

California State University
Ad Hoc Committee on International Programs
Wednesday, December 6, 2006
Glenn S. Dumke Auditorium,
CSU Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore, LB, CA

Presentation by Dr. James F. Dimitriou, Past President of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

Chancellor Reed, Chairman Achtenberg and honorable Board of Trustees of the California State University System:

I am the past Supreme President and representative of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA). The AHEPA is the oldest and largest association of American Citizens of Greek heritage and philhellenes. The AHEPA family has over 500 chapters across the United States serving over 25,000 families. AHEPA has provided educational programs, scholarships and grants for nearly nine decades.

I am here to implore, on behalf of the Order of AHEPA and the greater Greek American Community to suspend the current "Memorandum of Cooperation between the California State University (CSU) and the so-called "Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)" currently located in the city of Famagusta, the Republic of Cyprus, that is in the area of illegal Turkish occupation.

We believe that an agreement between CSU and EMU is illegally constituted as an agreement with a rogue state, as the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is not recognized by any country of the world, EXCEPT Turkey. The United Nations, the European Union and the United States recognize the lawfully constituted government of the Republic of Cyprus as the only government entity on the island. This rogue state has no international status as it resulted from the invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974 by Turkish armed forces and was unilaterally declared a so-called "independent state" on November 15, 1983. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 541 passed in 1983 and Resolution 550 passed in 1984 clearly state that the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is illegal. Both resolutions clearly

state that the TRNC declaration of independence is not a legal and both resolutions call on all states NOT to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity.

In the past the CSU system properly exercised both caution and restraint in not entering into agreements to send students to areas that are not internationally recognized. CSU did suspend all educational agreements with the illegally constituted Apartheid government of South Africa. Further, CSU has not engaged in any such agreement with other rogue states. Currently, the United States Department of State lists several, so-called states, that lack all *de jure* status and are not recognized by the United States and its laws. Thus, travel to and trade with these pseudo states is restricted for U.S. citizens as these states are not considered within the context U.S.

Law and diplomatic recognition: This list includes:

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Abkhazia in Georgia

Somaliland, northwest Somalia.

South Ossetia in Georgia.

Transnistria in Georgia

Islamic Emirate of Waziristan in Pakistan

Tamil State in Sri Lanka

Western Sahara, The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic

We ask that the same moral restraint used in the past for all International Program again be applied and suspend the current agreement with the EMU. I do not think it is in the best interest of the University system and its students to send students to occupied and divided countries that were seized and occupied by military action. CSU must act again in the interest of both good conscience and in the interest

This Memorandum is clearly neither in the interest of conscience or justice.

Certainly CSU ethical, legal and moral policy has not, in the past, engaged in international programs or to send students to areas of illegal occupation or ethnic cleansing such as Darfur in the Sudan, Rwanda or Sierra Leone.

Let us respect the Rule of Law and one of the most cherished concepts of American democracy. Let us not send students to an area that is not recognized and place these students in harm's way. Let us abide by the Rule of Law. Over 2000 years ago, Aristotle told us, "When laws do not rule, there is no constitution."

Please remember that the difference between "rule of law" and "rule by law" is very important. Under the rule "by" law, law is an instrument of the rulers, and the ruler is above the law. In contrast, under the "rule of law," no one, no institution, nor any university governing body, is above the law. The core of the "rule of law" remains an autonomous legal order. The rule of law means equality before the law and justice before the law.

Further, a program based on the purported principles of International Security and Conflict Resolution, should not in itself be a factor contributing to the conflict and the prevention of the peace process undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations. Certainly no morally constituted University would have set up a program of so-called International Security and Conflict Resolution with the Bantustans of South Africa or conflict-ridden territories.

Again we implore you to suspend this agreement! Do not engage in a process that serves only the occupier and goes against all principles of international law, diplomacy and decency. Clearly, the EMU is not an entity neither recognized nor licensed by the *de jure* government of the Republic of Cyprus. The Ministry of Education of the only legally recognized government of the island does not accredit the so-called EMU.

The so-called EMU is located in Farmagusta and uses land and building formerly housing the Center for Higher Studies of Ammochostos or the Saveriades K.L.S.L. College, clearly without the consent of Mr. Saveriades, the legal owner,

In conclusion, a true University program in International diplomacy and conflict resolution, should not become part of the international problem itself! To reward the

illegal occupation; to ignore UN resolutions; to promote and persuade students to enter through illegal ports and airports; and to act in a manner that could delay the eventual peace and unification of the legally constituted government of the Republic of Cyprus goes against all moral and ethical principles.

Let us suspend this memorandum of cooperation until such time that the Republic of Cyprus is again a unified state. Let us suspend the memorandum until Famagusta is not an occupied ghost town, but a living, legally constituted city. The peace process is a long a delicate one.

The peace process should be the goal of all university programs in conflict resolution. The peace process should be one that does not reward sessionist, occupiers while denying basic human rights and liberties to the 82% majority of the island. What lesson will be served by the students in such a program? What form of conflict resolution does this promote? Is this some Orwellian attempt to encourage the mighty at the expense of the innocent? What form of conflict resolution program is, in itself, a flagrant violation of the United Nations and its resolutions?

Now is the time for the CSU system to put aside a memorandum that will forestall the peace process that will reward the military occupiers, and prevent the United Nations from resolving the issue of reunification and resolution of human rights and property rights.

I end with a simple statement imploring the Board of Trustees to suspend the current Memorandum of Cooperation until which time the peace process has had the opportunity to blossom. Until which time the United Nations and its entities serve all of the island. Until which time that the island of Cyprus is unified under United Nations and European Union resolutions.

Let us not send a message to our students that might is right, that flagrant disregard for the United Nations does not belong in the lexicon of students engaged in the study of international diplomacy and conflict resolution.

As Daniel Webster's immortal words stated:

“If we work in marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and

instill into them just principles, we are then engraving upon tablets which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity.”

In the interest of those immortal minds of the students that you are the custodians of, in the interest of justice and peace, suspend this Memorandum!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of justice and conscience.