

REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE – LIVING TOGETHER: SHARING THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE (Larnaca, Cyprus – June 15-17, 2001)

On June 15-17, 2001, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) brought together a group of experts to explore the Canadian experience with "Living Together" and possible applications of this experience to problems in Cyprus. The roundtable was a follow-up to work undertaken by the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security (CIIPS) on Cyprus in the late 1980's and an earlier CCFPD Roundtable "Cyprus Living Together in the New Century" (February, 2001). Participants included: Costas Melakopides (University of Cyprus), Yiannis Laouris (Cyber Kids), Kypros Chrysostomides (legal expert), Eleni Mavrou (AKEL), Ronald Watts (Queen's University), Kate White (Black & White Communications), and Robert Hage (DFAIT). Franco Pillarella (Canada's High Commissioner for Cyprus), Jean-Marc Duval (Canada's Ambassador to Turkey) and David Hutton (Canada's Ambassador to Greece) attended the roundtable as observers. Steven Lee (The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development) chaired the meeting.

A previous roundtable, which took place on March 28-30, 2001 (Banff, Alberta, Canada), engaged Canadian experts and Turkish Cypriots.

FRAMING THE DISCUSSION

Three speakers outlined the framework for the discussion. First, Steven Lee (Chair) explained the roots of CCFPD's work on Cyprus and offered a brief overview of those elements of the "Canadian experience" which may be relevant to Cyprus. Second, Costas Melakopides (University of Cyprus) sketched the international framework for solution of the Cyprus problem. The last speaker, Eleni Mavrou (AKEL, M.P., Nicosia) highlighted the external causes of the conflict and elaborated on the benefits of the rapprochement movement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Steven Lee (Chair) said that the Larnaca Roundtable stems from two parallel tracks. The first reflects the long-term Canadian interest and commitment to Cyprus, including 30 years of peacekeeping, and the past work of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security (CIIPS). (CIIPS 1990) Last year, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) hosted a roundtable *Cyprus: Living Together in the New Century* (February 2001), marking the 10th year anniversary of the CIIPS work. That roundtable brought together experts, academics, members of the Turkish Cypriot, Greek Cypriot, Turkish and Greek communities living in Canada, M.P.s, and government officials. Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Canada, Lloyd Axworthy also attended. Many participants appreciated the value of sharing the "Canadian experience" and called for follow-up activities (CCFPD 2001). Responding to these calls, the CCFPD organised a roundtable in Banff (March 28-30, 2001), with Turkish Cypriots and in Larnaka (June 15-17, 2001) with Greek Cypriots.

The second track flows from CCFPD's work on federalism. In October 1996, the CCFPD