

Tassos Papadopoulos, Archive (4 vols.) **[Τάσος Παπαδόπουλος, Αρχείο (4 τόμοι)]**

Tassos Papadopoulos Research Centre

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This unique publication contains documents and commentary on the history of Cyprus (1934-2008). It is a major contribution to the study of the political history of the former British colony and island Republic. The documents included in this four volume edition come from the personal archives of Tassos Papadopoulos, a UK educated lawyer, well known Cypriot politician, and former President of the Republic of Cyprus.

Tassos Papadopoulos is the first among the first seven presidents of the Republic of Cyprus to have left behind such an organised personal archive. It is hard to know whether Papadopoulos' predecessors, successors and other major Cypriot political figures kept similar archives, or when these archives may become available to researchers and the general public. In some cases, like in that of the late Vassos Lysarides, many of his archives were destroyed during the turmoil leading to the coup against President Makarios and the 1974 Turkish invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. A good precedent for this edition were the memoirs of Stella Soulioti, Cyprus' first Minister of Justice. The second volume of her memoirs contains an important collection of diplomatic and other documents dating from the first years of the Republic of Cyprus.¹ These archives, thankfully, were rescued during the 1974 Turkish invasion. Other than these publications, we are left with personal political commentaries, often of limited documentary value.

The documents included in the four volumes reviewed here, are a small but representative sample of Papadopoulos' voluminous personal archive. Thus, the challenge for the Centre has been organising and digitising documents mainly from the period of 1955-2008. The documents include minutes of cabinet and other government agency meetings on domestic and foreign policy issues, speeches and other relevant documents from the history of independent Cyprus. A good part of this documentary material will be new to the average reader.

¹ *Fettered Independence: Cyprus 1878-1964*, Minneapolis, Mn: Minnesota Mediterranean and East European Monographs, University of Minnesota, 2006.

Papadopoulos, as a young man, was involved in the Cypriot liberation struggle. At the age of 24 he became Minister of the Interior. Since then, he held a variety of cabinet posts, was elected to the Cypriot Parliament and was involved in the formation of various Greek Cypriot political parties. Both he and the late Vassos Lyssarides recommended to Archbishop Makarios the rejection of the 1959 London/Zurich independence agreements, as they considered them to be divisive and granting rights to Turkey in the sovereign Republic of Cyprus. The complete Papadopoulos archives will be available to researchers in the coming years as the Centre continues classifying and digitising these records. The objective of the Centre is to become a scientific institution devoted to the study of the Republic of Cyprus. The archives contain a wealth of historical, political and diplomatic material not easily accessible from other open sources.

Each of the four volumes is edited by a different Cypriot scholar, whose lengthy introduction provides political and historical context of the documents included. Volume I (1934-1974) is edited by Charalambos Alexandrou. The reader will find material on the challenges facing the newly independent Republic of Cyprus and its leadership. Included among the documents are the minutes of the first cabinet meeting following the Turkish Cypriot withdrawal from the institutions of the Republic of Cyprus, and the controversial Plumer document on the plans of the Turkish Cypriot leadership following the collapse of the London/Zurich agreements. There is also interesting documentary material on the so-called 'Akritas Plan', and on the dispatch of arms from Turkey to the Turkish Cypriot community. Included in Volume I is documentary material on the intercommunal talks prior to the 1974 Turkish invasion; on the assassination of Georkadjis; and the assassination attempts against President Makarios and Vassos Lyssarides. Volume I, also includes useful material on the formation of Greek Cypriot political parties.

Volume II is edited by Lykourgos Kourkouvelas. It focuses on post invasion Cyprus (1974-1991). It contains minutes of meetings of the National Council; meetings on the missing; minutes from various diplomatic meetings; the replacement of Glafkos Clerides by Papadopoulos in the intercommunal talks; various documents on the Waldheim initiatives and the Clifford mission to Cyprus. There are also various presentations by Papadopoulos assessing the post invasion diplomatic situation. Other documents include minutes of meetings with de Cuellar, and minutes of meetings between President Spyros Kyprianou and de Cuellar. Volume III is edited by Michalis Kontos. It covers the period of 1991-2003 and examines various proposals

for the resolution of the Cyprus problem and the negotiations leading to the accession of Cyprus to the EU. Some 46 documents supplement this volume. Volume IV examines the period of 2003-2008, the Papadopoulos presidency and his untimely death. This volume includes Papadopoulos' historic address calling for the rejection of the Annan Plan in the 2004 referendum. The title of this volume is the 'rescue' of the Republic of Cyprus, and the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU and to the Eurozone. This volume is edited by Giorgos Kentas. It is an important volume on the crowning diplomatic achievement of the Republic of Cyprus in the aftermath of the Turkish invasion. This is also the period marked by Turkey's attempt to proclaim the Republic of Cyprus as 'defunct', while Anglo-American resolution proposals linked Cyprus' EU accession to the acceptance of plans for the resolution of the Cyprus problem promoted by British and Turkish diplomacy.

Each volume contains a chronology of events for the period under discussion. There are also introductory comments by Chrysis Pantelidis, the first Executive Director of the Tassos Papadopoulos Research Centre; introductory comments by the president of the executive council of the Tassos Papadopoulos Research Centre and introductory remarks by the respected Cypriot historian Petros Papapolyviou, who is now in charge of the Centre. The reader will also find a list of persons referred to in the various documents included in each volume, along with an index of the documents included in each volume.

As Chrysis Pantelidis, the Centre's original director, says in his introduction 'verba volent, scripta manent' (words fly, the written text remains). Anyone interested in the political history of the Republic of Cyprus will find this four volume documentary collection to be a most valuable addition to the literature on Cyprus and the Cyprus problem. I hope that other Cypriot political leaders will organise and open their archives to the general public. I always admired Tassos Papadopoulos for his brilliant mind and his respect for the written record. The Centre named after him has performed a major contribution to the study of Cyprus by undertaking the monumental task of organising and digitising the Papadopoulos archives and eventually making them available to the interested public. This edition should be part of any serious collection devoted to the study of Cyprus.

Van Coufoudakis