

meet the interests of their country and their futures. It is one thing for others to comment on the terms and conditions for settlement, but it is the Cypriots who must live with whatever plan is adopted.

The Government of Cyprus continues to emphasize that it remains committed to reunify Cyprus as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with democratic and human rights for all Cypriots. The Cypriot Government has announced a series of measures aimed at assisting those Turkish Cypriots residing under the control of the occupying Turkish army. The package included a wide range of political, social, humanitarian, educational and economic measures that would enhance the Turkish-Cypriots' ability to enjoy many of the benefits that the Republic of Cyprus offers to its citizens—including benefits which result from its European Union membership. Far beyond a merely symbolic gesture, the package is a substantive program to integrate the Turkish-Cypriot community into the larger Cypriot society.

The Republic of Cyprus and Greek-Cypriots have provided the Turkish-Cypriot community more than \$700 million dollars in aid. In the past two years, the government of Cyprus has paid more than \$43 million dollars in social insurance pensions to Turkish-Cypriots, and Turkish-Cypriots working outside the Green Line made \$7 million dollars in wages last year. Since April 2003, more than 24,000 Turkish-Cypriots have received free treatment in hospitals and medical centers inside the Republic of Cyprus, the combined cost of which totals more than \$9 million dollars.

Since the invasion more than three decades ago, Turkish occupied areas have received free electricity from the Cyprus Electricity Authority at a cost of nearly \$343 million dollars. Together, more than 150,000 birth certificates, identity cards and passports have been provided to Turkish-Cypriots by the Republic of Cyprus, so that Turkish-Cypriots could travel and acquire work more efficiently. The Republic of Cyprus has begun a program where it pays the full tuition fees of Turkish-Cypriot pupils in secondary education private schools in the government controlled areas. The program to date has promised more than 5.4 million in tuition fees, and the program added five times as many students this year than it did in its first year, 2003.

The occupying Turkish regime partially relaxed restrictions that limited travel across the Green Line. Since then, there have been more than five million incident-free border crossings by Turkish and Greek Cypriots to visit areas and homes that were inaccessible to them for over 30 years. As a result, Greek-Cypriots have infused more than \$57 million dollars into the impoverished, Turkish-occupied economy in the North. It isn't clear whether opening the border was just a tactic to ease frustrations, or a sign that Turkey has had a fundamental change of heart. Nevertheless, it has produced rare displays of human kinship, exchanges of flowers and pastries, and emotional visits to homes abandoned in the mid-1970s.

Still, neither the Government's incomplete, albeit well-intentioned, benefit package for Turkish-Cypriots, nor the limited lifting of restrictions by Turkey's occupying regime, substitutes for a comprehensive resolution to end Cyprus' divide. I urge the Bush Administration, the United Nations the European Union, and this honorable body to respect the democratic

decision of the Cypriot people, to remain engaged in efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem, and to work toward a fair and lasting reunification of Cyprus.

As Cyprus works toward reunification it is imperative that leaders and diplomats from the United States and other nations respect and observe Cypriot law and international law in their dealings with Cyprus. Recently, Members of Congress traveled directly into the northern airport of Cyprus in Tymbou. Direct flights into occupied Cyprus are inconsistent with principles of international law and in tension with domestic law of the United States. In particular, it is indisputable that international law mandates that flights cannot enter a country's airspace without the consent of the sovereign government. Indeed, the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed in Chicago on December 7, 1944, provides that "the contracting States recognize that every State has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory." The Republic of Cyprus' sovereignty over the entire territory of Cyprus has been recognized and reaffirmed by numerous U.N. Security Council Resolutions, as well as long-standing U.S. policy.

Section 620C of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, amended in 1979, separately establishes that the United States' foreign policy towards Cyprus is to support the withdrawal of all Turkish forces from Cyprus and the reunification of the island. Any government or congressional trip will not only derail and discourage reunification efforts, but to the contrary, will be exploited as an implicit recognition of the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" by the United States, thus further reinforcing the island's division.

It is my understanding that at no time has the Republic of Cyprus authorized flights into the illegal airports situated in the occupied area of Cyprus. Moreover, flights into these airports are not necessary; the Republic of Cyprus encourages visits to the occupied area in a manner that does not create insurmountable legal issues and reinforce the existing division of the island.

What is surprising and disappointing is that our own State Department encouraged these Members to fly directly to the airport in the TRNC under the guise of easing the isolation of Turkish-Cypriots. The State Department has authorized U.S. government personnel to travel directly to northern Cyprus, but they require that they must use their tourist passports. I don't understand why they are not instructed to use their official passports since they are visiting the TRNC on official business. I believe that if the legality of direct travel to TRNC were not in dispute, requiring U.S. government personnel to use their tourist passports would be pointless.

The State Department maintains that this policy is consistent with U.S. and international law and that neither U.S. nor international law prohibits U.S. citizens from traveling directly to the TRNC. While the State Department is technically correct that nothing precludes U.S. leaders, diplomats, staff, or citizens from entering the airport in the north of Cyprus, such actions do contravene the Chicago Convention and contradict established U.S. foreign policy.

I have sent letters to President George W. Bush and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressing concern regarding the legality of U.S. citizens, U.S. government personnel, and Members of Congress

flying directly from Turkey to the airport at Tymbou in the occupied northern part of Cyprus. The letters also requested legal clarification on direct flights to TRNC by U.S. citizens, U.S. government personnel, and Members of Congress. These letters were signed by more than thirty of my colleagues.

I think they need to be reminded that the United States recognizes the Republic of Cyprus as the only government of Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus has not authorized flights into the northern airport, and the Republic of Cyprus and the United States are signatories to the Chicago Convention. Therefore, when U.S. citizens travel to Cyprus through the northern airport they not only undermine an ally of the United States, but they also flout U.S. foreign policy, which has been in place for ten consecutive presidential terms. As the U.S. government never would allow members of the Cypriot House of Representatives to enter the United States through an airport that is not designated as a legal port of entry, it also should discourage U.S. citizens, U.S. government personnel, and Members of Congress from doing the same in Cyprus.

Such actions do little more than undercut the reunification efforts. The Turkish invasion of Cyprus is responsible for the destabilization of the Republic of Cyprus. Likewise, unauthorized travel into the northern airport, especially by American leaders, belittles the Republic of Cyprus' authority and destroys its credibility. Cyprus' sovereignty deserves no less reverence from the United States than any other nation with which the U.S. deals and considers an ally.

American leaders should set an example for the rest of the world to follow, and in all our dealings with Cyprus, our utmost concern ought to be reunification. We should look to correct the wrong that occurred more than thirty years ago. We should work to bring about a just resolution to the situation. And, at the very least, we must act to halt the continuing injustice which the world community allows to continue in Cyprus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because my airline flight was delayed, on July 18th I was unable to be present for the vote on H. Res. 328, Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union. (rollcall number 380). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2601, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule, which prevents the House