

ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK) **ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ ΣΥΓΓΕΝΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΙΩΝ ΑΓΝΟΟΥΜΕΝΩΝ (ΗΒ)**

21 Trinity Road
London
N22 4LB.

Telephone: Office 020-8805 6939

E-mail: ormc1974@btopenworld.com

Website: www.ormc-uk.org

News Bulletin December 2008

The President and all Committee members wish you all a Happy Christmas and may the New Year bring Happiness to you all and an end to our plight.

Our Work.

Another year has passed by and the work of our Organisation continues and will continue until our just demand for the fate of every one of our beloved Missing is ascertained.

It has been a busy year and we worked very hard in our quest for the truth and also to get our Government to apply pressure on Turkey to release all the information it has about our Missing. Unfortunately, so far, all we got is that "we do all we can to help"! As mentioned before, it is too obvious that not enough pressure is applied on Turkey, not only to give the information but also to abide by the judgements against her of the European Court of Human Rights.

Meeting with A. Meale and R. Vis in the House of Commons.

On Thursday 13th November 2008, our President N. Neokleous accompanied by Committee members C. Paul, K. Paschalis, J. Kouvaros and Federation members A. Karaolis and S. Constantinides, had a meeting with the said MPs. The President congratulated A. Meale for his election to V. Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways of furthering the campaign for the solution of the Missing Persons problem. Mr Meale had already sent a letter, on this issue, to the Foreign Secretary Mr Miliband and received a reply from the new Minister for Europe Ms Caroline Flint, the content of which was discussed. It was agreed to request a meeting with the FCO and if possible with Ms Flint, in Jan/Feb 09. The MPs also proposed to organise an Early Day Motion in Parliament and try to persuade as many MPs, from all political parties to sign it. They have explained that the main purpose of the EDM was to draw the attention to this specific issue, and gain easier access to Government. They also outlined how they intent to bring the issue of Missing Persons to the attention of the Council of Europe, again, and involve its relevant Committees in the pursued of the overall solution. The ORMC and NFC members thanked Mr Meale and Mr Vis for the continuous support.

Further meetings with other MPs are planned to take place soon.

Significant progress expected on missing.

A significant increase in identifications of exhumed remains of persons missing since the 1974 and earlier hostilities in Cyprus is expected to be achieved early in 2009 in a stepping-up of the programme launched by the tripartite Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) in August 2006.

The non-Cypriot member of the CMP, Christophe Girod of Switzerland, reported on 15 October that out of some 450 bodies exhumed to date the remains of 105 persons (76 Greek Cypriots and 29 Turkish Cypriots) had been identified by the DNA sampling method and returned to families for proper burial. He described this as "a good start" and predicted that over 60 more identifications would be made by early 2009.

The Cyprus Government has donated an excavator and two 4x4 trucks to the CMP in Sept 08 to the value of US\$131,484.

KOPSIMO VASILOPITTAS: This will take place on Sunday 18th January 09, in St Barnabas Church Hall in Wood Green after prayers and memorial service is conducted at St Mary's Church, Wood Green. You are all welcome and the President will update us as to the latest regarding the issue of our Missing. It is expected that the Cyprus Consul General, Mr Evangelos Savva, will also attend and give a short speech.

ECHR. The European Court of Human Rights final decision in the case of Varnava and others is expected in the next six months.

We now have our own Website.



www.ormc-uk.org

Please visit our website and use the already prepared letter to write to your MP/MEP. You can even get the name and address of your MP, from our website, if you do not know it. It is all so very simple.

Picture on the right :- From the demonstration outside the Turkish Embassy on 15 Nov 08.

