

CYPRUS

Date of Elections: September 5, 1976

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all 35 members of Parliament representing the country's Greek community on the normal expiry of their term of office *.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Constitution of Cyprus promulgated in 1960 provides for a system of government in which power is to be shared by the island's Greek and Turkish communities in proportion to their numbers. The 50-seat national House of Representatives accordingly has 70 % of its members elected by the Greek community and 30 % by the Turkish community **. All deputies have 5-year terms of office.

Electoral System

All citizens have the right to vote in general elections if they are at least 21 years of age and have resided in Cyprus for a minimum of six months prior to the qualifying date (as elector). Disqualified, however, are the insane, persons who have been legally detained or imprisoned during the entire period they have qualified as electors, and persons convicted of electoral fraud.

Electoral registers are revised before each election. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors who are at least 25 years old on the date of their nomination are eligible for election as Representatives. Ineligible are persons under sentence of imprisonment for a term of five years or more for any offence or for a term of two years or more for any offence involving violence, injury to personal honour, dishonesty or moral turpitude. The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with elective ministerial or municipal offices, membership in the armed or security forces, national or municipal public service and, in the case of a Representative elected by the Turkish community, the post of religious functionary.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 18.

** *Ibid*, p. 18.

Each candidate's nomination must be supported by two electors and accompanied by a monetary deposit of approximately US\$180, which is reimbursed if he obtains at least one-fifth of the total votes validly polled in his constituency. The maximum amount of campaign expenses for each candidate is approximately US\$ 750.

For election purposes, Cyprus is generally divided into six constituencies. In each of them, Representatives are chosen according to a party-list simple majority system, with preferential vote: the required number of candidates who have received the greatest number of votes are declared elected.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary seats which fall vacant between general elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election date for the Greek Cypriot seats of the House of Representatives was set on April 29, 1976.

Four political parties contested the 35 seats at stake, three of which (the right-centre Democratic Front, the communist AKEL and the socialist EDEK) were allied in their support of President Makarios' policies for the settlement of the Cyprus problem. They were opposed by the newly-formed conservative Democratic Rally, led by Mr. G. Clerides, which was allied with the right-wing Democratic National Party and which favoured a strengthening of Cyprus' links with the Western world. The three coalition partners agreed to co-operate and submit a certain number of candidates for each of the country's electoral constituencies.

On election day, the coalition won all but one of the House seats, which went to a pro-Government independent candidate. Mr. S. Kyprianou, former Foreign Minister and leader of the Democratic Front, was elected President of the House of Representatives.

Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the House of Representatives*

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of registered voters. | 272,898 |
| Voters. | 232,764 (85.29 %) |
| Blank or void ballot papers. | 3,541 |
| Valid votes. | 229,223 |

| Political Group | Number of Candidates | Number of Seats | Number of Seats won at Previous Elections |
|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| Democratic Front * | 21 | 21 | |
| Democratic Rally * — | | | |
| Democratic National Party. | 34 | — | — |
| Working People's Party (AKEL) | 9 | 1 | 9 |
| United Democratic Centre (EDEK) | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Independents | 11 | 1 | 2 |
| | | <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> | |
| | | 36 | |

New party.

*2. Distribution of Representatives according
to Professional Category*

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Lawyers. | 1 |
| Doctors. | 5 |
| Businessmen. | 4 |
| Dentists. | 3 |
| Farmers. | 2 |
| Teachers. | 2 |
| Private employees. | 2 |
| Economist. | |
| Trade unionist. | |
| Journalist. | |
| Auditor. | |
| Mineralogist. | |
| Others. | <u>3</u> |
| | 35 |

3. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Men | 36 |
| Women | — |
| | ~35~ |

4. *Distribution of Representatives according to Age Group*

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| 32-42 years. | .11 |
| 43-52. | 9 |
| 53-62. | .11 |
| 63 and over. | 4 |
| | ~35~ |