

Both, legalistic approach and EU accession are insufficient. Neither goes far enough. Instead of conciliation, these approaches are driving the Turkish Cypriots towards Turkey. **It may be dangerous to assume that accession of the Greek Cypriot side to the EU, prior to a solution, would bear no negative consequences. It may well create a dividing line between East and West running through the island.**

Possible Next Steps

Some participants, namely the Canadians, suggested that a grand gesture toward the Turkish Cypriots may bring Mr. Denktash back to the negotiating table and move the negotiations further. Grand gestures could entail:

- granting equal status to the two community leaders in negotiations
- making provisions for effective self governance (i.e., the creation of two regions with wide powers)
- opening the border between the south and the north
- removing military presence
- providing a substantive financial contribution to the Turkish Cypriots (transfers could be modelled on the transfer of finances from West to East Germany).

Building a climate for common cause will require that realities are recognised. Perceptions of minorities should be addressed, since such "psychological" factors often influence political decisions. The double sense of insecurity (i.e., the Greek Cypriot fear about potential domination of the region by Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot concern about safeguards) has to be removed, otherwise the conditions for creating a viable federation simply do not exist.

The atrocities committed by Greek Cypriots at the outset of the conflict were acknowledged. However, entire generations of Greek Cypriots should not be punished for the actions of few extremists. Others argued that both sides committed unlawful acts. Today, a climate should be build to create a common cause: unity, relief from intervention, and the creation of democracy based on the rule of law.

A point was made that rapprochement should be part of any strategy.

Role of the International Community and Canada

Key recommendations for the international community and Canada included:

- The international community, including Canada, should balance interests with principles of "international law and morality." It should stand by and enforce the numerous United Nations Resolutions, decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, and declarations of the European Union, condemning the occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkey.
- The international community should pressure the Turkish government to change its policy towards Cyprus. The accession of Turkey into the EU could be used as a key negotiating tool.