Infinite Corridor Posters Push Fascism for Cyprus

Guest Column by Kerem Ulunen '97, Lorent M. Talgar '97, and members of the Turkish Students Association

We would like to express our sincere grief and astonishment over the recent posting along the Infinite Corridor concerning the alleged Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 and unjust criticisms of Turkey's Cyprus policy. As the Turkish Students Association, we have asserted many times that posting of this type is very malicious and serves no positive cause — especially when it is a totally unilateral and inaccurate misrepresentation of the facts.

Our reaction to the attitude taken in the board by those who prepared it (who have so effectively succeeded in concealing their identities) was one of terror and great grief. We were shocked and just as much disappointed to find that the contents of the board were mostly centered upon the ideas and assertions of "Enosis," a fascist policy of the late 1950s and the 1960s, calling upon the unification of the island with Greece, completely ignoring the existence and the true and democratic existence and rights of a Turkish population present on the island.

"Enosis" is a policy of the Greek Cypriots which emerged in the late 1940s as a combination of the influence of the extreme communist groups in Greece and Cyprus; and the consistent propaganda of the fascist factions in the Greek army and the exterior to the Cypriot community.

Enosis reached its peak support from the Greek population on the island during the late 1950s and the 1960s when it was the basis for many plans and suggestions submitted to the United Nations and the United Kingdom (which had control over the island until 1999) by the Greek side. Due to its obvious fascist content and orientation, and its extreme and unacceptable negligence of the democratic rights of the Turkish population, Enosis-based plans were consistently refused by the United Nations, until the Zurich and London Agreements of February 1959 which "officially banned Enosis" for the island.

The Cypriot side unilaterally denounced these agreements in 1964 which resulted in the 1964 crisis between Greece and Turkey. Another attempt to keep Enosis alive was made after the military coup in Greece on April 21, 1967, which further drove the negotiations into a blind alley. Quoting from Constantin Kolias who was immediately appointed prime minister of Greece after the coup, the Greek side was "to achieve Enosis via peaceful negotiations." [Republic of Turkey, Bulletin of the Ministry of External Affairs, April 1967]

Enosis used to be the essence of the fascist dreams that were about to become reality prior to the Turkish military interventions in 1974. Since then, all negotiations between the two sides have been haunted by the terrifying thought and vision of this fascist policy, which today, in an age of democracy, tolerance, and compromise seems more obsolete and unrealized than ever.

A further point of view which has surprised and just as well amused us was the readings that the creators of the board had unsuccessfully tried to draw between Cyprus and the unification of Germany. After tons and tons of fascist propaganda and elaboration of facts