilitate the establishment of a genuine federation". This declaration of H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktash coincides with the views of H.E. Mr. Kyprianou. As such, the proclamation cannot be considered as final or permanent but rather one that would pave the way for urgent, serious and earnest moves on the part of both sides towards the realisation of the much desired unity.

It is our view that now is not the time to attribute blame, to condemn or acclaim either party. The International Community must concentrate its best endeavours in re-building mutual trust and confidence between the two communities and, above all, to contribute towards finding a solution on the basis of what is right for Cyprus

and Cypriots of both communities. Malaysia welcomes all efforts that would conduce to bringing the two parties for reconciliation in the spirit of a united Cyprus. Negative words and actions would only make such efforts difficult and must therefore be avoided.

Malaysia considers negotiations within the framework of reconciliation of the two communities and the good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General as the most appropriate forum for pursuing a concrete and effective negotiating process towards an enduring settlement of the problem.

Malaysia will continue to follow with a deep sense of responsibility and interest the developments in Cyprus and, in the meantime, would consult her friends both in the commonwealth and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference whose meetings will take place in the next few days in New Delhi and Dhaka respectively.

Malaysian High Commission,
New Delhi.

21st November, 1983