

**Hellenic Electronic Center (HEC)
Representing 35,000 Hellenes and
36 Hellenic Associations in the US and abroad
September 12, 2006**

To: California State University Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, All CSU Trustees

Reply to: hec_org_us@yahoo.com

We are writing to inform you of our objections to SDSU's exchange program with Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) in Turkish-occupied Cyprus (July - August 2006), and to enlist your assistance in terminating this arrangement. EMU operates illegally on property seized during the Turkish invasion of 1974, when the Turks ethnically cleansed 200,000 Greek Cypriots from 37% of the island's territory. The property which it occupies is the object of a lawsuit brought by its Greek Cypriot owner against Turkey, currently pending in the European Court of Human Rights. One should also note that EMU lacks accreditation by the Republic of Cyprus, which remains the sole internationally recognized government on the island.

The collaboration with EMU makes California State University an accomplice of the occupying regime, undermines the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, and violates numerous UN Resolutions and International Conventions. Does CSU really want to be identified with supporting illegal and hostile governments, and flouting UN Resolutions condemning the occupation and calling for the withdrawal of the occupiers and settlers? Is it really your intent to teach your students that the rule of law, ethics and morality are irrelevant?

Previous attempts by representatives of the Turkish occupation in Cyprus for exchange programs with other American Universities failed, due to the illegality of such activities. (The Universities of Michigan and Connecticut terminated the programs and returned state monies used to fund the programs.)

In conclusion, we urge California State University to abrogate the Memorandum of Cooperation with EMU and sever any existing relationship with all educational entities in Occupied Cyprus. It behooves the University to support the Rule of Law and adhere to International Resolutions and Conventions which deny recognition to the self-declared republic (the TRNC) in the occupied north, and to limit any exchange programs in Cyprus to institutions accredited by the Cyprus Republic. We request that termination of this exchange be put on the agenda for the next CSU Trustees' meeting. If further discussion is necessary, we can arrange for the Trustees to meet with a local

representative of the HEC and additional signers of this letter representing American Hellenic associations in California.

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