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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution  
1988 (LX) by States Parties to the Covenant concerning  
rights covered by articles 10 to 12

CYPRUS

[24 September 1979]

It should be stated at the outset that the present Covenant which has been approved by Law 14 of 1969 of the Republic of Cyprus forms part of the municipal law of Cyprus and with superior force to any other municipal law (Article 169(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus).

In setting out the measures adopted and the progress made in achieving the full realization of the rights covered by Articles 10-12 of the Covenant, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus indicates hereinbelow the difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of her obligations under these Articles which were created by the Turkish invasion against Cyprus in 1974 and the continuing unlawful occupation by Turkey of 40 per cent of the territory of Cyprus.

The economy of Cyprus received a very heavy blow. Vast amounts of capital and other resources natural and man made have been destroyed. The occupied area is fertile and rich in resources and its economic significance is much higher than its proportion to total area. It is estimated that in 1972 about 70 per cent of total gross output from all sources emanated from this or adjacent affected areas not to mention the immense wealth of physical assets, resources and structures situated there in the form of hotels and hotel apartments, houses, factories, orchards, arable and irrigated fertile land, mineral and quarrying resources, water resources, high valued tourist land, etc.

Moreover, 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled by the Turkish Forces from their ancestral homes, lands and peaceful occupations in the occupied area and are still denied their right to return there and have become dependent on State budget and on contributions from international organizations, foreign countries, relatives and friends.

In its report on the two applications filed by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus against Turkey, which was made public recently, the European Commission

on Human Rights found Turkey responsible for violations of human rights in Cyprus including the forcible expulsion of Greek Cypriots from the occupied area, refusal to allow them to return there and deprivation of movable and immovable Greek Cypriot owned property.

'T. ARTICLE 10: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

A. Protection of the family

(1) In Cyprus, there is no unified legislation to deal exclusively with the protection of the family as a whole unit. There are several laws which cover specific aspects of assistance and protection of the family such as the Children's Law cap.352, the Adoption Law cap.274, the Illegitimate Children's Law cap.278, the Public Assistance and Services Law 10/1975, and also regulations setting down standards and procedures for the implementation of the legislation. These laws and regulations are administered mainly by the Department of Social Welfare Services which, inter alia, bears responsibility for the protection of the family.

The Cypriot family has been traditionally a closely-knit unit and this has enabled it to deal effectively with many family problems or crisis situations. However, the Turkish invasion against Cyprus in 1974 and the mass forcible displacement of 200,000 Greek Cypriots by the Turkish Forces from the occupied area affected negatively the ability of the family to deal as effectively with the protection and assistance of its members as was the case before. As a result of this the State had to intervene more drastically in order to help the family to carry out its traditional role. To this effect, the Government introduced various schemes, ranging from big housing projects to financial assistance, grants and loans for the reactivation of the people who lost their means of making a living. Some of these schemes are still in operation but they are, in fact, temporary measures.

The Department of Social Welfare Services played a very significant role in the implementation of these measures and also extended its traditional programmes by introducing new ones in order to cope with psycho-social problems that arose within the family as a direct result of the post 1974 situation.

Legal intervention in family life has been gradually replaced by an extensive system of preventive services offered to the family by social workers. In this way, even though crime, antisocial behaviour, breaking-up of families, etc. have increased in comparison with pre-war levels, they were kept at relatively low levels if one considers the extent of the tragedy.

(2) According to Article 22 of the Cyprus Constitution "any person reaching nubile age is free to marry and found a family according to the law relating to marriage, applicable to such person under the provisions of this Constitution". The marriageable age is defined by ecclesiastical law. In the case of the Orthodox church, it is set at 16 years of age for women and 18 for men. In the case of Moslems 18 years of age for both.

In Cyprus there exist no such customs, laws or practices which affect the freedom of choice of a spouse.

B. Maternity protection

The Cyprus Social Insurance Scheme (Social Insurance Laws of 1972 to 1979 and Regulations made thereunder) covers compulsorily almost all employed and self-employed persons in the island. The Scheme provides inter alia the following benefits:

(a) Maternity Grant

The maternity grant is payable to a woman giving birth to a child. The grant is payable provided that she or her husband satisfied the relevant contribution conditions on the date of her confinement.

The contribution conditions for maternity grant are:

- (i) 26 contributions paid; and
- (ii) at least 20 contributions paid or credited in the last complete contribution year before the beginning of the benefit year which includes the day of confinement.

The grant is a lump sum and varies between Cf11.900 mils and Cf27.000 mils depending on the number of contributions paid or credited in the last contribution year before the benefit year, which includes the date of confinement.

(b) Maternity Allowance

The maternity allowance is payable to an employed woman on the production of a medical certificate certifying that her confinement is expected in a certain week specified in the certificate and provided she satisfies the relevant contribution conditions.

The contribution conditions are:

- (i) 156 contributions paid; and
- (ii) at least 20 contributions paid or credited in respect of the 52 weeks immediately preceding the period for which the allowance is payable.

The maternity allowance is a periodical payment varying from Cf2.290 mils to Cf5.200 mils per week according to the number of contributions paid or credited in the 52 weeks immediately preceding the period for which the allowance is payable. The allowance is payable for 12 weeks, 6 weeks before confinement, the week of confinement and 5 weeks after confinement.

(c) Widow's Pension

In case of death of an insured person, a widow's pension is payable to his widow if at the time of his death he satisfies the contribution conditions and she was living with him or was wholly or mainly maintained by him.

The contribution conditions for widow's pension are the following:

- (i) 156 contributions paid; and
- (ii) that the yearly average of the contributions paid or credited over the period -
  - beginning on the 5th October 1964, or, if he reaches the age of sixteen years after the 5th October 1964, on the first day of the contribution year in which he reaches that age; and
  - ending on the last day of the last complete contribution year before the beginning of the contribution year which included the relevant date,

is not less than twenty.

There are no contribution conditions for the payment of widow's pension in case where the death is the result of an industrial accident or occupational disease.

The widow's pension is a periodical payment payable for life. The payment of widow's pension, however, ceases with the remarriage of the widow in which case a grant equal to 52 times the weekly rate of widow's pension is payable to her. The weekly rate of widow's pension varies with the yearly average number of contributions paid and credited by the deceased husband and with the number of dependent children of the widow from C£2.290 mils to C£9.200 mils.

In addition to the above the Termination of Employment Legislation provides protection to all employees in case of termination of employment.

The legislation -

- (a) guarantees to the employee a minimum period of notice in case of termination of employment;
- (b) protects the employee against unjustified dismissals by imposing on the employer a liability for payment of compensation, and
- (c) provides compensation to the employee in case of termination of employment because of redundancy; the compensation is paid to the employee out of a special fund which is financed wholly by employers' contributions.

The above legislation provides that termination of employment on behalf of the employer on maternity reasons constitutes unjustified dismissal.

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C. Protection of children and young persons

(1) The main law which deals with the protection of children and young persons is the Children's Law Cap.352. This Law provides for the prevention of cruelty, neglect and exposure to moral and physical danger with regard to children and young persons under the age of 18. It also contains provisions regarding the mode of treatment and supervision of voluntary Children's Homes, Day Nurseries and Child-Minders, Remand Homes and Foster Homes. As regards day nurseries the Department of Social Welfare Services apart from its supervisory and licencing functions, also runs its own day nurseries for children of working mothers and subsidizes similar nurseries run by voluntary or non-profit making organizations.

(2) (a) Children deprived of a proper family life are taken into care by the Director of Social Welfare Services if there is no available person or persons suitable and willing to undertake their care. Such children are placed either with foster families or in special institutions (Children's Homes or Youth Hostels) which are established and run by the Department of Social Welfare Services. The Department's social workers visit these children regularly in order (i) to ensure that they have adjusted to their new environment and are not facing any major problems and (ii) to explore the possibilities of arranging for them a more permanent placement as close as possible to a normal family environment.

(b) Families with physically, mentally or socially handicapped children, or delinquent minors are assisted by the Department of Social Welfare Services in various ways. For example, financial assistance is given in cases where the mother cannot seek employment because she has to look after such children and the father's income is not sufficient to cover the family's needs; social workers visit such families regularly and offer them moral and emotional support and help them deal with any problem that arises because of their child's condition, through the preventive services programme. In cases where the family cannot cope with the problems no matter how much support is given the child is taken temporarily into care by the Director of the Department and placed either with a foster family or in an institution. The Department of Social Welfare Services operates Children's Homes, Hostels for Maladjusted Boys and Girls and a Home for severely Retarded Children. The Department, in co-operation with the Attorney-General and the Police Authorities has worked out a new procedure for dealing with delinquent minors whereby such cases do not appear before the court, except where a very serious crime has been committed and, instead, they are supervised by social workers in their own environment.

As a result of the special interest shown by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for handicapped and delinquent children various institutions have been founded providing education, training and guidance to pupils who are physically, mentally or psychologically deprived or handicapped. All schools are in one way or another government controlled institutions. Most of them come under the Ministry of Education while one, the Reform School, comes under the Ministry of Justice and a second one, the Rehabilitation Centre, operates under the Ministry of Labour. There are many institutions which are supported to such a degree by private agencies and organizations that they managed in a very short time to establish themselves and build and equip up to date premises. Unfortunately the

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consequences of the Turkish invasion of July 1974 proved to be grave for every domain on human life, including education. Special Education was hardest hit of all. More than 50% of the Special Education Institutions were occupied by the Turkish army while their students and teachers were forced to leave their schools and become refugees. Such schools are:

- (a) The school for Deaf and Dumb Children, near Yerolakkos, Nicosia.
- (b) The Reform School of Lambousa, Kyrenia.
- (c) The Schools for spastic and trainable children at Yerolakkos, Kyrenia, Morphou and Famagusta.

The existing institutions of Special Education include a variety of schools offering education and training for a wide range of handicapped people. They provide education and training for juvenile delinquents and young people needing care and attention, for deaf and dumb, for the blind, for trainable and for children with special psychological problems. Schools for trainable children function in every town of the island.

The status of the handicapped people in Cyprus was improved by several legislative and administrative measures. The decision in 1963 of the Council of Ministers that all government departments should employ 2% of their total labour from the register of disabled persons encouraged the private employers to employ handicapped people. The educational and social measures taken by the Government helped the society to accept fully handicapped people who suffered before from social deprivation. This resulted in making the parents of such persons more active and more demanding for their handicapped children. In the educational field the Government tried to train promising and interested teachers in several fields of Special Education. It would not be an exaggeration if it was said that in proportion the teachers in Special Education had more opportunities for studies abroad than the teachers of any other kind of education.

Some very recent measures underline the keen interest of the Government of Cyprus for the handicapped. A law, the Law for Special Education of 1979, was enacted in June 1979 regulating the establishment and functioning of schools for handicapped people. A nationwide survey was carried out in April 1979 by the relevant services of the Ministry of Education in an effort to find up to date data about handicapped people. The analysis of the data provided by the survey will guide the Government in its effort to provide better educational opportunities to handicapped people. A new curriculum for schools for trainable children has also been developed.

(3) The Children's Law Cap.352, provides for the protection of children and young persons against economic, social and other forms of exploitation, neglect or cruelty and contains provisions for measures to be taken by the Department whenever cases of exploitation, neglect or cruelty to children are identified but social workers are also expected to do preventive work with families showing such characteristics.

Other laws dealing with more specific subjects in connexion with the protection and welfare of the child are the Adoption Law Cap.274, the Guardianship of Infants and Prodigals Law Cap.277.

The Adoption Law contains provisions for the safeguard of the welfare of children in respect of whom an application for adoption was made and for prohibiting the emigration of children for purposes of adoption by persons who are not citizens of the country.

The Guardianship of Infants and Prodigals Law contains provision for the safeguard of the welfare of children and prodigals who have no parents or whose parents are unable to exercise the function of guardianship at a satisfactory level.

(4) The employment of children and young persons in Cyprus is governed by the provisions of the Children and Young Persons (Employment) Law, Cap.178.

The main provisions of the Law as regards minimum age, hours of work, night work and rest are as follows:

(a) Minimum Age

The minimum age for employment in non-industrial undertakings is the 13th and in industrial undertakings the 14th.

(b) Hours of Work

For children, i.e. persons under the age of 16 the Law provides for employment in industrial undertaking for a maximum of 36 hours weekly or 6 hours daily. For employment in non-industrial undertakings the maximum hours of work by children are 42 weekly or 7 1/2 daily. For the employment of young persons, i.e. persons aged 16-18 the maximum hours of work permitted by the Law are 48 for both types of undertakings.

(c) Rest

Children and young persons employed are entitled to a weekly rest of at least 36 consecutive hours. During the day working time they should be allowed half an hour for meal or rest after a work of 4 consecutive hours. Children and young persons are entitled to 15 annual holidays after completion of six months service.

(d) Nightwork

The employment of children is prohibited between 7 p.m. of one day and 6 a.m. of the following day (during summer from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

Nightwork by young persons is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The penalties imposed for the violation of the above provisions include imprisonments (3 to 6 months) or a fine (£10 to £25) or both.

For the protection of children and young persons the law prohibits their employment in certain dangerous trades and occupations like

- cleaning parts of machinery while in motion
- employment underground
- employment in chemical processes (zinc, lead, lead alloys, electrical accumulations, lead colour, asbestos, etc.)
- lifting, carrying or moving heavy loads etc. Certain other types of trades and occupations are prohibited especially for children like:
- employment in shipbuilding
- in heading of yarn by means of lead compound
- in enamelling processes for covering or decoration of metal or glass
- in lead processes
- in manipulation or use of cellulose solutions, etc.

Prohibition for certain occupations and trades is also provided by the Law for the employment of female children and young persons. These prohibitions affect employment in:

- the process of melting or blowing glass, brass casting, lead processes, etc.

The Law prohibits also engagement in street trading by children.

Children and young persons are not allowed to be employed in the treatment or care of children, or aged, destitute, infirm mentally unfit or sick persons, unless under a special licence issued by the competent authority.

For violation of these provisions of the law penalties imposed are the same as referred to in the previous answer.

The only statistical information available in the employment of children and young persons in Cyprus refers to the Economically Active Population for the year 1976 and covers the age group 15-19 years.

Age group 15-19

Males	4,805
Females	8,959
TOTAL	<u>13,763</u>



## II. ARTICLE 11: RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

A. The concept of a "minimum standard of living" was introduced in Cyprus in 1975, with the enactment of the Public Assistance Law. Before 1975 public assistance was granted to needy people on the basis of administrative regulations. However, the Turkish invasion and the forcible displacement of 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and land in the occupied area and its grave consequences (loss of homes and property, mass unemployment, etc.) necessitated the taking of strong measures in order to deal effectively with the situation and also to prevent the Social Insurance Fund from collapsing.

The Public Assistance Law is administered by the Department of Social Welfare Services and is intended to provide a minimum standard of living for people whose income does not cover their basic and/or special needs. Basic needs are defined as "food, necessary clothing, fuel and lighting" whereas special needs include "housing, medical care, that is not provided free of charge by the State services, technical training or provision of tools or other equipment which will enable the recipient to become financially independent, etc.". The Director of Social Welfare Services is entitled to grant public assistance in the form of goods or services in cases where the recipient is incapable of using cash for the purpose for which it is given to him; for example in some cases of old or disabled persons, instead of cash they are provided with home help paid by the Department of Social Welfare Services, or they are admitted in Old People Homes.

The Council of Ministers, under the Public Assistance Law, has the power to publish regulations setting the scales to be used in granting public assistance, on the basis of the number of dependents and the needs of the recipients. Since the enactment of the Law, two different public assistance scales have been in use, one for displaced and one for non-displaced destitute people. The reason for this has been the fact that displaced people lost everything as a result of the Turkish invasion and, therefore, needed more support in order to start all over again.

### B. Right to Adequate food

#### Introduction

The Turkish invasion in July 1974 was a disaster to Cyprus and a catastrophic blow on its agriculture. Forty per cent of the island's territory comprising 70 per cent of its natural resources have been occupied by the Turkish troops and 200,000 Greek Cypriots i.e. the 1/3 of the population, mostly agrarian, have been forcibly expelled from their homes and lands and are still living as refugees in their own country. The Agricultural Sector practically broke down and the island's economy nearly collapsed.

Under the circumstances the Cyprus Government had to abandon its development plans and put in effect new emergency plans in order to face the situation. Priority was given to the housing of refugees, the restoration of the Agricultural Sector and the reactivation of the Economy.

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In the Agricultural Sector every possible effort was made to ensure production of maximum quantities of food, which was absolutely necessary for the survival of the struggling population and was also urgently needed for securing foreign exchange through exports.

Consequently arable land in the free areas of Cyprus was put under intensive exploitation, low value crops were replaced by more profitable ones, marginal and new land were developed and put under pastures and fodders, improved agricultural practices like the sprinkler and trickle irrigation, plant protection campaigns, etc. were widely applied and the dissemination of knowledge among farmers and livestock keepers has been systematically and widely carried out.

Capital funds were invested in the Agricultural Sector at much higher levels in the form of long-term, low interest rate loans and as subsidies paid for improved practices applied by farmers.

I. Measures taken to develop or reform existing agrarian systems.

Land Consolidation. It has been promoted in a number of rural communities. The idea has been to increase the size of holdings by uniting a big number of small size holdings and subdividing them into a smaller number of bigger holdings. In this way the agricultural exploitation of land becomes more profitable. In 1978 Land Consolidation works were in progress in 21 villages covering an area of over 10,000 hectares.

II. Measures taken to improve methods of production.

A number of projects have been scheduled and promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the improvement of production methods, the increase in yields per unit area and the improvement of methods of animal husbandry. Such projects promoted have been:

(a) The Mixed Farming Project:

It is an old project which has been enlarged to include refugee farmers and livestock keepers. Financial assistance to a maximum of £2,000 in the form of long-term, low interest loans is given to participants, in order to build pens, buy improved livestock and agricultural machinery. The idea has been to bring together crop farming and Animal Husbandry for higher incomes resulting from better use of agricultural products. In 1978 a sum of £210,000 was issued to 204 farmers and livestock keepers in the form of loans.

(b) Water Use Improvement Project

Farmers installing improved irrigation systems, (sprinkler or trickle) have been given technical advice free of charge by the Department of Agriculture and financial assistance up to C£3000 maximum in the form of long-term, low interest loans and a 5 per cent subsidy on irrigation system costs. The idea has been to economize on irrigation water and labour costs.

In 1978 improved irrigation systems were installed on an area of 573 hectares, belonging to 492 farmers who received £295,000 in the form of loans and £17,500 in the form of subsidies.

(c) Soil Conservation Project

Farmers constructing Soil Conservation Works either for the protection of productive land or for the improvement of new land are entitled to receive financial assistance and food stuffs provided by FAO, as follows:

(i) Farmers Soil Development Association: They receive

50% of costs in the form of long-term loans,  
35% as cash subsidy and  
15% as food rations subsidy.

total 100%

(ii) Farmers Irrigation Associations in Land Consolidation Areas: They receive,

75% of costs in the form of long-term loans and the following subsidies:

Soil levelling	£22.500	mils/hectare
Earth banking	74.750	" "
Building works	15	" /cubic foot
Concrete works	45	" / " "

(iii) Private farmers

They receive

75% of costs in the form of long-term loans, up to a maximum of £800 each. They also receive an additional loan of £800 in the case of water tank construction. Also subsidies are paid as follows:

Soil levelling	£22.500	mils/hectare
Earth banking	52.325	" "
Building works	15	" /cubic foot
Concrete works	45	" / " "

The idea has been to protect soil resources and improve land productivity.

In 1978 a number of 5,289 farmers participated in the project, who received £95,000 in the form of loans and £80,000 in the form of subsidies.

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(d) Hay making project

Farmers and livestock keepers making hay were entitled to long-term low interest rate loans for the purchase of hay making machinery. Loans up to 75 per cent of machinery costs (not exceeding £2,000.-) were issued. Also a subsidy of £8 per ton of hay was paid.

The idea has been to make as much hay as possible to be fed in months of no grazing.

In 1978 a sum of £31,600 was issued to 24 farmers who bought hay making machinery and £91,056 was paid as subsidy for 11,832 tons of hay made by 1,227 farmers and livestock keepers.

(e) Table-grapes grown under plastic

A sum of £650.- amounting to 25% of costs required for covering one donum (0.134 hectare) of table grapeland under plastic was issued in the form of short-term loans to interested table grape growers. The idea has been to encourage earliness which in the case of table grapes is of about 3 weeks' duration. Early grapes secure high prices in the European markets. In 1978, three growers were given loans to £1,950 for plastic covering their table vines.

(f) Bee-keeping Project

A sum of £400.- maximum is being issued in the form of a long term loan to the refugee who is interested to buy not less than 35 bee-hives. The idea has been to assist refugees increase their incomes from bee-keeping. In 1978, 24 refugees were given loans amounting to £9,600 to buy bee-hives.

(g) Plant Protection Associations

Farmers having cultivations in compact areas like olive-growers, vine, etc. have been encouraged to form Plant Protection associations for controlling pests and diseases on a collective basis. The idea has been to take full control measures at low costs of production. Short term loans covering all costs of campaigns are issued to the Plant Protection Associations. Twenty-five per cent of total costs are granted to them in the form of subsidy.

In 1978 one Plant Protection Association was established in Solea. It entailed five neighbouring communities of 30,000 olive-trees. Four bait sprays against olive fly (*Dacus oleae*) were carried out by the Association at the total cost of £5,600 (£1,400 were given as grant by the Government). Results achieved were spectacular. Some 1,100 tons of olive fruit, valued £350,000 had over 95 per cent insect protection, at the cost of 1.7 per cent of crops value.

In 1979 the number of olive Protection Associations had increased to four.

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(h) Livestock areas

Livestock areas have been established on government expenses in certain communities. The idea has been to assist livestock keepers remove their pens out of the inhabited areas.

Livestock keepers removing their pens to livestock areas are entitled to long-term loans up to £900. In 1978 £35,000 were spent for the establishment of livestock areas. Work has been going on in eight communities.

III. Measures taken to improve and disseminate knowledge

Technical information has been intensively disseminated to rural people through the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. In 1978 the personnel of the Service paid 14,800 visits to individual farmers and livestock keepers in all communities of the island, organized lectures and demonstrations which were attended by 13,520 farmer and livestock keepers and by 13,747 farmers' wives.

The Service published regularly the bimonthly agricultural magazine AGROTIS, issued about 30,000 leaflets and bulletins and organized 76 short-term courses attended by 2,000 farmers and an additional number of 6 courses attended by 113 farmers' wives.

During the months April-May 1979 a series of lectures covering food conservation and the utilization of preserved food were given to 120 villages by Home Economics officers and were attended by over 3,500 farmers' wives. The idea has been to explain methods and ways of preserving food in periods of peak production and of utilizing conserved food granted by FAO under the W.F. Programme.

In October 1978 a Pancyprrian Agricultural show was organized with the participation of all Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The show was attended by about 13,000 local and foreign visitors.

IV. Measures taken to improve long-term production

The Government of Cyprus has been initiating a number of long-term projects for increasing agricultural production. Some of them are large-scale projects which have been estimated to cost millions of United States dollars. The most important of long-term projects are:

1. Pitsillia Development Project

It is a big scale project which started in 1977. It provides for the agricultural and social development of Pitsillia which is a poor hilly area of 21,000 population living in 49 little communities. Per head annual income in the area was £129 in 1974 and it has been considered that after the completion of the project it will rise to £260.-

In the Agricultural Sector the project provides for:

- (i) the construction of a dam for the irrigation of 240 hectares for growing deciduous fruits, table vines, citrus, olives and almonds;
- (ii) drilling of boreholes for the irrigation of 765 hectares for growing some crops;
- (iii) the construction of soil conservation works over an area of 2,550 hectares;
- (iv) land consolidation on an area of 500 hectares;
- (v) construction of agricultural roads of a total length of 180 miles and the establishment of a small number of industrial units for meat and milk preservation, almond peeling and other purposes.

Total cost of the project has been estimated to be \$US 21 million. The Cyprus Government has already signed with the International Bank to make a loan of \$US 10 million.

## 2. Paphos Irrigation Project.

It is a big scale irrigation project, which provides for the irrigation of 5,100 hectares of land in the south-west part of Paphos District for growing citrus, table vines, avocados, early vegetables, bananas and other crops.

The construction of the project has been going on and the project provides for:

- (i) the construction of a big dam of 51 million tons capacity at Asprokremmos to be completed in 1981 for the irrigation of 2,400 hectares of land;
- (ii) the drilling of 24 boreholes along the riverbeds to be completed in 1979 (most of them have been completed), for the irrigation of 2,700 hectares of land;
- (iii) the construction of a main water canal from the dam and boreholes to the agricultural areas to be completed in 1979 (it has been completed);
- (iv) land consolidation in a number of rural communities; and
- (v) the construction of agricultural roads.

Total cost of the project has been estimated to \$US 60 million out of which the International Bank has provided Cyprus Government with a loan of \$US 12 million.

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3. Vassilikos-Pendaskinos Project

The project has been under study and it provides for:

- (i) The construction of two dams of 17 million m<sup>3</sup> and 15 million m<sup>3</sup> capacity for the irrigation of 1,200 hectares of land and for the supply of drinking water to Nicosia, Larnaca and Famagusta towns.
- (ii) The construction of two pumping stations and one water-distillation station (which will supply drinking water to the Nicosia town).

The feasibility study of the project was completed in 1977 and work on the finance and the technical preparations of the project has been going on.

4. Kourris Delta Project

The project has been under study and it provides for:

- (i) the drilling of boreholes; and
- (ii) the installation of improved irrigation system for the irrigation of 1,000 hectares of land, now under-irrigated due to water shortage.

The cost of the project has been estimated to be \$US 5.5 million.

5. The Southern Conveyor Project

The main objective of the project is the conveyance of water from areas with water surplus to areas with water shortage.

The project provides for the construction of a main water conveyor from Paphos to Limassol, Larnaca and Famagusta for irrigation and for drinking water supply.

The project is under study.

6. Polis Chrysochous Project

The project provides for the construction of a dam and water canals for the irrigation of 1,350 hectares of land in the valley of Polis Chrysochous.

The project is under study.

V. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry encourages the improvement in quality and efficiency of locally manufactured materials used in agriculture such as polythelene film for greenhouses and tunnels, Polythelene and P.V.C. irrigation pipes etc.

VI. Various standards for food products have been drafted by the Cyprus Organization for Standards and Control of Quality and are in force e.g. milk products, cereals, bread, edible oils, fruit juices, canned and prepacked foodstuffs etc.

The Quality and Price Control Service of the Ministry ensures fair distribution and reasonable prices for foodstuffs.

C. Right to adequate clothing.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry supports and promotes in various ways the local textile and clothing industries.

It should be mentioned here that manufacture has received a heavy blow as a result of the Turkish invasion against Cyprus and the continuing unlawful occupation by Turkey of 40 per cent of the territory of Cyprus.

Industries under Turkish occupation include -

- (i) Meat preparation
- (ii) Dairy industries
- (iii) Canning plants
- (iv) Grain milling and biscuit industries
- (v) Olive oil and vegetable oil plants
- (vi) Carob kibbling and fodder factories
- (vii) Textile, footwear and clothing units
- (viii) Brick and mosaic plants
- (ix) The entire lime plants
- (x) Steel pipes factories
- (xi) Plastic factories.

D. Right to Housing

Introduction:

The Government of Cyprus has long since recognized the right to housing as a major constituent in its social and economic policy. In this context the long-term objectives of the Government in the field of housing, contained in the Five-Year Plans prepared before 1974, were explicitly indicating the right all individuals have to adequate and decent housing.

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The period between independence (1960) and the Turkish invasion (1974) is profoundly marked with significant improvement in the housing conditions of all social classes. The housing indicators in Table 1 clearly demonstrate the gains achieved during that period of time.

Table 1

	1960		1971	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1. Average Number of rooms per dwelling	4.1	2.8	4.7	4.1
2. Persons per room	1.21	1.36	0.84	1.02
3. Bath/shower (per cent of dwelling with facility)	53	11	76	24
4. Piped water (per cent of dwelling with facility)	95	16	100	92

The main factor behind this satisfactory progress was the desire of the average Cypriot to build his own house, which was aided by rapidly increasing incomes. Cyprus has a long tradition and has maintained a strong private housing market. Under these circumstances, the Government had until 1974 no serious involvement in the supply of housing, except in providing the right socio-economic framework under which market forces could work satisfactorily. <sup>1/</sup>

This momentum, which lasted for over 15 years, and was steadily leading towards accomplishment of one of the most important individual rights, that is the right to housing, came to a sudden end in July 1974, when Turkey invaded Cyprus. The economic, social and humanitarian consequences of the invasion have been tremendous, causing immeasurable misery and hardship to thousands of people. It is sufficient to point out, in relation to housing that Turkey has forcibly

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<sup>1/</sup> Despite the generally satisfactory situation, before 1974 demonstrated by the fact that housing investments represented as much as 35 per cent of total gross fixed capital formation, there were certain marginal problems which the Government was contemplating to tackle by introducing policies designed to help towards more socially equitable distribution of new housing formation among all competing economic groups of the population. Financial and land policies as well as a more active role in the supply of low-cost housing were among the policies the Government intended to introduce, but had not the time to do so because of the 1974 events.

displaced 200,000 Greek Cypriots (i.e. one third of the island's population) from their houses, and occupied about 40 per cent of the territory of the Republic. Furthermore the resources under occupation have been proportionally larger than the area occupied by the Turkish troops. All sectors of the economy suffered a serious setback, but the sector most severely hit was the construction industry, with serious repercussions on the housing market.

In the occupied areas there were 67,468 houses, of which as many as 58,600 were owned by the 200,000 displaced persons. These people having been deprived of their homes and all sources of income, came to the area under the control of the Republic to seek, among other things, accommodation which was not available at the time, and is not even now for most of them, despite the effort of the Government. In the first instance the refugees were obliged to live under the tents, in multiple occupation of dwellings under conditions of overcrowding, habitation of unfinished and unsuitable houses etc. It is easy to imagine the deterioration in housing conditions which occurred as a consequence of the Turkish invasion. Two years after the invasion, that is in 1976, there were more than 25,000 displaced families deserving immediate housing rehabilitation. Also the housing conditions of non-displaced, as a consequence of pressure on existing stock, decline in incomes and housing investments, had deteriorated considerably. In 1978 it was estimated that the gap between housing needs and the available stock was more than 33,000 houses, with the prospect to be reduced late during 1981 to about 24,000 to 27,000.

As a result of these events the right to housing has suffered a serious regress, because Turkey not only alienated 200,000 people from their legitimate houses, but also put a halt to an otherwise strong private housing market. Investments in housing, in the period after the invasion, under unfavourable expectations, uncertainty and seriously limited financial and real resources dropped to the lowest ever recorded point.

Faced with all sorts of problems, which were constantly cropping up causing intractable difficulties in the humanitarian relief effort, and constrained by limited financial and real resources <sup>2/</sup> the Government was called upon to accommodate the 200,000 displaced persons. As mentioned above, housing provision in Cyprus was, in the period before 1974, a private concern. Government, therefore, at that period of time was lacking the organizational institutions to cope with the problem.

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<sup>2/</sup> In relation to the construction industry, it has been estimated that no less than 70 per cent of the sector's resources - machinery, raw materials, plants producing materials, etc. - have been left in the occupied parts of Cyprus.

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and collective agreements designed to promote the right to housing, and relevant court decisions

In Cyprus, with its long tradition of private housing market, there are no specific laws and regulations designed to promote the right to housing. Of course there was the Housing Law which required the Director of the Department of Town Planning and Housing to regularly review the housing situation and accordingly take measures to improve the housing conditions. Measures envisaged could be general policies to promote efficiency in the market, enhance the opportunities to adequate housing of certain groups of people, and the erection of low-cost houses for low-income groups, for whom a limited number of houses were built before 1974. The constitution of the Republic also enables the Government to acquire land by compulsory acquisition for the construction of low-cost houses.

Certain Trade Unions, such as the Civil Servants Trade Unions Bank's Employees Union, Teacher's Union and Public Utilities Union, etc., have for some time now been operating co-operative building societies which provide to their members a limited number of housing loans. These co-operatives are funded either by members' savings or co-operative Central Bank: these arrangements are hardly collective agreements and their impact is limited even among their members.

2. Information on the measures taken, including specific programmes, subsidies and tax incentives aimed at expanding housing construction to meet the housing needs of all categories of the population, particularly low-income families

To cope with the massive housing problem that the Government has inherited as a result of the Turkish invasion, various housing programmes have been launched since 1975, and are still continuing. The details of these government funded programmes have as follows:

- (i) Erection of Housing Estates. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, in the time period between 1975 and early 1979, announced the construction of about 11,000 residential units in comprehensively designed housing estates. Architectural and lay-out plans are prepared by the Department of Town Planning and Housing which is also responsible for supervising the works carried out by private building companies who undertake the building of the houses. Housing Estates usually include between 200-400 houses, and are built close to the built-up areas of towns in order to facilitate easy access to urban employment and services. The residential units involved are designed to meet acceptable standards of amenity, comfort and hygiene and are of one, two and three bedrooms in one, two and three storey block of flats, terrace houses and a small number of semi-detached units. Electricity, water and roads are standard facilities, but also more services, such as commercial and community centres, educational facilities, health clinics, open spaces, play grounds, etc., are provided.

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Between 1975 and mid-1979 about 6,000 units of this programme have been completed and handed over to about 29,000 displaced persons. The remaining 5,000 units, most of which are under construction, will be completed, in stages, by early 1982, in which case the total number of beneficiaries will be increased to about 50,000 displaced.

The Government commitment for this programme so far is in the region of about £C 65 million, of which £C 28 million have been spent until mid-1979. It is expected that as much as 30 per cent of the total cost of the programme will be financed from aid, through the UNHCR, without which many of the displaced now living under satisfactory housing would not have been able to do so.

Finally, these houses are handed to refugees, who are accorded the right to retain them, free of charge, until their return to their legitimate houses.

- (ii) Self-help housing project on government-owned land: under this programme, the Government decided during the period between 1975 and 1979, the erection of about 8,500 houses. For the requirements of this project the Government acquires land which is developed into building sites which are usually located in rural areas, close to existing rural settlements, but also within commuting distances from towns, so as, whenever necessary, to facilitate the movement to urban employment and services. Lay-out and architectural plans are prepared by the Department of Town Planning and Housing, which in preparing them takes into account generally acceptable housing standards. Under this project refugees selected for accommodation are allotted a site, free of charge, a grant-in-aid ranging between £C 2,300 and £C 3,000 according to the size of the unit to be built. The grant has been assessed to cover the cost of all the materials, while labour is expected to be the contribution of the displaced concerned.

Until the end of the first half of 1979, 3,750 houses were completed thus providing decent housing to about 17,500 displaced, while by the end of 1981, when all units are expected to be completed, the total number of beneficiaries is estimated to increase to about 40,000 people. At present there are about 2,000 units under construction, while another 2,750 will start to be constructed soon. The total cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of about £C 25 million, of which £C 19 million will be provided by the Government towards the displaced persons in the form of grants. The remaining £C 6 million will be the government expenditure towards acquisition and development of land. The UNHCR contribution towards this project will be about 15 per cent of the total cost.

- (iii) Self-help housing project on privately owned land: this programme operates in favour of refugees who acquire private land but are not able to build their houses completely on their own. Assistance under the project consists of a grant-in-aid and a loan. The total amount per beneficiary varies between £C 2,250 and £C 3,000, depending on the size of the house to be built. The Grant is as much as 55 per cent of the assistance, the remaining being a loan which is paid back over a period of 10 years at a rate of interest of 3 per cent per annum.

Until June 1979, the Government approved under this project the construction of 6,000 houses of which 3,000 have been completed and provided adequate housing to about 13,000 people. Completion of all the units involved is expected by early 1981, when the number of beneficiaries will increase to about 27,000. The total cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £C 15 million of which £C 7 million was the government expenditure until mid-1979 (loan plus grant-in-aid).

- (iv) Repair and improvement of Turkish Cypriot houses: The Government of the Republic of Cyprus instead of leaving Turkish Cypriot houses, in the area under its control, to gradually fall into disrepair has undertaken the responsibility to properly repair and maintain them, so as to render them suitable for habitation. What the Government has in mind is on the one hand to avoid waste of social capital and on the other to increase the supply of housing to refugees, to whom these houses are allotted with the understanding that they will retain them until the return of their legal owners.

In the period between 1975 and 1979 about 6,000 houses have been repaired, of which about 5,000 are inhabited by 22,000 displaced. The total expenditure for the programme until June 1979 is estimated to be about £C 4.3 million.

All programmes referred to above are operating in favour of refugees only, who, under the present circumstances are the group of people most deserving to receive assistance. They are the people who suddenly became homeless taking cover under tents, and with relatively limited prospects of professional rehabilitation. Furthermore, selection of displaced families to be housed under a government programme is made in accordance with criteria, pertaining to income, housing conditions, etc., which low-income families could meet.

Despite the massive programme which is being carried out by the Government, and the satisfactory revival of the private building industry, Cyprus is still unable to make true the right to housing for all its people. There are groups of non-displaced low-income people, whose housing conditions have been affected by the Turkish invasion to an extent that only government assistance could render them able to adequate housing. This problem is acknowledged by the Government, and certain programmes and policies have been designed to promote the

opportunities of these people to adequate housing. But with serious financial as well as real resource limitations, and with the refugee housing problem half way through its solution, it is unlikely that the Government would be able to extend assistance of the magnitude required.

As mentioned earlier, Cyprus in the period before the 1974 events had no serious housing problem. It was the Turkish invasion that has given rise to a really enormous housing problem that could not be contained in the foreseeable future. Under the circumstances, the only solution to the Island's housing problem is the return of refugees to their legitimate houses. Otherwise Cyprus, no matter what the Government effort is, will be in difficulty to safeguard and promote the right to housing for all its people.

3. Information on the use of scientific and technical knowledge of international co-operation for developing and improving housing construction, including safety measures against earthquakes, floods and other natural hazards

Research in these fields is not carried out in Cyprus to a significant extent. Houses are usually constructed with the usual reinforced concrete frames, on suitable foundation, with hollow clay blocks infillings that are plastered and painted. Since the housing market in Cyprus is rather limited in scale and in view of the fact that floods and other natural hazards are not important parameters in the construction equation, further research has not been considered essential.

More recently the Government embarked on the industrialized system method for erecting low-cost houses, mainly to cut down the time required to complete the refugee housing estate programmes. However, the results from this new method of construction so far, in terms of time and cost, cannot be considered as very promising.

Finally, the Government has recently set up a technical committee to study the seismic effects on structures in Cyprus and to prepare minimum standards for safety in the construction of buildings.

4. Information on measures taken or envisaged to solve the special problems of housing, water supply and sanitary conditions in rural areas

In Cyprus, there are no special problems of housing that are inherent to rural areas. Although the quality of housing differs, generally sanitary as well as other conditions are fairly satisfactory in urban as well as in rural areas, and measures taken along these lines are designed for the whole of Cyprus, where the same standards are applicable.

Water supply is fairly satisfactory since there are no particular problems with regard to its quantity and quality and all houses, urban as well as rural are provided with inside running water. Sanitary conditions are also satisfactory and all houses are provided with individual sewage systems, i.e. septic tanks and absorption pits. Also noxious industries are gradually located in specially designed zones where they cannot affect residential areas. Finally, modern baths or showers and flush toilets are standard facilities in urban houses, though not in rural areas, but the trend is towards improvement, since all new houses are provided with such facilities, which are also installed in gradually modernized houses.

Reference should also be made to certain government plans which, if successful, they will help towards diverting resources to housing investments for low and middle income groups. The Government after long study and research, in co-operation with United Nations housing experts, has approved draft legislation concerning the establishment in Cyprus of a Housing Finance Agency and a Land Development Corporation. It is expected that the relevant bills, submitted to the House of Representatives for approval, will be enacted into law by the end of 1979 and soon after both agencies will be set up. Their main function is to make land and loans available to people who otherwise would not have been able to obtain housing through the private market. The impact that the Land Development Corporation as well as Housing Finance Agency will have on the right to housing is apparent, but the scale of their operation at the beginning will be conditional on government funds which, under the circumstances, cannot be expected to be of the magnitude required. Both institutions are expected to become, in the long term, self financing, and play a much more important role in allocating resources among the groups of people now opted out of private housing market arrangements.

5. Measures taken for the protection of tenants  
such as rent control and legal guarantees

The main provisions with regard to rent control are contained in the Rent of Immovable Property for the Housing of Refugees, Law of 1978, which replaced earlier emergency rent control laws relating to the displaced population. In accordance with the law, a Rent Authority has been established under the Ministry of Justice with powers to:

1. fix rents paid by refugees,
2. register property rented by refugees,
3. pay rent allowances for low income refugees,
4. provide guarantees to owners for payment of rent by refugees,
5. requisition property where necessary; and
6. act as a court in settling disputes.

The main purpose of the law is to protect refugees from being exploited, speed up legal procedures, control rents and secure the access of refugees to the existing housing market.

With regard to the regulation of rents for tenants who are not displaced, there exists another law, which provides for the courts to regulate rent increases for ordinary tenants.

Cyprus, with its traditionally free housing market, introduced the statutory provisions outlined above to cope with the emergency situation created by the 1974 Turkish invasion. However, though justified, there is some doubt as to their effectiveness in the short-run, and the possible negative effects that they may have on housing formation and prices in the long terms.

6. Statistical and other available data on the realization of the right to housing

Housing Indicators, 1960, 1971 and 1976

	1960		1971		1976	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1. Number of rooms per dwelling	4.1	2.8	4.7	4.1	3.2	2.5
2. Persons per room	1.21	1.36	0.84	1.02	1.40	1.64
3. Percentage of dwelling with bath/shower	53	11	76	24	73	30
4. Percentage of dwelling with kitchen (inside the house)	74	34	91	68	92	74
5. Percentage of dwelling with piped water	95	16	100	92	93	67
6. Electricity	92	22	100	87	97	87

Source: 1960 Census, 1971 Household Survey, 1976 Census.

These figures indicate clearly the progress made between 1960 and 1971. Housing conditions became even better in 1974, but deteriorated sharply immediately after July 1974, when Turkey displaced and deprived 200,000 people from their houses. There are no statistical data for 1978 to assess the impact of the Government and private housing programmes on the housing conditions though if one takes into account that in 1978 there was a shortage of about 33,000 houses, it is fair to conclude that Cyprus did not even catch up with the 1971 situation.

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Government Housing Provision 1975-Mid-1979

Government Housing Programme	Number of Housing Units involved	Completed units 1975-Mid-1979	Expend. 1975-Mid-1979 C£'000	Total Expend. £'000
Housing estates	11,000	6,000	28,000	65,000
Self-help housing project on government land	8,500	3,750	13,000	25,000
Self-help housing on private land	6,500	3,000	7,000	15,000
Turkish-Cypriot houses repair programme	6,000	5,000	4,300	7,000
	31,500	17,750	52,300	112,000

As indicated in the table, the Government of Cyprus in its effort to promote the right to adequate housing for its people has made available 17,750 houses during the period of 1975-mid-1979. This number will be increased by 1981 to 31,500. However, primarily because of the magnitude of the problem as well as because of demographic changes, relating to increase in population, the problem still remains. The only solution is the return of refugees to their houses, otherwise Cyprus will not be able to adequately accommodate its people in the foreseeable future, no matter the effort which is being made.

III. ARTICLE 12: RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

A. (Principal laws, administrative regulations, collective agreements etc.)

(a) Constitutional Provisions

Article 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus (which safeguards the right to a decent standard of living and social security).

Articles 6 and 28 of the Constitution (which provide for equality before the law and the administration).

(b) Legislation relating to matters of health (statutory regulations have been issued where these are envisaged by the basic law).

Contagious Diseases Law, Chapter 247.

Public Health (Antimalaria) Law, Chapter 256.

Public Health (Burial and Exhumation) Law, Chapter 257.

Public Health (Marsh Areas) Law, Chapter 258.

Public Health (Village Areas) Law, Chapter 259.

Quarantine Law, Chapter 260.

Sales of food and Drugs Law, Chapter 261.

Factories Law, Chapter 134.

Corneal Grafting Law No. 48/76.

Municipal Corporations Law, Chapters 240 and 241 (public health provisions of these Laws).

Villages (Administration and Improvement) Law, Chapter 243 (public health provisions of this Law).

Streets and Buildings Regulation Law, Chapter 96.

Factories Law, Chapter 134.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Law, Chapter 254.

The Medical Registration Law, Chapter 250.

The Dentist Registration Law, Chapter 249.

The Nursing and Midwifery Law, Chapter 253.

The Dangerous Drugs Law, Chapter 248.

The Psychotropic Substances Law of 1979.

The Private Hospitals Control Law, Chapter 255.

The Social Insurance Law of 1976 (provisions for free medical treatment in certain cases).

(c) Administrative regulations and decisions

1. The Government Medical Institutions (Charges and fees) Regulations, 1975.
2. Council of Ministers Decisions relating to the provision of medical care to persons displaced by the Turkish forces of invasion in 1974.

(d) Collective agreements

There are many collective agreements between private employers and their employees providing for the financing of the medical expenses of the employees out of medical insurance funds created through joint contributions.

Government employees have special agreements with the Government as part of their terms and conditions of service. Medical care for such employees at Government Health Institutions is provided generally free of charge.

B. Information on the matters set out below

(1) Measures taken to reduce the stillbirth-rate and infant mortality.

The most important measures taken over the years with a view to reducing the stillbirth-rate and infant mortality can best be stated under the following broad headings:

(a) Care of expectant mothers:

The Government Health Services provide properly staffed maternity centres at the general hospitals while in the rural areas maternity and related services are provided at the rural health centres. Where necessary, the mother is referred to an obstetrician or other specialist for examination and necessary treatment. Expectant mothers may choose to resort to private obstetricians. Few cases resort to rural centres either for antenatal services or for delivery. Cyprus being a small country, provides very convenient access of the rural population to the maternity services of the urban areas.

(b) Delivery and care of the new-born:

The gradual staffing of the government and private medical institutions with sufficient and properly trained personnel, (doctors, nurses, midwives and health visitors) and the expansion and improvement of maternity services from the point of view of hospital beds and equipment has had a considerable impact on the health of the expectant mother and her child. Regular antenatal follow-up, proper and adequate nutrition on medical advice, satisfactory environmental sanitation, easy access to the hospital coupled with high-quality service at the time

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of delivery have all contributed towards the reduction of hazards for the mother and child to the minimum. Recent statistics indicate that the rate of stillbirths has dropped to 9 per 1,000 births. Maternal mortality has dropped to 0.6 per 1,000 births.

The new-born as a rule is cared for in the hospital along with the mother. Before leaving the hospital, the mother is given instructions and guidance on all aspects of infant care as well as on matters which have a bearing on her own health. After leaving the hospital, the mother and infant are attended either at the government maternity and infant welfare centres (in the urban or rural areas) or by private doctors of their choice.

(c) Infant welfare:

Up to at least the age of one year, the infant's health is catered for at the government infant welfare centres, in urban and rural areas or, if the parents so choose, by private paediatricians. Vaccinations against disease are standard practice and due to the high level of literacy prevailing in Cyprus coupled with health education and easy access to urban or rural centres or private practitioners, one can hardly find an infant that is not vaccinated.

Other measures or factors that have contributed to the reduction of infant mortality are the satisfactory level of nutrition, increased awareness of the people about factors that affect child health and the high standard of environmental sanitation. General socio-economic development has contributed towards the reduction of infant mortality.

Infant mortality rate is now as low as 18.6 per one thousand live births.

(2) Measures taken for the healthy development of children.

All the measures that have been stated under the preceding heading have a direct bearing on the healthy development of children in Cyprus. Furthermore, in the case of school children, special arrangements have been made for regular examination of all the school population so that possible physical or mental handicaps can be identified at an early stage and remedial action taken in time. This school health service is provided by the State free of charge. Close collaboration with the schoolteachers is maintained by the medical teams concerned.

Education in Cyprus up to the age of 15 is free (compulsory up to the age of 12). The education programme itself and all the related after-school activities, are important factors contributing towards the healthy development of children.

Special care is taken of children who have a physical or mental ailment or handicap. Special institutions such as the Blind School, the Deaf School, schools for mentally retarded children, and special institutions for socially-maladjusted children or children deprived of a normal home life, have been established in order to help not only with the education but also with the promotion of the social, physical and mental health of the children concerned.

Another important measure for the healthy development of children, deprived of a normal home life is the placement of such children with foster families or in children's homes run by the State.

(3) Measures taken to protect and improve all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene, to prevent pollution etc.

Environmental sanitation has reached a very high standard. It can be stated that there is practically no environmental factor that poses any serious danger for public health.

Safe water supplies (piped water) is available in urban and rural areas. Only 5 per cent of the rural communities do not have house-to-house water supplies at present and it is hoped that in the not distant future, all these communities will have house-to-house water connexions. The water supplies are under constant observation and chlorination is applied where it is considered advisable. There has been no problem of drinking water pollution in recent decades.

Cyprus faces no water pollution in general since it has no lakes or perennial rivers. Water in small wells, small ponds, and in dry river-beds is sprayed systematically as part of the anti-malaria control programme. (Cyprus has been completely free from malaria since 1951 and the anti-malaria control programme has as its objective the prevention of the re-introduction of the disease.)

There are satisfactory arrangement for refuse collection and disposal both in the urban and in the rural areas and plans are being prepared for their further improvement.

Sewage disposal is based on individual house systems of standards approved by the competent authorities at the time of issuing the building permit. Control is exercised by the local authorities under the guidance of the central Government Health Services to ensure that the systems are functioning satisfactorily. Factories (small-scale industrial places) are also subject to these controls to ensure safety for workers and the environment. In the capital of Cyprus, Nicosia, a central sewage disposal system has been constructed and it is expected that it will start operating in the near future (after overcoming the same problems that have arisen as a result of the occupation by the Turkish forces of invasion of the place on which the treatment plant for the system was to be established). A second system is being planned for Limassol town and satellites.

Cyprus has no heavy industries or other industries which might cause significant air pollution. Small factories and other industrial concerns are subject to regulations which provide for the minimizing of smoke, dust and smell. The Motor Traffic Regulations impose a responsibility on car owners to ensure that smoke emitted by the car exhausts are kept to the minimum. Although Cyprus still enjoys a clear atmosphere, the State authorities are keeping a constant watch over the situation and plans are being worked out for a more systematic ganging of the air.

Factories and other work-places, including mines and quarries are subject to regular inspection to ensure not only that the working environment is generally safe but that it provided adequate facilities and amenities for the workers.

- (4) Comprehensive schemes and specific measures, including vaccination programmes, to prevent, treat and control epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases and accidents in urban and rural areas.

Cyprus faces no serious threats of epidemics but in the event of an outbreak there are plans for taking immediate action, including emergency vaccination, issue of directives and guidance on essential preventive measures, treatment of the people that may contact the disease and, generally, for the prevention of the spread of the disease. As stated earlier in this report, infants and children are immunized regularly. Furthermore people intending to travel abroad, are immunized against cholera, typhoid fever, yellow fever and smallpox (depending on the countries they intend to visit). Immunization at government health centres is generally free.

Persons employed in mines and quarries and who are exposed to dust are subject to regular medical examination (including x-ray chest screening) to forestall pneumoconiosis and other chest diseases. Occupational accidents are minimized as a result of the close and regular control exercised by the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance over the working environment at all work-places.

Accidents of all kinds are usually handled in the Casualty Departments of the Government General Hospitals and in Government Rural Health Centres. An ambulance service is available to facilitate the transport of the victims. No charge is made for the services offered in the Casualty Departments of the Government Hospitals - irrespective of the nature of the injury or illness and of the financial or other status of the patient.

A special medical, social and economic problem that has been faced in Cyprus is Thalassaemia or Cooley's Anaemia (a hereditary disease). A two-pronged comprehensive programme has been in operation the aim of which is: (a) to prevent the birth of children which are likely to have the disease and (b) to provide all the necessary conservative

treatment (regular medical examination of the victims of the disease, blood transfusions, control of iron accumulation in the body, etc). The operation of the programme is very costly, especially its second prong, but the entire cost is borne by the State.

For the treatment of patients in general, there are medical institutions (hospitals, rural health centres etc.) operated by the Government Health Services and private medical practitioners and clinics. The patient can make use of either, at his own option.

(5) Comprehensive plans and specific measures to ensure to all age groups and all other categories of the population adequate health services.

Over-all responsibility for health care in Cyprus (promotion of health and prevention of disease) rests with the Government. Reference is made in this connexion to Article 9 of the Cyprus Constitution regarding decent standards of living. In the field of prevention, services are provided by the State both through the central administration and through local authorities. Such services, include immunization, sanitation, quality control of food-stuffs, drug control, regular examination of population exposed to special health hazards, control of the work environment, etc. Within the same field maternal and child health services and school health services are provided by the Ministry of Health.

No charges are made for the above services and no citizen is excluded from their enjoyment.

The provision of these services is regulated by various pieces of legislation decisions of the Council of Ministers and by internal administrative regulations reflecting the policy and practice of the Central Administration.

Regarding curative medicine, services are offered both by Government Medical Institutions and by the private medical sector, the standards of the services offered by the private sector being subject to State regulation. The citizen maintains the right of choice to use the one or the other sector and also the choice of institution or medical practitioner, subject only to compliance with essential formalities. To ensure that no citizen is deprived of medical treatment on economic grounds the Government Medical Institutions offer their services free of charge to all citizens whose income is below a certain level, that level being much higher than the subsistence level as this term is internationally understood. Furthermore they offer their services at reduced rates (almost nominal) to citizens with higher incomes but who do not belong to the high income groups. Handicapped persons, refugees and persons suffering from certain categories of diseases which demand continuous and costly treatment (e.g. Cooley's Anaemia, renal failure, mental illness etc.) are practically exempted from any charge irrespective of their incomes.

In addition to the above, through special agreements between employers and employees or between special groups and the Government, free medical treatment is provided to groups of employees, irrespective of their income.

It is reckoned that approximately 75 per cent of the total population are entitled to free medical treatment.

In the case of patients who cannot be treated adequately in Cyprus, there is in force a scheme for their dispatch to other countries at government expense. The individual patient concerned may be required to contribute towards the cost of such treatment depending on his financial situation and his needs.

The arrangements in force are fairly satisfactory and it can be said that the health needs of the population, irrespective of age, status or place of residence are adequately served. The Government Plans for Economic and Social Development envisaged the further development and strengthening of the existing arrangements.

(6) Main features of existing arrangements for the provision of medical care and methods of financing them.

As stated previously, the cost of providing preventive services is borne by the Government and the funds needed come from the general revenues of the Government.

In the case of curative services, lower income groups and other special groups (e.g. persons in government employment) or persons suffering from certain diseases (e.g. thalassaemia, renal failure) are entitled to free medical care in Government Medical Institutions. The cost of running these institutions (and the capital costs for new institutions or for the development of existing ones) is borne by the general Budget of the Government. Those persons who are in the higher income groups who choose to make use of the government institutions pay charges and fees for services rendered which are generally lower than those charged by the private medical sector. The middle income groups pay only nominal charges and fees for services rendered in government institutions.

Some employees in the private sector have within the context of collective agreements, their own medical care schemes (with a fund to which the employees and the employers contribute an agreed amount). The medical expenses of the employees concerned are met from the funds of these schemes.



C. Statistical and other data

1. Infant mortality, 1978:

17.1 per 1,000 live births.

2. Number of doctors, dentists, nurses, 1978:

Doctors:	Government	212	
	Private	293	
		<hr/> 500	1,004 persons per doctor
Dentists:	Government	35	
	Private	143	
		<hr/> 178	2,848 persons per dentist
Nurses:	Government	1,534	
	Private	253	
		<hr/> 1,787	284 persons per nurse

3. Number of hospitals and hospital beds, 1978:

Government:

4 District Hospitals	933	
4 Special Hospitals	946	
Rural Health Centres	82	
	<hr/> 1,961	160 persons per bed

Private:

91 clinics	1,199	
	<hr/> 3,160	One nurse per 1.8 beds

4. Attendances at the Government Hospitals and other Government Health Institutions, 1977:

(a) Out-patients (all types):

Out-patients attendances, (incl. physiotherapy, chest clinic, M.C.H. Centre, dressings and injections and dental)	1,386,997
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(b) In-patients:

<u>Number of in-patients</u>	<u>Number of hospital days</u>
35,766	586,183

(Note: figures for 1978 not yet available)

It should finally be stated that the sector of health services, which is undoubtedly of primary importance for the realization of the right to physical and mental health, did not escape the catastrophic results of the Turkish invasion. The major impact of the Turkish occupation is being felt by the Public Health Services which have been seriously disrupted. Two (out of six) major District Hospitals (Famagusta and Kyrenia) fell to the invading forces with most of their equipment left behind. Even more disrupting are the effects on the Rural Health Services with 8 out of 17 such centres falling within the occupied areas, representing about 38 per cent of total bed capacity in the areas. Furthermore, the country's largest hospital establishment, the Psychiatric Hospital, suffered extensive damage because of aerial bombing.

The physical damage as described above is only one aspect of the effects on the health situation in Cyprus, the most important being the public health hazards that have been created by the refugee situation.

In the preceding paragraphs the Government of the Republic has stated the difficulties caused by the Turkish invasion and the continuing unlawful occupation in the progress towards the achievement of the full realization of the rights covered by Articles 10-12 of the present Covenant.

Evidently the Turkish invasion against Cyprus and the unlawful occupation of the said area of Cyprus constitutes a violation of the right of the people of Cyprus to self-determination as defined in Article 1 of the Covenant i.e. to freely determine their political status, pursue their economic, social and cultural development as well as to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources.

Turkey continues her unlawful military occupation of the said area of Cyprus despite the repeated General Assembly and Security Council resolutions which call upon States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus, demand the immediate withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from Cyprus, call for the cessation of all foreign interference in its affairs, for respect of the human rights of all Cypriots and the instituting of urgent measures for the voluntary return of the refugees to their homes in safety.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, while striving for the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant to all individuals living in the government controlled area, regrets to state that it is still prevented from doing so in the occupied area over which Turkey continues to exercise full and effective control and authority through the force of arms.

! The inhabitants of this area, Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike are denied their rights guaranteed by the present Covenant. The Greek Cypriots still remaining there (about 1,000) continue to be forcibly expelled by the Turkish occupying forces from their homes and lands which continue to be distributed to settlers massively imported from Turkey.

In accordance with Articles 16 (1) and 17 (2) of the Covenant the Government of the Republic of Cyprus has endeavoured to state in this report the real situation of the human rights recognized in Articles 10-12 and also to state the factors and difficulties affecting the degree of their fulfilment. It is quite obvious that the main factor which makes it absolutely impossible for the Government to fulfil her obligations to all individuals and throughout the whole territory of Cyprus is the continuing unlawful occupation of a great part of it by Turkey.

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