

political party which Eleni Mavrou represents, has played a key role in establishing the rapprochement movement through meetings with Turkish Cypriot political parties and organisations, exchanges of cultural groups in mass events, seminars, publications and other initiatives. These contacts strengthen the feelings of unity and reverse pro-separatist tendencies.

She said:

It is imperative that both communities are convinced that the solution we are searching for is a solution for the whole of Cyprus and for all Cypriots; that as much as we are both defending our national identity, our language and traditions, we should defend even stronger our common identity as Cypriots, our common traditions and common history.

The years between 1990 and 1997 saw a rapid growth of the rapprochement movement. At the end of 1997, Mr. Denktash imposed procedures for bi-communal contacts which effectively resulted in their termination for some time. Despite these difficulties, the rapprochement continues. AKEL struggled for rapprochement to become a part of government policy and to be adopted by the political leadership and the majority of the people.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES

Sharing the Canadian Experience of Living Together

Ronald Watts (Queen's University) focussed on federalism as a tool for living together, attempting to reconcile linguistic duality as well as geographical and regional differences. He emphasised that by living together he means not integration or absorption but living side by side as distinct groups to achieve common goals. He focussed on 5 basic lessons of living together from the Canadian experience and the experience of other federations and confederations:

1. the value and limits of experiences of other countries
2. the danger of oversimplifying - perceiving federations and confederations as two different alternatives
3. special problems of bi-communal situations
4. the importance of a supportive civil society and political culture underpinning formal structures
5. other relevant experiences with processes to break deadlock and impasses.

There is value in the experiences of other countries with federal and confederal systems for three main reasons:

1. to draw attention to possibilities
2. to point to unintended consequences from certain institutional arrangements
3. to provide positive and negative lessons - no example is useless

There are also important limitations:

- no pure models of federation or confederation exist or are applicable everywhere - there is