



TORONTO MODEL UNITED NATIONS II

# TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

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## Director's Letter

Dear delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Cyprus 1974 committee at TMUN 2024. I, Alexander Koutakos, will be your director for this committee. From triumphs at OMUN to MOMUN, I assure you that my experience will help facilitate the best possible committee for all of you. I am also thrilled to have such a strong crisis staff under my wing.

In this committee, delegates will reenact the 1974 invasion of Cyprus. As delegates of your respective countries, it is your task to best represent and mirror the actions, policies, views, and opinions of your characters. Will Cyprus fall? Or will Enosis prevail? This is for you, the delegates, to find out.

This background guide will serve as a starting point for your research, we highly suggest for delegates to complete their own research pertaining to their respective characters. As such, additional resources are available within this background guide. We hope that the topics we have selected provide for some interesting debate, and hopefully some very nice conflict; because well, what is Model UN without conflict?

Wars can be fought without reason, however let's preface this committee by saying that this conflict sprouted with a plurality of reasons. One could even call it, the Cypriot lore. Your job however, is simple. Represent your character well and ensure that you accomplish your primary objectives. This is a crisis committee and as such, idealism is just the start. Actions certainly speak louder than words.

We look forward to seeing you all conference day, and hopefully facilitating an action-packed, entertaining, conflict-filled, and memorable Model United Nations experience. That is all. Let it now be settled on the battlefield!

Sincerely,

Alexander Koutakos

Director | TMUN 2023 | Cyprus 1974

## Historical Description

This committee will start on July 20th 1974, the day the Turkish invasion of Cyprus began.

Turkey, citing its role as a guarantor power, intervened militarily to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority on the island. The invasion resulted in the division of Cyprus into the Republic of Cyprus in the south, primarily inhabited by Greek Cypriots, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (recognized only by Turkey) in the north, inhabited by Turkish Cypriots. Despite numerous UN-mediated attempts to reunify the island, it remains divided to this day, with a UN buffer zone separating the two regions.

On July 15, 1974, a group of Greek Cypriot nationalists, with support from the Greek military junta, staged a coup against Makarios' government. The coup aimed to remove Makarios from power, leading to a brief period of chaos and instability on the island. In his place, Nikos Sampson became the de-facto Cypriot leader.

Makarios managed to escape and sought refuge in the United Kingdom. However, the coup triggered a chain of events that led to Turkey's aforementioned military intervention in Cyprus on July 20, 1974.

The conflict resulted in the de facto division of Cyprus, with the establishment of the internationally unrecognized Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the north and the Republic of Cyprus in the south, the latter being recognized as the legitimate government of the entire island.

One should also note that Cyprus was only recently honored with its independence in 1960. Ever since, the island has been flooded with internal turmoil and a resulting power vacuum. Atrocities were committed by both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. It is up to the delegates within this committee to rewrite history and decide who will fill the void of the power vacuum.

## **The Data**

The Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 resulted in significant human, social, and political consequences. Here are some key statistics related to the invasion:

**Casualties:** Estimates vary, but it's believed that over 6,000 were killed during the invasion and its immediate aftermath. Both Greek and Turkish Cypriots suffered losses, and many individuals went missing, leading to ongoing humanitarian concerns.

**Displaced Population:** The conflict led to the displacement of 162,000 Greek Cypriots and around 30,000 Turkish Cypriots. Greek Cypriots fled or were displaced from the northern areas controlled by Turkish forces, while Turkish Cypriots in the south were displaced as well.

**Property Damage:** The invasion resulted in widespread property damage and destruction, particularly in areas affected by military action. Many homes, businesses, and cultural sites were destroyed or abandoned.

**UN Involvement:** The United Nations established a peacekeeping force (UNFICYP) in Cyprus in 1964, and its presence became even more critical after the 1974 invasion. UNFICYP continues its mission to monitor the ceasefire line and work toward a peaceful resolution.

## **Topic A - Role of UN and British Peacekeepers in Cyprus**

In the wake of the Turkish invasion, cases of ethnic violence and human rights violations against Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike became commonplace. Given limited resources and manpower, the British and UN peacekeepers must try to maintain stability in the region, negotiating ceasefires when possible and mitigating the humanitarian effects of the war. Delegates will determine access to corridors, crucial ports and military depots, and they can also try to establish some sort of a demarcation zone.

The UNFICYP (United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus) has been responsible for monitoring the ceasefire and maintaining the buffer zone, known as the Green Line, which separates the Greek Cypriot-controlled south and the Turkish Cypriot-controlled north. The buffer zone was created to reduce the chances of direct conflict between the two communities. The buffer has also divided the capital Nicosia, in half and has led to Nicosia International Airport becoming abandoned.

The UNFICYP has also been involved in various humanitarian assistance programs and confidence-building measures to foster cooperation between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

With the failed Anan plan of 2004, The UN has been actively involved in facilitating peace talks and negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

Despite gaining support from the Turkish Cypriots, the Annan Plan faced opposition from the majority of Greek Cypriots. In the April 2004 referendums, the plan was accepted by the Turkish Cypriot (65% support) community but rejected by the Greek Cypriot community (25% support). As a result, Cyprus entered the European Union on May 1, 2004, as a divided island, and the Cyprus issue remains unresolved.

The United Kingdom has also been a contributor to UNFICYP since its establishment and has given over \$6.38 billion for peace. British troops have been deployed as part of the peacekeeping force, working alongside personnel from other contributing countries.

Apart from its role within the UN framework, the UK has historically had a significant interest in the Cyprus issue due to its colonial history in the region. The UK maintains military bases on the island in Dhekelia and Akrotiri, and its involvement in the peacekeeping efforts is part of broader international efforts to resolve the Cyprus dispute.

As of January 2022, UNFICYP continues to operate in Cyprus, facing challenges related to the ongoing political situation and the absence of a comprehensive settlement. The presence of peacekeepers remains crucial in preventing the escalation of tensions and contributing to stability in the region.

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#### Guiding Questions:

1. Does Britain have a right to be on the island after honoring Cypriot independence in 1960?
2. Can UN peacekeeping forces serve an important role in conflict prevention?
3. Should the leaders of EOKA face an international tribunal?
4. Should the leaders of Greece and Turkey strike a British mediated deal prior to war breaking out?
5. Is your delegate willing to stand for human rights, whilst jeopardizing their relationship with the victorious nation?
6. In case of a war, should the British navy engage in an embargo?
7. In cities of no clear-cut ethnic majority, should safe zones be declared?
8. How will refugees be assured corridors during the conflict?

## Topic B - The Battle for Cyprus

With battle still raging between Turkish and Greek forces, the future map of Cyprus has yet to be decided. Turkish forces have successfully made landfall onto the island, but they have not yet completely conquered the island. During the committee, delegates will have the ability to command their respective troops and battle for Cyprus. If a peace deal splitting the island is reached, delegates will have to decide how to split the island between all countries involved. During the conference, regular map updates will be provided. Crisis will also provide details regarding mechanics (ie; how many troops your delegation has, your approval rating, the amount of funds you possess, etc.). Also, actions involving peace treaties or major military actions must be made through public directives.

Cyprus has a rich history dating back thousands of years, with influences from various civilizations, including the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and Ottomans. In the contemporary period, Cyprus was under British colonial rule from 1878 until it gained independence in 1960.

During colonial rule, what formed was a power struggle and with that came EOKA which was founded in 1955 by Colonel Georgios Grivas, a Greek military officer, with the goal of achieving "Enosis" — the union of Cyprus with Greece. EOKA initiated an armed insurgency against British colonial rule in Cyprus, seeking to end British dominance and facilitate the unification of Cyprus with Greece. EOKA conducted a campaign of guerrilla warfare, targeting British military and police installations, as well as Cypriots collaborating with the colonial authorities. The British authorities responded to the insurgency by declaring a state of emergency in Cyprus. The conflict resulted in violence, arrests, and casualties on both sides. Their response culminated with EOKA, second in command, Grigoris Afxentiou being killed.

In 1959, a ceasefire was declared, leading to negotiations that resulted in the Zurich-London Agreements - which made Cyprus independent with Archbishop Makarios in charge. EOKA did not like centrist-Makarios and with help of the Papadopolos regime in Greece, ousted him from power in a coup and put Nikos Sampson in charge (as a puppet regime).

In response to the coup, Turkey, citing its rights under the Treaty of Guarantee (a treaty involving Turkey, Greece, and the United Kingdom), launched Operation Attila on July 20, 1974. The primary goal of Operation Attila was to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority in Cyprus and prevent their assimilation into a Greek-dominated government following the coup. Operation Atilla consisted of over 40,000 troops. Turkish forces landed on the northern coast of Cyprus, advancing quickly into the island. The military operation led to the



occupation of a significant portion of the northern part of Cyprus. With the use of M-47 and M-48 tanks.

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Guiding Questions:

1. If peace is to be made, should it be Nikos Sampson or Bishop Makarios signing on behalf of Cyprus?
2. Are Turkey's actions justified? Or are sanctions by the international community needed?
3. How can Greece send in adequate reinforcements, despite its increased distance from Cyprus?
4. How far shall Turkey be permitted to invade? From what point, shall international allies of Greece step in?
5. Should communist and anti-war delegates now enter the war, as their island is now at risk?
6. How will a loss in Cyprus impact the Greek dictatorship's popularity back home?
7. Shall Nicosia become Europe's only split capital?
8. If a peace treaty is signed, shall there be a similar exchange of populations to the Lausanne treaty of 1923 between Greece and Turkey?
9. Will Greece and Turkey govern within Cyprus? Or will a united Cypriot government still exist?

## **Further Research**

If you are seeking additional research on Cyprus, feel free to access the following set of links. Please note that this is not mandatory and in-fact, is only to supplement your learning.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Cyprus](#)

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Turkey](#)

[Anadolu Agency - Turkish Press Perspective](#)

[The Greek Reporter - Greek Press Perspective](#)

[Washington Post - American Perspective](#)

[CIA World Factbook](#)

[UN Peacekeepers Perspective](#)

[Britannica - EOKA](#)