Proceedings of the International Symposium

THE CYPRUS ISSUE
PAST, PRESENT AND THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Edited By
Prof. Dr. Hüseyin GÖKÇEKUŞ

1988

NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY
Lefkoşa, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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PREFACE

The Cyprus question entered a new phase when the EU started accession negotiations with the Greek Cypriot administration on behalf of the whole of the island in 1998, ignoring entirely the Turkish Cypriot partnerhsip rights and interests. It also declared in Helsinki that it would take South Cyprus as Cyprus into the EU by the end of 2002 even if there is no solution. Such a move would amount to upsetting the Greco-Turkish balance over the island, the basic foundation of the 1960 Agreements, destroy the Turkish Cypriot partnership rights and an attempt to patch up the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus into the Greek Cypriot administration. The need to look at the issues involved became critical for the TRNC. For this reason a symposium called "The Cyprus Issue: Past, Present and the Vision of the Future" was organized at the Near East University between 12 – 14 June 2001.

The main purpose of this symposium was to help formulate academic and contemporary ideas which would shed light on the national issue of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

It is believed that the results reached, will indeed, enlighten those who plan the strategy on the Cyprus issue and help them defend our national issue more realistically. It is also believed that the abstracts submitted in this context helped to discuss the issue academically and in a more realistic manner.

We extend our thanks to our every participant, media members, our Founding Rector Dr. Suat I.Günsel, the Foreign and Defence Ministry, the Turkish Embassy and TRNC Presiaency for their support for our Symposium.

Prof. Dr. Hüseyin GÖKÇEKUŞ
Vice President, Near East University
General Co-ordinator of the Symposium
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