

U.S. Proposed Legislation Mistakenly Seeks to Legitimize the Pseudo-State in Occupied Cyprus in Violation of Court Decisions, Foreign Policy and U.N. Resolutions

While the American Hellenic Institute supports Congressional Bill No. 2597, its closer examination reveals it legitimizes the “unincorporated association” of the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” as an “agent” of Turkey instead of condemning it as a pseudo-state.

A Bill is proposed legislation first approved by a congressional committee. Based on a law that sought to compensate Americans for their properties in communist countries, the Bill equates the puppet Turkish administration of the occupied territories with a government.

It guts the power of U.S. Courts to vindicate the rights of Greek Cypriots as it happened in the case of the Mosaics of Kanakaria (Autocephalous Church of Cyprus v. Goldberg) declaring the pseudo-state an “unrecognized party” when it claimed ownership over the artifacts.

Presently, unrecognized regimes cannot resort to US courts, although they can be sued and have no immunity. However, if the Bill becomes law, the pseudo-state may become immune to lawsuits.

If Congress could mandate the Obama administration to negotiate with illegal entities, foreign relations would be conducted with thugs. Rather than exposing the mafia element of the regime when it occupies and steals properties, the Bill cloaks the pseudo-state with the legitimacy of a sovereign undermining law, legal precedents and United Nation Resolutions 541 and 550 that condemned the pseudo-state.

It even mandates the US Government to negotiate and settle property claims of Greek Cypriots directly with the occupiers and the settlers from Turkey.

Even worse, the Bill proposes a “settlement” through a “priority” provision that seeks to settle claims for “\$25,000” or less. It is not clear whether \$25,000 pertains to individuals or properties. In other words, the Bill considers approximately \$675 per year for 37 years of occupation as adequate



compensation!

The effects of this Bill, intentional or not, are as dangerous as the Immovable Property Commission (IPC), where Greek Cypriots have been bottled for years in misery without compensation, eventually receiving trivial amounts of compensation.

Finally, based on a U.S. Supreme Court precedent (Dames & Moore v. Regan), potentially the Bill can prohibit and suspend U.S. court litigation against the pseudo-state.

Astonishingly, while the U.S. class action of Greek Cypriot refugees had caused “alarm” for its falsely reported legitimization of the pseudo-state, this Bill that legislates diplomatic relations between the pseudo-state and the U.S. has yet to raise an eyebrow from the government of Cyprus.

In conclusion, the Bill does not protect the properties and the rights of Greek Cypriots. Should

this bill become law, it can and will be overturned in court. The Bill is constitutionally overboard as it equates the puppet pseudo-state with a government.

The Bill should have condemned the pseudo-state, holding Turkey accountable, giving Greek Cypriots fair compensation for 37 years of occupation, protecting their right to return to their ancestral lands, protecting their rights to resort to U.S. courts individually and collectively and placing a time limit on when claims must be paid.

Otherwise, American Cypriots with property in the occupied territories are facing the same unjust and egregious treatment some ill-advised Greek Cypriots faced, when they fell in the trap of the IPC, a Turkish Trojan Horse that steals property from Greek Cypriots, a necessary step in the final dividing Cyprus.

Appoint Food Safety Supervisor to avoid hefty fines

Newly enacted legislation under the NSW Government now requires certain food businesses in the hospitality and retail food service sector to appoint at least one trained Food Safety Supervisor or face fines of up to \$660 for non-compliance.

As of October 2011, at least one Food Safety Supervisor, per premises, is required to complete a training course from an accredited Registered Training Organisation. Business owners, managers, chefs or employees can all obtain a Food Safety Supervisor's certificate.

“Parramatta is home to a strong, diverse and reputable food industry, so it's important that our residents and visitors are assured that food has been handled in a safe and hygienic manner,” said the Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Cr John Chedid.

“I can't stress enough the importance of food safety and safeguarding consumers from food-borne illnesses. The health and safety of our community is Council's highest priority.

“Council has a responsibility to ensure that this level of protection has been applied at all food business in our City, which is why authorised Council officers will be asking to see a copy of the Food Safety Supervisor certificate during routine inspections,” said Cr Chedid.

The Food Safety Training course costs are set by individual Registered Training Organisations. Training can be completed in one full day if conducted face-to-face, however there are other options such as online, workplace-based and correspondence.

The training is inexpensive and is a nationally



recognised qualification which provides individuals with the skills and knowledge to handle food safety.

“They will be able to recognise, prevent and alleviate the hazards associated with food handling and have the authority to supervise other people han-

dling food and ensure it is done safely.”

Council reminds businesses that the Food Safety Supervisor is not solely responsible for food safety and everyone who works in a food businesses has a responsibility to handle food safely.

“I urge all food businesses to ensure their premises and food handling practices meet food safety standards and avoid unwanted fines,” said Cr Chedid.

To determine whether your business requires a Food Safety Supervisor or for more information visit www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 552 406.

Government to abolish School Certificate

NSW Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, announced today that the School Certificate will be abolished from 2012. “The external tests currently administered to all Year 10 students will not continue after this year.

Mr Piccoli said that the decision was made as a result of consultation undertaken by the Board of Studies with key stakeholder groups representing principals, teachers, parents and all school sectors.

“The message from stakeholders was that the School Certificate no longer meets the expectations of employers. It has not responded to changes such as the increase in the school leaving age, and the introduction of NAPLAN testing.

“Students who leave school before they complete their HSC deserve a credential which is modern and relevant. Just as importantly, employers want to see a credential which is meaningful to them.

Mr Piccoli said he had requested the Board of Studies conduct further consultation to make recommendations about an alternative credential.

“Stakeholder groups have given a clear view about some of the key elements that should be investigated further as the basis for a new credential.

“A moderated credential recognising a wider range of student achievement would be more easily understood by employers, fairer and more reliable.

This year's School Certificate external tests will be conducted on schedule in November 2011.