

freedoms.

The international community can assist Cypriots with clear cut positions and by being fair – balancing principles with interests.

Comment and Discussion

Some participants expressed scepticism about the rapprochement movement outlined by Eleni Mavrou. The barriers to coexistence arose as a result of a military intervention rather than inter-communal strife. Therefore, they can only be dismantled within the political context (i.e., resorting to international law and restoring constitutional law). Before talks can begin, the occupation has to end. Others suggested that while rapprochement will not likely lead to resolution by itself, it is useful, even essential, for several reasons:

- Without rapprochement cooperation between the two sides would be difficult to envision after a political agreement has been made. Many young people, on both sides, know very little about each other.
- No political solution can be viable if it is not accepted by the society. Rapprochement could be seen as preparing civil society to accept an agreement made at the political level.
- At the present, suspicion, distrust and lack of information persist on each side. Rapprochement could diffuse tensions and make the two sides understand better each other (i.e., "catch up with history").
- It is beneficial to support moderate, progressive groups and parties in the TRNC.
- Rapprochement contradicts the propaganda of Mr. Denktash that Greek and Turkish Cypriots can not live together. Mass rallies, political meetings, and other gatherings demonstrate that the two groups can, in fact, live with each other.

Constitutional solutions were also addressed during the discussion. A suggestion was made that 3 key elements should be incorporated into any constitutional framework in Cyprus:

1. protection of human right (applies to the three freedoms)
2. a relatively strong central government, able to protect and enforce the constitutional framework
3. removal of Turkey as one of the guarantor states.

A point was raised that Constitutional and other proposals submitted by the Greek Cypriot side may be based on assumptions that are entirely different from the assumptions made by the Turkish Cypriot side – making a common solution unlikely. Moreover, if the assumptions made by the Greek Cypriots (regarding the negative role of Turkey and Mr. Denktash, the denial of rights for Turkish settlers, the return of Greek Cypriots to their former homes in the north, etc.) are wrong, then their prescriptions are wrong as well. Perhaps, some thought should be given to how the Turkish Cypriots might feel about these prescriptions and how they might react to them, especially if they are antagonised?

It was said that "to distinguish federation from confederation on the basis of a secession is wrong-headed." In Canada, no province has a unilateral right of secession. However, if a