

## CYPRUS

**Date of Elections:** July 5, 1970

### **Reason for Elections**

The Cypriot electorate was called upon to renew the whole House of Representatives, whose members had been elected in 1960 for a term of 5 years which, since the normal expiry of the legislature in 1965, had been extended on a year-to-year basis.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Cypriot Parliament is considered to be unicameral. Although the Constitution allows for two Communal Chambers (Greek and Turkish) alongside the House of Representatives, it lays down that " legislative power shall be exercised by the House of Representatives in all fields except those specifically reserved for the Communal Chambers ".

The House of Representatives consists of 50 members elected for a 5 year term, 35 of whom are elected by the Greek community and 15 by the Turkish community.

### **Electoral System**

All Cypriot citizens of either sex, at least 21 years of age, who have resided in Cyprus for 6 months before the elections may vote. However, those who, during the period of registration on the electoral lists, are under prison sentence, have been declared mentally unfit or have been convicted of electoral fraud may not cast their vote.

The electoral lists are revised by registry officers before each election. Voting is not compulsory.

Electors who are at least 25 years old are eligible for the Parliament, with the exception of those who are serving a prison sentence of more than 2 years, have been convicted of an offence against the electoral law or are mentally unfit.

The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with elective ministerial or municipal offices, with a military career and national or municipal public service and, in the case of Deputies elected by the Turkish community, with religious offices.

The island is divided into 6 constituencies, in each of which Representatives are elected by party list simple plurality system with preferential vote.

The required number of candidates who have received the greatest number of votes are declared elected.

A by-election is held to fill a seat which falls vacant during a legislature.

**General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

On April 21, 1970, the Cypriot Council of Ministers fixed July 5 as the election day.

Five main parties proposed candidates for the 35 seats representing the island's Greek community. The Communist Party, Akel, put up 9 candidates who campaigned for the island's independence; Akel has the support of most of the Cypriot workers. Edek, the Unified Democratic Centre Party (moderate left-wing) proposed a policy of independence for Cyprus. Moreover, its 20 candidates advocated the nationalization of the mining industry. The Unified Party, ENIEON (moderate right-wing), founded in February 1969 by Mr. Glafcos Clerides, President of the House of Representatives and representative of the Greek Cypriots in the inter-community negotiations between the Greek and Turkish communities, put forward 34 candidates; it fully supported President Makarios and recommended a direct agreement between the two communities on the basis of the island's independence. The Progressive Front (right-wing), which draws large support from the agricultural community, presented 35 candidates; while favouring closer ties with Greece, it nevertheless advocated that such an alignment should come as a result of the free self-determination of the Cypriot people. Finally, the Democratic National Party, DEK (extreme right-wing), a great advocate of union with Greece, put up 19 candidates. In addition, there were 18 independent candidates.

No candidate contested the 15 seats reserved for the Turkish community whose representatives in the previous legislature had, in 1965, ceased to take any part in the island's Parliament. Nevertheless, simultaneous elections were held in the Turkish community to form a " Turkish Cypriot National Assembly " as part of the *de facto* " Transitional Turkish Cypriot Administration " set up in December 1967 but not recognized by the Cypriot Government.

**Statistics**

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

Number of registered voters. . . . .	263,857
<b>Voters.</b> . . . .	<b>200,141 (75.4%)</b>
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	<b>4,404</b>
<b>Valid</b> votes. . . . .	<b>.195,737</b>

Political Group	.. obtained**	% *	Number of Seats in the House of Representatives
Unified Party ( <b>EXIEON</b> ) . . . . .	51,082	25.5	15
Working People's Party (AKEL)	79,666	39.8	9
Progressive Party. . . . .	35,783	17.9	7
Unified Democratic Centre (EDEK). . . . .	26,908	13.4	2
Democratic National Party (DEK). . . . .	19,655	9.8	
Independents. . . . .	10,256	5.1	2
			35

\* Taking into account party and preferential votes.

## 2. Distribution of Representatives according to Professional Category

Doctors. . . . .	10
Lawyers. . . . .	9
Businessmen. . . . .	3
Journalists. . . . .	2
Trade unionists. . . . .	2
Teachers. . . . .	2
Farmers. . . . .	2
Economist. . . . .	1
Others. . . . .	4
	35

## 3. Distribution of Representatives according to Sex

Men . . . . .	35
Women . . . . .	—
	35

## 4. Distribution of Representatives according to Age Group

32-42. . . . .	9
43-52. . . . .	15
53-62. . . . .	8
63 and over. . . . .	3
	35