Adonis Christoforou

"PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE FROM THE RECENT HISTORY OF CYPRUS"



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Foreword by the Director of the Press and Information Office

The Press and Information Office is a government department that engages in activities covering a broad span from creation, communication, politics and diplomacy to information, awareness, society, the mass media, the Press and technology.

Nevertheless, the most significant task assigned to the Press and Information Office is to put together a record of our History, not only to preserve our cultural identity and collective memory but also to become the thread that ties the past to the present and the future of our land and its people.

Nothing can record history better than a photograph. Photography is the only art that can lend a tinge of eternity to an otherwise fleeting moment. Only a photograph can accurately capture a slice of reality available for reinterpretation; after all, each photograph by definition entails at least two persons: the photographer and the beholder.

From the place of the beholder, I extend my thanks to Adonis Christoforou for using his work to make us recognize our own selves as separate entities as well as bearers of a specific historicity and national identity. He invites us to acknowledge our collective memory, to firmly trace our historical and cultural lineage to the Greek and European ideals.

I extend congratulations to our associate, Adonis Christoforou, for being an excellent ambassador of the culture and civilization of this island and for making his mark on the safekeeping, promotion and creation of History and Culture.

French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson said that "to photograph is to put on the same line of sight the head, the eye and the heart".

I am truly happy that the first instalment of the "Photo Book" series launched by the Press and Information Office showcases the work of Adonis Christoforou; his very soul has been incorporated into the alignment of head, eye and heart.

Sophia A. Michaelides
PIO Director

Introduction

All the photographs featured in this publication were taken by way of the equipment and technology of a bygone era. They are all shot with photographic cameras which in many cases had neither a distance meter nor a light meter. They are all shot on film; most of them on 16mm film, the rest on 6x6cm film.

The negatives and slides have been kept in good storage conditions, and have therefore been spared attrition. Nevertheless, the passage of 30, 40 or even 60 years has taken its toll. The films were scraped and stained. Applying contemporary means, my friend and colleague Christos Ayiomamites has had them digitized, cleaned and processed. His contribution has been decisive and I dearly thank him for this. Over the past 18 months, as I was foraging for photographs for the album now in print on the 60th anniversary of the CYBC, over and again I visited the Photographic Archive of the Press and Information Office. What an impressive experience that was! The negatives are stored properly and scholars in search of specific materials have easy access to the Archive. Therefore, all the photographs included in this publication have been entrusted to the PIO for safekeeping and utilization.

This particular series of photographs was first exhibited in February 2018 at the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Strovolos. Ms Sophia Michaelides, Director of the PIO, willingly accepted our invitation to inaugurate the exhibition as a token of her interest in photography. This publication provides additional tangible proof of the significance Ms Michaelides attributes to these visual traces that aspire to connect the generations that were to the generations that will be. I am particularly indebted to her.

Adonis Christoforou

March 2018





Archbishop Makarios returns to Cyprus after the coup and the Turkish invasion. With him on the balcony of the Archbishopric, bombed during the coup, stands the Metropolitan of Pafos, the forthcoming Archbishop Chrysostomos. 07.12.1974

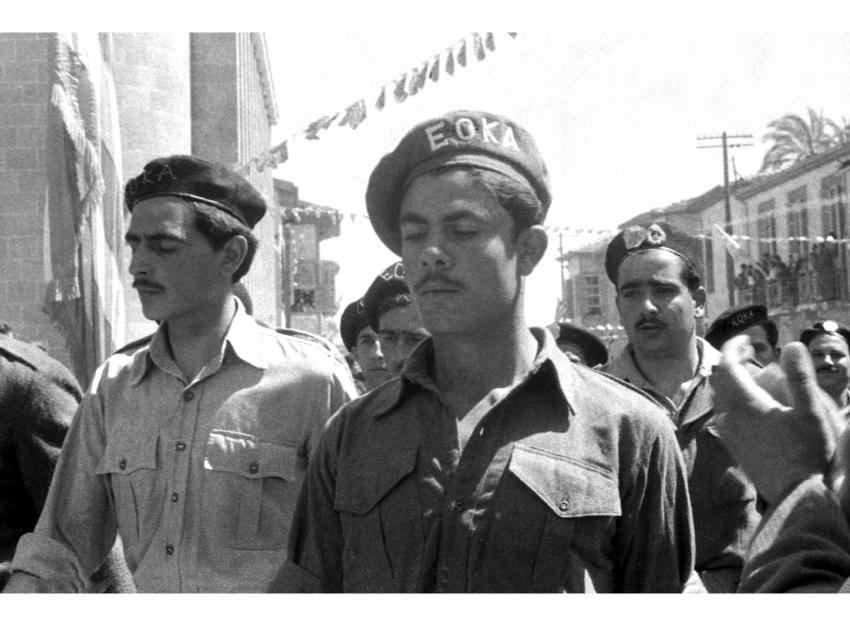


The gigantic statue of Archbishop Makarios dominated the forecourt of the Archbishopric from 1987 to 2008. November 1988





EOKA fighters on parade at Archbishop Kyprianos Square. 01.04.1960





EOKA fighters on parade. Nikos Koshis, forthcoming Minister of Interior and Defence, and Konialis, head of the old GSP stadium. Archbishop Kyprianos Square. 01.04.1960





The ELDYK flag. In the vicinity of Kolokoshis military camp outside Agios Dometios. 25.08.1960









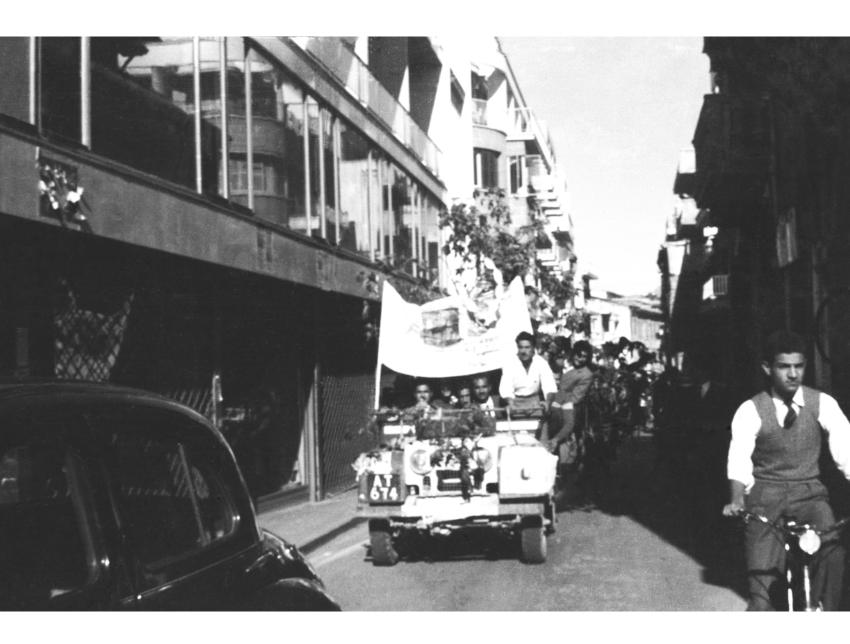
The Presidential Palace on fire. Coup d'état. 15.07.1974



The CYBC on fire. Coup d'état. 15.07.1974

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Poster of presidential candidate loannis Clerides with stems of 'kourtounia' castor oil plant for the traditional tea offered by the winner to the loser. Metaxas Square, later renamed Eleftheria Square. December 1959



IERAX Greek training ship at the Port of Ammochostos. 27.08.1960



IERAX Greek training ship at the Port of Ammochostos. 27.08.1960



Source for the captions of the 1972 period: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – FINDINGS ON THE CYPRUS FILE, Lefkosia 2011



Source for the captions of the 1972 period: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – FINDINGS ON THE CYPRUS FILE, Lefkosia 2011

A parade under adverse conditions. The junta rules in Greece. In Cyprus, EOKA II operates.

One month before the parade,
Metropolitans Gennadios of Pafos,
Anthimos of Kition and Kyprianos of Keryneia called for the resignation of President Makarios.
The church crisis breaks out. At a secret meeting held one week before the parade, Grivas asks Makarios to resign from office. Stasinos Avenue. 01.04.1972



Source for the captions of the 1972 period: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – FINDINGS ON THE CYPRUS FILE, Lefkosia 2011

The uniformed men flanking Makarios are Lieutenant-General Charalambopoulos and the Director of ELDYK, Pavlos Papadakis, a significant player in the coup organized by the Greek junta to overthrow Makarios, 35 days before the parade. The coup was thwarted at the last minute through intervention by the Cyprus Government. Stasinos Avenue. 01.04.1972



Source for the captions of the 1972 period: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – FINDINGS ON THE CYPRUS FILE, Lefkosia 2011

Members of the Council of Ministers at the background:
Andreas Mavrommatis, Georgios Ioannides, Frixos Petrides,
Andreas Patsalides, Spyros Kyprianou, Epaminondas Komodromos,
Attorney-General Michalakis Triantafyllides
and President of the House, Glafcos Clerides.
One month after the parade, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Spyros Kyprianou is forced by the Greek junta to resign.
Stasinos Avenue. 01.04.1972







Makarios is accompanied by the Minister of Interior and Defence, Epaminondas Komodromos; Lieutenant-General Charalambopoulos and President of the House Glafcos Clerides. The banner at the entrance was distinctive of the junta period. Artillery Barracks, on the occasion of the feast-day of St Barbara, the patron saint of artillery. 04.12.1972



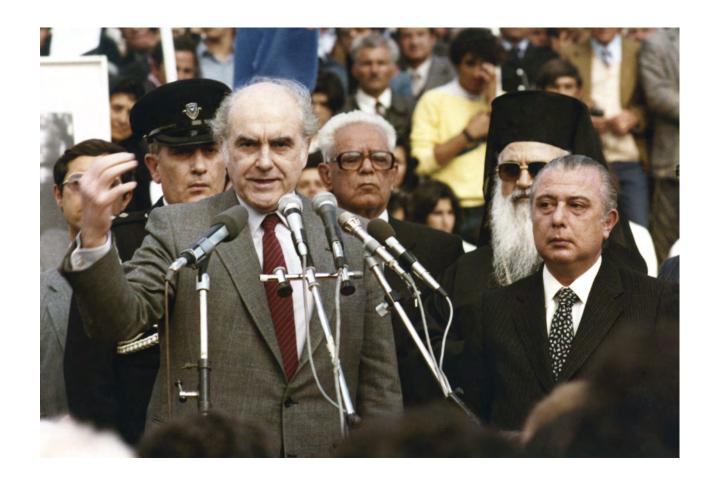


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Welcoming Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou to Lefkosia. Also pictured here: Lellos Demetriades, Mayor of Lefkosia; Archbishop Chrysostomos and President Spyros Kyprianou.
The Hilton area. 27.02.1982







First Women's March to Ammochostos. Melina Merkouri. Deryneia. 20.04.1975







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Student Parade. Omiros Avenue. 25.03.1960 (all the photographs have been digitally processed except from this one, to show the present-day condition of the negatives)





With the hat, the Headmaster of the Pancyprian Gymnasium, Georgios Papacharalambous; Georgios Zambartas, Assistant Headmaster of the Girls Department and the professor of mathematics Georgios Hadjinikolaou, later Minister of Education Omiros Avenue. 25.03.1960













Adonis Christoforou • Bio



Photo by Chrysanthos Hadjioannou

Born in Lefkosia in 1943, he graduated from the Pancyprian Gymnasium and pursued Film Studies at the London School of Film Technique. After working in London for a short time, he was employed by the CYBC as film editor, cameraman and director. For three decades he was responsible for obtaining motion pictures for broadcast by the CYBC channels.

He directed the documentaries A MAN OF KARPASSIA (1978) and A MAN OF KARPASSIA 1978-1982 (1982).

For 20 years he had been a member of the Cyprus Cinema Advisory Committee. For the past 13 years he has served on the Movie Rating Board.

He has been honoured:

In 2014 by the Directors Guild of Cyprus for his contribution as director to the Cyprus Cinema.

In 2015 by the CYBC and the Directors Guild of Cyprus for his contribution to television and cinema as a member of the CYBC Film Crew.

In 2014 by the Strovolos Photography Club for his contribution to photography.