

**POMAK-PSEKA CONFERENCE**  
**AUGUST 24-28, 2009 – NICOSIA, CYPRUS**

Honorable Members of the Republic of Cyprus

Distinguished Guests

Dear Friends of PSEKA and POMAK

July 20, 1974 is a date that we will never forget.

The course of our history changed dramatically, setting us on the path of restoring human rights, justice, religious freedom and sovereignty to our beloved Cyprus.

For me, there is another date that has pivotal meaning: October 13, 1974.

On this date in Chicago His Beatitude Archbishop Makarios of blessed memory shared the plight of our fellow Hellenic Cypriots to over 2,000 participants at the first ever banquet of the United Hellenic American Congress.

His humble demeanor, yet passionate words inspired us. He encouraged us to act in unity, paraphrasing President Lincoln, that a “house divided cannot stand.”

Up until that point, the true forces that had shaped us as Hellenes were not always united, but the situation in Cyprus clearly demonstrated the need for real unity.

For 35 years it has compelled us to act in unity, which I am proud to say we have done so. There is strength in numbers and we have grown.

In the halls of Government in every corner of the world, we have carried our message about the injustices that Cyprus continues to face. The response has been overwhelming and progress has been made.

Cyprus itself has taken the initiative. Cyprus' membership in the European Union has played a significant role in propelling the country onto the world stage.

It is the only country in the Euro area that continues to show positive economic growth in 2009, escaping the effects of the global recession.

Cyprus has distinguished itself as country open to world commerce and equally important it has supported humanitarian efforts, particularly during the crisis in Lebanon.

Cypriots leaders are working diligently to unify the country into one independent, sovereign nation. I commend President Christofias and his Cabinet of Ministers for their tremendous efforts. We must continue to unify our efforts and support them.

My dear friends, I am happy to be with you.

We will continue our support of Cyprus with all of the means we have at our disposal.

I echo the words that I spoke on October 13, 1974:

“We shall continue our support until Cyprus is once again free to determine its own life. Our Hellenic conscience requires it! Our humanity dictates it!”

My friends, I wish you a successful and meaningful conference.

I thank you and commend you for your untiring efforts.  
May freedom reign soon throughout all of Cyprus!