

and Greece are members of NATO, this is the easiest way to avoid troubles over this transformation.

Needless to say, our people are against such a solution. In these years, we have organized many manifestations against the bases, calling for their elimination. We organized two very big peace marches from the military bases to Limasol-22 kilometers. Thousands of our people walked for peace, a demilitarized Cyprus and the elimination of the foreign bases. Our people also continue to fight for the withdrawal of all foreign troops and elements: the Turkish occupation troops, and the Turkish, Greek, and British contingents. According to the London-Zurich agreements, contingents of 1000 Greeks, 800 Turks and some thousands of British have the right to stay in Cyprus. That is supposed to be a guarantee for the existence of

Cyprus as a republic. That is the way of cheating the people.

### ***What is your view on the linkage between the Cypriot people and the Middle East problem?***

We consider that the problem of Cyprus is closely connected to the problems of the countries of the Middle East, and that the struggles of the peoples are closely connected. The results, whether positive or negative, influence the struggle of the other. Our people feel very closely connected with the Palestinian people, and have organized many activities in solidarity with the Palestinian people and cause.

In principle, we are for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their own independent country. We are not satisfied with the

disunity in the Palestinian ranks. We are for unity but, of course, unity must always stand on principles. All the Palestinians must find a way to join together and strengthen their fight. As a principle, unity is the key to a successful struggle. Of course, you comrades must find the way to discuss among yourselves and to stand on principles regarding the national problem as the most important. Of course, there are other problems, but for the time being they are secondary. The first thing is to succeed in solving the main problem according to the wishes of your people who have made many sacrifices in the struggle. The sacrifices of the Palestinians have great influence on our people, especially the youth. You can consider the Cypriot people as allies, firmly standing beside the Palestinian people for their rights.

*Note: Since this interview, Kyprianou has agreed to abide by a collective decision on the negotiations for a settlement, or call a referendum.*

## **CULTURE**

### ***Exile***

#### ***Images Without Homeland***

**Written and illustrated by Abu Manu**

**Beirut July 4th 1982**

*We have been wandering astonished  
among uprooted streets and collapsed walls  
looking for something  
without knowing what is to be found  
with this rifle  
hanging useless from our soul  
under bombs that tear already broken bodies to pieces.  
The smoke of that mad summer  
piously covered your ravaged mortal remains  
BEIRUT.*

*Naked our passions  
mute our fury  
formless our pain  
in the absurd cruel violence of your fire  
the most foolish of animals  
ISRAEL.*

*We have witnessed your great littleness  
thief of corpses  
you advance in the night  
surrounded by the barking of your pack of tanks  
ashamed to show yourself.  
How much useless pain you brought with you  
how many eyes you blinded  
how many faces you locked forever in ice.  
What people are these your people  
who love so much to be hated?*

In twenty poems, an internationalist expresses the political and personal feelings of his involvement with the Palestinian people and revolution. The focus is on the siege of Beirut, as in the poem we selected to print here, but many other aspects of the Palestinian experience are touched upon.

The book *Exile: Images Without Homeland* contains these poems in Italian, English and Arabic translation, each with own illustration by the author. It is published by PFLP-General Command's Information Department and can be ordered at \$3 a copy from Ila al Aman Publishing House, P.O.Box 5092, Damascus, Syria.

