

CYPRUS : PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND
WITH EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT *

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Cyprus, an island of a size of 9,251 sq. km., probably got its name from copper, a mineral abundantly exploited in ancient times. Situated in the north - Eastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea, it is divided by the 35th parallel and the 33rd meridian into four almost equal parts.

Its strategic position at the cross - roads of three continents, in the middle of the ancient world (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, Crete), near the Suez Canal and the oil - producing Countries of the Middle - East and its proximity to important land and sea routeways, have shaped its destiny throughout centuries. A plethora of colonisers and conquerors (Greeks, Phoenitians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Franks, Venitians, Turks and British) have set foot over the island and have left behind the prints of their presence. Greek theatres and columns, Roman stadia and mosaics, Byzantine churches, Frankish castles, Venitian fortifications and Turkish mosques are all indelibly stamped on the surface of Cyprus to-day. It is not surprising therefore that so many cultures and civilizations met over Cyprus. The Cypriots, in the end, accepted and assi-

A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

The illustrations have been taken from published material. Some, however, have been slightly or largely modified. Panos Ioannides has helped in preparing photographic copies. Mrs Frosoula Christophidou has made valuable suggestions in the presentation of the material, while Mrs Vasiliki Demetriades has patiently typed the paper. Sincere thanks are extended to all of them.

milated probably the best of these cultures, the Greek one, and thereafter remained faithful to it. The majority of the Cypriots to-day, speak the Greek language, are members of the Greek Orthodox religion and retain all the necessary prerequisites which permit them to belong to the Greek nation. The largest minority of Cyprus, the Turks, date back to the relatively recent conquest of Cyprus by the Ottomans in 1571.

Although Cyprus because of its position could be considered as part of the Middle East or even as part of the Balkans, it is nevertheless primarily a European country. Even the Council of Europe did not hesitate to accept Cyprus as one of its members in 1961, a few months after the declaration of its independence, in August 1960. Negotiations are now going on for the admission of Cyprus as a full member to the European Economic Community.

Despite its long history commencing from the Neolithic times (6th millennium B.C.), Cyprus is from the geological point of view a "new country". It is only in the last 75 million years that it made its first appearance over its present geographical space. Mountain folds and faults, lava flows, the successive rises and falls of the sea, the deposition of sediments as well as recent tectonic movements are the most important geological factors which shaped the disposition and the type of rocks as we find them to-day over the surface of the island.

The present topography of Cyprus which has been much affected by the geology, gives the faulty impression that it is a simple one. The variety of landscape that exists in the small geographic space of Cyprus is almost unsurpassed and almost unique in the world. It is probably difficult to trace on a global scale a terrain so small as Cyprus with such a tremendously rich variety of physical and cultural environment. The central-western part of Cyprus is occupied by the massif of Troodos. The resistant igneous rocks of this mountain block reach a height of 1951 metres on the Olympus summit. The rivers which commence from the top of the mountain have established a radial drainage pattern which ends up in the sea. The greatest part of Troodos is covered by forests particularly pines cedars and cypress-trees which together with the narrow almost vertical valleys, the ravines and the faults have created a scenic picturesque landscape. The lavas around the central core appear like a ring forming a rounded rather gentle landscape. The chalky lands at the periphery of the massif, especially to the east south and west, have given rise to a rounded bare white landscape which retains

the overall height of the massif before it ends up, with a great inclination, to the sea.

The northern chain of Cyprus, called Pentadaktylos or Kyrenia range, is a narrow aro-like strip of land. The highest summit, Kyparissovouno, reaches a height of 1024 metres and is made up of relatively hard limestones. On this northern mountain range three famous mediaeval castles, those of St. Hilarion, Kantara and Boufavento have been originally built by the Byzantines but were later reconstructed by the Franks. Communication with the northern coastal plain has been assisted by a few faults on plain on this mountain range. The Karpasia peninsula is considered to be a continuation of the Kyrenia range, although the region has not experienced the complicated faults as well as other serious tectonic movements of the latter. The whole panhandle is made up of hills, small plateaus, gentle depressions and shallow valleys.

The central plain of Cyprus, the main cereal growing region of the island, lies in between the two mountains and has a very low altitude which does not exceed 180 metres above sealevel, close of Nicosia. It consists of sediments which have been transported and deposited by the streams in recent geological times from the Troodos and the Pentadaktylos ranges. The whole plain from the gulf of Morphou in the west to the gulf of Famagusta in the east, covers a distance of approximately 89 km.

Almost around Cyprus there appear narrow costal plains which in fact are raised beaches. In the north is the coastal plain of Kyrenia which is very narrow but with scenic laced beaches. Lying in between the blue azure-like waters of the sea and the imposing range of Kyrenia, the plain attracted tourism since the early decades of the century. Tourism in Cyprus started in fact from this area here, which is unsurpassed in physical beauties. Before the Turkish invasion of 1974 the plain aquired a cosmopolitan character. It is some years after Kyrenia and the nearly touristic resorts became well-known, that Famagusta in the east had developed into a famous coastal summer resort.

In the South there is the plain of Larnaca where the new international airport is situated. This airport replaced the international airport of Nicosia which stopped functioning as from 1974. It is also here in the plain that are found the oil refineries as well as the unique, so far, marina of Cyprus. In the coastal plain of Limassol, further west, is found at present the largest port of Cyprus, after the main natural port of Famagusta closed in 1974. Tourism has also rapidly developed in the Limassol plain, though the environ-

major irrigation projects that are being constructed or will be constructed soon constitute promising areas of intensive agricultural development.

The limited size of Cyprus, its climate, the geology, the relief and the unequal rainfall over the surface are the main factors influencing water resources. In actual fact there are no rivers in Cyprus as there is no constant flow of water through-out the year in any of the river valleys of the island. Nevertheless part of Cyprus is irrigated by springs the most important of which are found on the massif of Troodos and the foothills of the Kyrenia range. The two salty lakes of Cyprus, those of Larnaca and Limassol do not retain their water during the summer months.

In order to save even some of the limited amount of water that falls over Cyprus during the winter months dams have been constructed and thanks to them relatively large quantities of water are stored in winter in order to be utilized during the dry summer months. As many as 40 dams have already been constructed whereas the completion of a number of others is pending. In addition a great number of boreholes has been dug into the surface of the aquifers and relatively large quantities of water can irrigate highly remunerative crops. It is not without reason that Cyprus invests heavily on dams and water storage projects as well as water-use schemes, since it has been estimated that from one donum of irrigated land the income derived can be ten to twenty times more than that from a similar area of dry land.

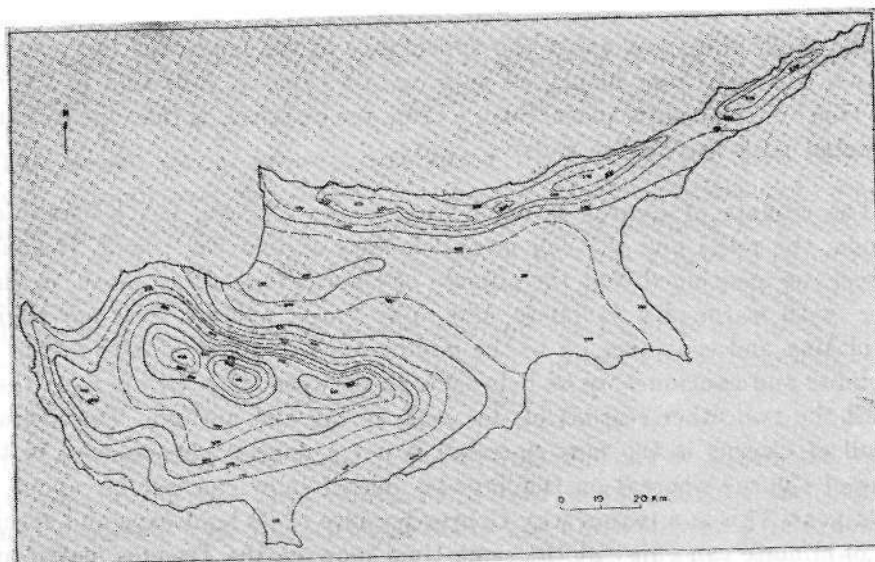
Taking into account the seasonal rainfall of Cyprus, its inadequate amount, the very high evapotranspiration particularly during summer months when there is not a single drop of rainfall and the water that finds its way through streams to the sea, one cannot anticipate remarkable achievements with the existing conventional means of water-storing and water-saving.

The soils of Cyprus and their varied types give a particular colour to the Cypriot landscape. Terra rosas with their intense red colour, well-developed on limestones, particularly in Kokkinokhoria to the south-east of Cyprus, are in striking contrast with the white chalky soils developed over the limestone hills of Larnaca. The alluvial soils of the central and coastal plains with their khalki colour contrast sharply with the dark siliceous soils of Troodos and the grey-coloured soils of the lavas. The red clayey soils of Morphou region differ from the organic or humic soils which usually have a black or dark-brown colour. A small country like Cyprus has a great variety

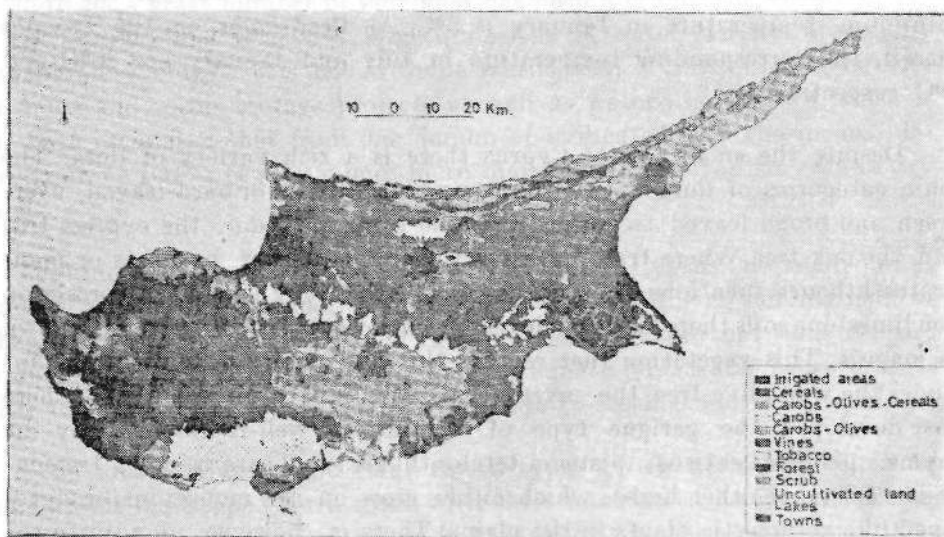
of soils which affect not only the appearance of the landscape but also the land use pattern. Crops identified with certain types of soils find in Cyprus their true environmental place. Such a crop, for instance, is the vine so much associated with the chalky soils.

The climate of Cyprus is much affected by the sea, the geographical latitude, the relief and the continental masses around the island. It could, however, be mentioned that the climate of Cyprus is mediterranean in character with warm, dry summers and rainy, mild winters. Summer begins in mid-May and continues up to the middle of September. Winter begins in November and continues up to February. In between these two periods there prevail the two other seasons of the year, spring and autumn. The average rainfall of Cyprus is 489 mm. Snowfall is not a normal phenomenon in the plains of Cyprus whereas on the Troodos massif snow can last for about 50 days a year. This is a reason why Cyprus because of its landscape and special type of climate can enjoy at the same time snow on the Troodos massif and at relatively close distance warm sunshine round the coastal plains. In Nicosia the mean maximum temperature in July is 37°C whereas the mean minimum temperature in January is 5°C. At Prodromos, on the Troodos massif, the corresponding temperature in July and January are 26°C and 1°C respectively.

Despite the small size of Cyprus there is a rich variety of flora. The main categories of flora are the forests which consist of hard-leaved, evergreen and broad-leaved trees like the pine-tree, the cedar, the cypress-tree and the oak-tree. Where trees have been destroyed either by goats or man-Eratosthenes mentions that Cyprus was once wholly covered by forests-on non limestone soils there has been developed a lower type of vegetation known as maguis. This vegetation that reaches three or more metres in height includes the wild olive-tree, the myrtle, the cistus, etc. On limestone soils there has developed the garigue type of vegetation, well-represented by the thyme, pistacia lentiscus, pistacia tetebinthus a.s.o. There is also a tremendous variety of other herbs, which either grow on the mountains or developed like xerophytic plants in the plains. There is, however, an adjustment of the various plants into the environment of Cyprus. Some plants do not appear in the summer because of the drought. Some others have developed very hard leaves and others aquired hairy leaves in order to withstand evaporation. Others with their needle-like leaves can avoid the high evaporation of the island. Other thorny bushes are well protected from drought as well as from animals.



PRECIPITATION MAP OF CYPRUS



LAND USE MAP OF CYPRUS

Nor does Cyprus lack in the variety of fauna as it lies in between the warm climate of North Africa and the cold climate of North Europe. Cyprus is after all an important place for the migratory birds. In this way the island receive a great number of summer and winter bird visitors. There is a number

of endemic birds, serpents and animals among which the famous and unique in its kind , the moufflon.

Mining in Cyprus is well-known since ancient times. Copper was intensely exploited not only during the bronze Age (2.700 - 1.050 B.C.) but in later times as well. At the foothills of Troodos one can trace to-day piles of scoriae left behind by the Phoenicians, the Romans and others. Copper so much associated with Cyprus was useful for weapons and house utensils, as is so clearly mentioned in the two remarkable epics of Homer. To-day the minerals of Cyprus are constantly being exhausted. Mining employs a small number of people and the revenue derived from minerals is year after year decreasing.

Agriculture was and continues to be a very important sector of the economic and social life of the island from the point of view of employment, contribution to the gross national income and external trade. It is calculated that 21.4 % of the economically active population is employed by the agricultural sector and that 10.7 % is the contribution of agriculture to the gross national income, while the contribution of the raw agricultural exports to the total domestic exports is 22.8 %. According to the census of 1960 there were as many as 69,455 holdings in an agricultural area of 3,232,996 donums. (1 ha = 7,45 donums).

The average agricultural holding was 47 donums and there corresponded about 10 parcels per holding. It is estimated today that the number of holdings must have increased and it probably surpassed 75,000. As a consequence the average size of holdings has decreased. From a recent census (1977) which was carried out only in the free part of the island the average size of holding was estimated to be about 34 donums. However, in order to understand fully what a cypriot agricultural holding is, one has to take into account that it may consist wholly of owned private land, or it may be a combination of owned private land and private or state land leased, land that is under share-cropping land held in individed shares or even land in double or treble ownership. The small agricultural holding with all its land ownership problems, parcelled and scattered as it is, constitutes a serious obstacle to the agricultural development.

Even worse the small cypriot holding is not wholly irrigated and in a semitropical climate like that of Cyprus irrigation counts much. The possibilities of increasing the irrigable land, as has already been mentioned, are very limited. Besides, industry and tourism demand increased quantities

of water and thus they compete with agricultural use. It is estimated that about 10 % of the agricultural land of Cyprus is pennenially irrigated, whereas another 13 % can be irrigated seasonally by flowing rivers during the winter or spring months. Even worse the supply of water is not equally distributed over all the agricultural regions of Cyprus. Some regions are favoured, whereas others have to rely on dry cultivations.

From the mechanization point of view agriculture in Cyprus has experienced rapid progress in the last two decades. There are, however, some problems as far as mechanization on the mountains and hills is concerned. Nevertheless small hand-driven tractors are constantly being used by the vegetable growers in the mountainous terrains. Mechanization of agriculture is simultaneously encouraged by the increasing problem of the scarcity of labour that exists in the rural areas. It is not only the lack of agricultural hands that one notices in the rural areas but also the very expensive and often uneconomic employment of agricultural workers.

The most important irrigated crops of Cyprus are citrus, a large variety of fruit trees, potatoes, carrots, table-grapes, bananas, avocado and a great variety of vegetables (early and normal). In fact in Cyprus one can find crops that demand climates ranging from the oceanic to the tropical. In the dry lands the most important crops are the vines, particularly those suited for wine, cereals, legumes, olive and carob trees as well as almond trees. Cotton is no more cultivated, whereas tobacco grows in dry as well as irrigated area⁵¹.

Agriculture faces in fact serious problems. The agricultural holding is so small and the love of the Cypriots for land is so passionate that the establishment of viable agricultural units is not an easy task. With the development of industry and turism great expanses of agricultural land are swallowed up year after year. A great number of Cypriots who left the island and live abroad are not eager to sell their land to those who stayed behind. There is in addition the desire on behalf of many Cypriots to work in agriculture on a part-time basis. Many urban dwellers prefer to spend some time either in the afternoons or at weekends in their own plots of land in the countryside, thus increasing their income. On the othefr hand those who would like to indulge wholly in agriculture cannot very often find the adequate land. However, with the implementation of the progressive project of land consolidation a number of Cypriots will eventually aquire economically viable units, although it must be stressed that many legislations are still needed (a long-term lease act, an aact on the abandoned or uncultivated

lands, group-farming legislation, early retirement retirement of over-aged farmers, a land disposal organization that will buy land and sell it to the small holders, the institutionalization of "depressed areas" especially on the mountains and so on) before the agricultural holdings finds its true solution. In fact the balanced regional development is still a serious problems in Cyprus. The inequalities in income, employment, and social facilities do exist in the geographical regions and efforts are exerted to minimize if not equalise them. It is because of these regional nequelities that agriculture it not yet an attractive sector, particularly in the mountainous and hilly areas. It is, therefore, not surprising that the young generation prefers jobs in towns, thus abandoning their roots even these are found in scenic and picturesque villages.

Industry in Cyprus, a steadily growing sector of the economy, following agriculture as far as employment is concerned, dates in fact as from the period of independence. Progress was achieved not only in the increase of industrial production but also in the qualitative improvement of products as well as in the set up of completely new industrial enterprises. In 1980 the industrial sector employed as many as 30,514 persons and the industrial units were about 6,000. The size of most of the industrial enterprises is small. According to a survey of 1972 the large enterprises which employed 5 or more persons comprised only 17 % of the total number of enterprises. To-day industrial activities are concentrated in the nain urban centers of the island. The well-known manufacturing units are those of clothing, shoe-making, food-processing, plastics, wines and spirites, furniture, brick-making, leather products, manufacturing of solar energy boilers, cement pines, food and vegetable canning, ham-making, etc. The exports of industrial products show a constant increase as from 1973 onwards. Nevertheless there exist some problems. The Cyprus market is small and this does not permit the establishment of large industrial units which would decrease the cost of production. There is also scarcity of local raw materials and many units rely on the imports of foreign raw materials. The industrial enterprises in Cyprus are relatively young. In some products "tradition" has not yet been created and this has some negative consequences upon the internal as well as the external markets. However, industrial areas and zones have been delimited, foreign investments are encouraged and various other measures have been taken to promote the industrialization of the island. There are still industries which could be established in Cyprus and might minimize imports.

Although Cyprus is not served by a rainway network, nevertheless the

communications by land, sea and air are adequate. The road network in Cyprus is constantly being improved although the ottoman rule in the island did not cherish any roads to the Cypriots but only lanes which could be used only by horse-corts. The British have constructed a considerable mileage of roads. Today Cyprus has 9.655 km of roads out of which 4,554 km are asphalted. The undertaking of the construction of modern roads is rendered almost imperative with the constantly increasing number of vehicles. Up to 1977 there corresponded 1 vehicle to every 6 Cypriots. There is officially only one airport in Cyprus today, that of Larnaca, and the decision has been taken for the construction of another airport at Paphos. The agricultural development of the Paphos plain as well as of that of the Khrysoxhou plain, the relative distance between Larnaca and Paphos and the constntly in-creasing touristic activnty of Paphos almost demand the creation of a new airport to the western part of Cyprus.

The rapid development of tourism on a global scale which is due to the increase of income, the increase of population, the improvement of communi-cation means and the increase of the number of holidays with pay, has also affected the development of tourism in Cyprus. Cyprus offers to tourists par-ticularly those of Northern Europe, essentially the sun and the sea. There are 782 km of coastamokng which some beautiful sandy beaches. The sun in July lasts as many as 12.5 hours and in January 5.5 hours. However the relief of Cyprus, the forests of the central massif with their cool summers and their picturesque scenic landscape attract people from the Middle East as well. The main touristic centers of Cyprus are Limassol, Ayia Napa-Paralimni, Larnaca, Paphos, Nicosia town and the mountain resorts in the central-western part of Cyprus. An increase of tourists is noted year after year and with the present rate of increase in five to six years the number of tourists might surpass the population of Cyprus as a whole. The main countries from which tourists come to Cuprys are U.K., Lebanon, Greece, W. Germany, U.S.A., other countries of the Middle East, Scandinavian countries and Franco.

The population of Cuprys from 186,173 in 1881 reached 347,959 in 1931 and 616,000 in 1978. The density of population per sq. km. is 67, the birth rate per 1000 inhabitants is 15.4 and the death rate 9. The composition of population has undergone certain changes. In the last few decades there has been noticed an increase in the number of aged people and a decrease in the young people. In 1931 the percentage of population above 50 years was 16.4 whereas in 1976 it was 22.9. The ratio of population below 30 years was dec-

reased from 61 % to 54% in the same years. The proportion of urban to rural population in 1946 was 26/74, in 1960 it changed to 36/64 and in 1972 to 41 /59. It is presently estimated that in the free part of the island about 53 % of the population lives in the urban centres. The density of population, as is natural, is not uniform. There are greatest densities of population in the urban centres, in the main irrigable rural areas as well as in some suburban villages. The sparsely populated areas are associated with the mountains, the forests and the very poor soils. According to the census of 1960 the population of Cyprus, based on religion, was as follows: Greek Orthodox as well as some other minorities 81.7 % and Turkish Moslems 18.3 %. Although emigration has decreased sharply over the recent years, nevertheless there is a constant migration of population from rural areas to the towns. The main reasons of urbanization in Cyprus are: (a) the increase of population. Even the smallest increase of population cannot be absorbed in many rural areas of Cyprus to-day. (b) The system of land ownership in Cyprus such that there are many small, scattered and dispersed holdings which cannot be transformed into viable ones. This forces in a way many rural people to seek jobs in towns, (c) The possibilities of securing rather easily a job in the towns. Manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail trade, and services are constantly gaining population at the expense of agriculture, (d) The difference in the standard of living between the urban and rural population, (e) The social, educational, and recreational advantage of the towns are some other of the most important factors that lure people from rural areas to the towns.

Despite urbanization Cyprus is still basically an island of villages. During the Venitian Period (1489-1571 A.D.) there were as many as 800 villages. This number decreased sharply during the Turkish occupation (1571-1878). The number of settlements in the island before the invasion was 635, despite the fact that some I had a very small population or were showing signs of abandonment. It is however, the small village that predominates over the countryside. 68 % of the settlements have a population below 500 inhabitants whereas 37 % of the rural settlements have a population below 200 inhabitants. No doubt small settlements despite their scene picturesque character very often present socio-economic problems and any programming aiming at the improvement of educational, social and economic conditions is not always easy.

The large and densely inhabited settlements are found in the plains or near the big cities as opposed to the small scattered settlements which are associated with the hilly and mountainous areas. Awkwardly enough one

cannot find many rural settlements near the coast. Normally there is a distance between the settlements and the sea. It seems that the successive conquests of the island, particularly the raids, compelled the Cypriots to live as far away from the coast as possible. However, nowadays touristic and other recreational activities take the population back to the coast. On account of the five coastal towns some of which are relatively densely populated about 35 % of the Cypriot population lives within one km from the coast, another 21 % at a distance ranging from one to five km and about 10 % at a distance of five to ten km. In actual fact as much as 66 % of the population of Cyprus is living today at a very close distance from the sea. This is another striking example of the internal movements of the population. With the exception of some recently planned settlements as well as the architecturally designed refugee settlements, rural settlements as a whole do not present any town planning design. Nevertheless, most rural settlements are well-adjusted to the physical landscape and the local material in the form of limestone, gabbro, clay or wood have been abundantly utilized.

The Turkish invasion has, however, brought significant changes over the settlement pattern as well as in the demographic structure of Cyprus. The displaced Cypriots who constitute about 1/3 of the population searched for a new residence either in the towns or villages. Displaced Cypriots can be found today in almost all the settlements of the free part of Cyprus. In Nicosia and the suburbs, for instance, live today approximately 40,000 displaced Cypriots. Displaced persons, can be found today in Turkish villages, mixed villages and Greek villages. The dispersion of the displaced Cypriots is probably exemplified by the inhabitants of Kyrenia, a small town in the north of Cyprus, who are now living in 110 settlements. The displaced Cypriots of Famagusta are today living in 291 settlements. It could also be mentioned, as it is already a new element of the present-day demographic structure of the island, that as from 1976 there are living in Cyprus about 50,000 Turks from main Turkey. These new foreign settlers who now live in the occupied part of Cyprus have changed the composition of the population of the island.

To-day Cyprus is, de facto, a divided island. The Turkish invasion of 1974 had as a result the creation of an occupied northern part of Cyprus, within which there still live a few enclaved Greek Cypriots, particularly in the Karpasia peninsula, and a free part inhabited by the Greek Cypriots. The economy of the island cannot be planned on a national level. The small uneconomic size of Cyprus has been split up into two smaller parts. There

are frontiers and walls of separation. The Greek Cypriots cannot visit their village and their farms in the occupied part. The Turkish Cypriots can, if they like, return to their houses and holdings. Very few have done so. Both communities living under insecurity and anticipating final political solutions cannot exploit to the maximum degree the natural resources of their country.

The displaced Greek Cypriots who either live in some Turkish villages or cultivate some Turkish-Cypriot holdings cannot invest generously on lands that they do not own. Nor do the Turkish Cypriots in the occupied part will be able to look after the numerous agricultural holdings and the varied industrial and touristic units that have been left behind. After all a Turkish-Cypriot population of 18 % is now occupying the 38 % of the surface of the island. It is because of the invasion that a serious set-back has been imposed upon the economy of Cyprus and the consequences are still painful. The natural resources of the island cannot be easily replaced in other environments within the limited geographical space of 9,251 sq. km. For instance, there is not another vast sandy beach like that of Famagusta, which is reputed to be one of the best sandy beaches in the Mediterranean. Nor can the almost unique, picturesque landscape of Kyrenia, so marvellously immortalised by Lawrence Durrell in «Bitter Lemons», be found elsewhere in the island. The relatively vast plain of Mesaoria in the central part, in between the two mountain ranges, the cereal growing region of the island, cannot find its analogy elsewhere in the island. The citrus-growing region of Morphou, the product of hard-work, programming and investment of decades, cannot be copied elsewhere. There are numerous examples that can be cited to show how seriously the political situation affects the development of the island.

Until a final, lasting and viable solution is found, the Cypriots have to work hard and invent ways and means not only to survive but also to develop to the greatest possible degree their physical and human resources. Future rural development in the island could probably be planned on a ten-point master plan. Such a plan might appear ideal but it can be successfully⁷ implemented in the geographic environment of Cyprus.

1. Improvement of the land tenure structure with the existing, as well as with new, more radical legislations.

2. Increase of irrigation water through conventional and non-conventional means.

3. Improvement of the overall rural road network as it concerns com-

munication between village and town and communication within the administrative boundaries of the village itself.

4. Conservation and improvement of the physical and cultural features of the countryside. The rural cultural heritage could be protected and eventually become an open air museum for the town-dwellers as well as for the foreign tourists.

5. Encouragement of rural industrialization with emphasis on handi-craft and processing of local raw materials.

6. Encouragement of rural tourism in harmony with the physical environment. Rural abandoned dwellings can be converted into vacation rest-houses.

7. Provision of all medical, educational and recreational facilities to the countryside inhabitants. Distances often create problems, particularly disappointment and bitterness.

8. Adoption of an improved transport system that will serve the rural communities at frequent daily intervals. Thus a regular, quick way of communicating with the district capital as well as with other nearby agro-towns will be achieved.

9. Encouragement of projects that will improve life within the individual dwelling of the countryside inhabitants. Urban facilities and amenities have to reach the countryside (separate up to-date toilet, separate kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms, warm and cold piped water, separate animal sheds etc.).

10. The establishment of agro-towns in the middle of a group of scattered rural¹ settlements where urban facilities should be provided (bank, poststore, sports, and athletic grounds etc.).

There is no time for further analysis of these ten points, nor is the aim of this lecture to solve the problems of urbanization and rural depopulation. By referring to them, however, one becomes acquainted with existing rural problem as well as with probable solutions. It could be mentioned, however, that some of these projects have already been pursued by the Republic of Cyprus, while others might be approved for implementation within the next few years.

Since towns contribute much more to their inhabitants—the villagers know this and feel badly—it is possible that with the above ten-point plan we may take the town to the village. Thus we can solve many

of the existing rural problems and can minimise if not curtail the rural exodus which is presently the most serious problem of rural development.

Cyprus with its small size and the relatively small distances between villages and towns can with necessary programming and investment avoid large-scale urbanization so badly experienced by other countries. The local climate and other environmental conditions in Nicosia, the capital and the other five coastal towns, can also be a serious factor for a secondary house in the countryside. Even foreign people who come to Cyprus searching for a new residence very unpretentiously exhibit their sympathy to the countryside. With the improvement of the road network as well as all other rural conditions to which reference has already been made, the countryside will automatically become a popular ground for town dwellers, retired Cypriots and foreign tourists alike. Under such circumstances rural development will have to be faced in a different way.