

Dinner held for newly appointed ambassador

The newly appointed ambassador of the Hellenic republic to Australia, His Excellency Alexios Christopoulos was formally welcomed at a dinner hosted by the Chair of the Greek / Australian Federal Parliamentary friendship group chaired by Steve Georganas Member for Hindmarsh. The Dinner was held in the federal parliament and

was attended by all Greek Australian MP's from all sides of politics.

Present at the Dinner were Chair of the Greek / Australian Parliamentary friendship group, Steve Georganas Member for Hindmarsh, also in attendance were, Maria Vamvakinou Member for Calwell, Petro Georgiou Member for Kooyong and Senator

Nick Xenophon. Also in attendance was the Cyprus High Commissioner His Excellency Ioannis Iacovou.

Discussions took place regarding Greek / Australian relationship Issues that are affecting Greeks in Australia and many more interesting topics that affect all of us of Greek backgrounds in Australia.



Steve Georganas as chair of the group formally welcomed the newly appointed Ambassador to Australia and said he looked forward to working closely with him.

Minister of Foreign Affairs' reply letter to Mr Peter Theo

After a letter sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Intercommunity Committee of the Archdiocese a reply was received from the Minister.



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Mr Peter Theo
President
NSW Intercommunities Council
of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
PO Box 747
BANKSTOWN NSW 1885

Dear Mr Theo

Thank you for your letter of 6 October 2009, in which you raise Prime Minister Gruevski's upcoming visit to Australia and seek confirmation of Australia's approach to the nomenclature issue in bilateral and official dealings. Mr Smith has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Australia's position on the name issue remains unchanged. Australia uses the UN provisional name, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" as an interim measure pending resolution of the dispute between Athens and Skopje.

This policy will be adhered to in the social security agreement between Australia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The agreement will be concluded via an exchange of letters, and Australia's letter will use the UN provisional name. This approach was also used to conclude the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

I appreciate the name issue carries strong sensitivities for Greece and the Greek community in Australia. I am aware that the issue is similarly sensitive for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its diaspora here in Australia. The Government's view is that the dispute has been unresolved for too long, and that dialogue between governments and communities concerned remains the best way to resolve the issue.

Thank you for bringing your views to the attention of the Minister.

Yours sincerely
Andrew Dempster
Deputy Chief of Staff



Greece must promote special forms of tourism

Greek tourism officials should focus on the development of special forms of tourism to help the industry improve its competitiveness, as well as upgrading its position on the global market by taking advantage of its comparative advantages, a report by the Institute for Touristic Research and Forecasts (ITEP) stated on Monday.

ITEP stressed that the Greek tourism sector must invest on a model enriching its touristic product, improving competitiveness and expanding the tourist season, stressing that special forms of tourism must be promoted to enjoy short and medium-term benefits.

Enriching the country's touristic product necessitates investments in maritime tourism (cruises, yachting), a sector guaranteeing high returns, along with convention and trade fair tourism, as products of short and medium-term returns. So-called cultural tourism should also be promoted.

The report stressed that Greece should also seek promotion of sports tourism, taking advantage of modern sports facilities built during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.