

## Cyprus

When the Republic of Cyprus became an independent state on August 16, 1960, it carried with it into its new role an unfortunate legacy from the past. The tension that had existed historically between Greece and Turkey was reflected in the young nation where approximately 80 per cent of the population of 600,000 is of Greek origin and 18 per cent of Turkish origin.

Under the constitution, which came into effect on the date of independence, several special rights agreed to under the 1959 Zurich and London Agreements were given to the Turkish-Cypriots. These provided for the Turkish-Cypriot community to have 30 per cent of the seats in the Legislative Assembly, 30 per cent of the positions in the civil service and 40 per cent in the army and the veto on certain important legislation and governmental actions. From the time of independence, numerous difficulties arose in the operation of the constitution. The Turkish-Cypriots, believing they were not receiving their constitutional rights, employed their veto to block financial legislation which the Greek-Cypriot majority deemed necessary. Early in 1963, President Makarios attempted to find a way around the arrangements provided under the constitution for the establishment of separate Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communal municipalities in the large towns, but the proposals he put forward on this question were declared unconstitutional. In November 1963, he outlined 13 proposed amendments to the constitution, which were designed to make it more workable but would also have removed many of the Turkish-Cypriot entrenched rights. Communal tension, which had been building up for some time, came to a head in the outbreaks of violence which began on December 21, 1963. To prevent the situation from deteriorating further, the Government of Cyprus invited the British Government to use its forces on the island to try to keep the peace. The British acceded to this request but, as the task became increasingly difficult, the British Government held a conference in London with the parties concerned to try to reach an agreement. This attempt, however, was unsuccessful.

The Security Council was first seized of the question of Cyprus on December 26, 1963, when the Government of Cyprus complained of Turkish activity. However, no agreed solution was reached and the situation continued to deteriorate. On February 15, 1964, the Government of Cyprus requested an emergency meeting of the Security Council to consider what it alleged to be the increasing threat to Cyprus from military preparations on the Turkish coast and from the danger of invasion. On the same day, Britain