

protection and preservation of our identity as Turkish Cypriots from the political and constitutional structure of a settlement in Cyprus.

He disagreed with the proponents of a federal solution. Federation would not, as some argue, provide the Turkish Cypriots with sufficient safeguards. He was sceptical of Professor Eric Neisser's proposition that a federation can safeguard the rights of communities through individual rights provisions. (Neisser proposes that the success of the black community in the U.S. in defending its rights through federal courts may be instructive for Cyprus.) This proposition presupposes that 1) the federal judiciary is reliable and credible and 2) enforcement of judicial decisions is effective and fair. Both presuppositions are highly unrealistic at the present. **Therefore, the individual rights of the Turkish Cypriot people can be guaranteed within a confederation, where as Professor Elazar notes, "it is the task of the constituent polities to protect individual liberty."**

### Comments and Discussion

A participant drew attention to the *World Values Survey* conducted by a Yale University Professor Ronald Inglehart and his colleagues during the 1980's and early 1990's.<sup>5</sup> This comprehensive survey, conducted in reference to a representative sample of 43 countries, aimed at determining whether there had been a shift from so called modern values to post-modern values. Two major conclusions came out:

1. The findings demonstrated a trend, beginning during the late 1970's, in which attention shifted from material values to cultural values. The notion that governments should provide public goods shifted to the idea that governments should be engaged in addressing or redressing fundamental philosophical issues (such as guaranteeing rights or resolving issues pertaining to cultural identities). Issues pertaining to economic distribution are divisive but are relatively amenable to compromise. On the other hand, issues pertaining to rights and culture are perceived as questions of good *versus* evil, on which compromise is hard to achieve.
2. Another trend identified by Inglehart was a shift from overwhelming trust in government to overwhelming distrust and cynicism across most societies. A trend of contempt and disdain for government had emerged, accompanied by a perception that politicians are generally self-interested and corrupt. Despite this finding, the historical record suggests, that government corruption has not increased in the last generation. On the contrary, it has likely diminished. There are two possible reasons for this contradiction: first, the public is evaluating their leaders and institutions by more demanding standards than in the past. (However, it is not clear that this is the case for all societies.) Second, the cultural issues governments are asked to address may contribute to the low confidence

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<sup>5</sup>See: <http://wvs.isr.umich.edu/>