



MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
MR. GEORGE VASSILIOU

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Let me express deep appreciation for the initiative and the hard work of Dr. Takey Crist and all those who have contributed to the establishment of the Cyprus Museum in Jacksonville North Carolina.

This Museum, the first of its kind in the United States, deserves the support of all who are familiar with Cyprus and its unique contribution to the civilization of mankind. Small though it may be, Cyprus has had a history and a culture stretching back to the 9th millenium B.C., which belong not only to its people but to the whole world.

The Cyprus Museum in Jacksonville N.C. does more than merely display the rich cultural and historical traditions of Cyprus. It is a living museum that reminds all of us of Cyprus's continuing struggle: to bring an end to the Turkish military occupation of almost 40 per cent of its territory and to restore the basic human rights of 200,000 Greek Cypriots who have been forced out of their homes by the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 and have become refugees in their own country.

The Cyprus Museum in Jacksonville makes the task of publicizing the cause of Cyprus among our American friends easier. It educates the American public and all visitors, and is a constant reminder that the ongoing violation of the fundamental political, cultural and human rights of Cypriots by Turkey must be terminated.

I urge all of you to extend a loving hand of support to the Cyprus Museum in Jacksonville. It represents the true face of Cyprus, a country that is currently engaged in a struggle for justice and freedom and, even more, for its very existence.-

January 1990

*George Vassiliou*