

MINNESOTA MEDITERRANEAN AND EAST
EUROPEAN MONOGRAPHS

INSIDE THE CYPRUS
MIRACLE

*The Labours of an Embattled
Mini-Economy*



DEMETRIOS CHRISTODOULOU

EDITOR'S NOTE

Inside the Cyprus Miracle is a timely study directing our attention to a remarkable economic phenomenon in its historical setting, national and international. The study is primarily what its author intended it to be, "a documented account of the resilience of the Cyprus economy and society in the face of overwhelming setbacks and adversity." It also emerges as a chapter in the history of the perennial Eastern Question which has confounded politicians and analysts for years. In the case of Cyprus, this recent chapter of the Eastern Question took on a new dimension after the events in the summer of 1974 which led to the invasion, by Turkey, of a young United Nations member state whose northern part is still occupied by Turkish troops.

In this carefully researched study, the author provides a detailed examination and interpretation of the economy of a small state: its resources and its growth and performance; its financial institutions; its external economic relations, balance of payments and EEC connection. He discusses social structures and organizations, education, professions, wealth and formation of classes. He also offers some insightful reflections on the temper of the Cypriot people and how this temper may bear on the future of the island.

The appearance of this volume coincides with the renewal of efforts to settle the Cyprus issue which has for a generation strained the relations between the Greek and Turkish communities on the island as well as the relations between two NATO allies, namely Greece and Turkey, and by extension their international partners, especially the United States and Great Britain. In short, the Cyprus problem is not without its international repercussions made even more relevant in the aftermath of the recent East European revolutions and the Gulf War. As Nikos Kazantzakis so eloquently put it, "Cyprus is not a detail, a simple island at the end of the Mediterranean Sea; today it has been transformed into the destined center where the moral values of contemporary man are at stake."

Inside the Cyprus Miracle could serve as a guide for scholars, public figures and educated citizens who seek to understand the complexity of the Cyprus problem and who appreciate the urgency of finding a fair and workable solution to it. We are therefore delighted to include it in the Minnesota Mediterranean and East European Monographs.

It would be difficult to find a person better suited to the task of writing such a treatise than the author of *Inside the Cyprus Miracle*. By birth, upbringing, education, professional and scholarly involvement, Demetrios Christodoulou has experienced the Cyprus problem in all its diversity. He witnessed the transition of Cyprus from British colonial status to independent statehood and then to its present tenuous political situation. His scholarly interests in Cyprus, its land and people, culminating in *Inside the Cyprus Miracle*, span nearly half a century of painstaking research, beginning with his doctoral dissertation at the London School of Economics, "Rural Land Use in Cyprus," subsequently published as *The Evolution of the Rural Land Use Pattern in Cyprus* (1959).

Demetrios Christodoulou is a product of the British university system and his cultural environment has been, to a large extent, British. For this reason, even though *Inside the Cyprus Miracle* is published in the United States, we deferred to the author's wishes in retaining the original British quality of the manuscript, both in mechanics and literary style.

Theofanis G. Stavrou
University of Minnesota

Demetrios Christodoulou was born in Cyprus (1919) where he attended the Pancyprian Gymnasium and the Teachers' Training College. He received his Ph.D. from the University of London (1955) and since then has been active as an educator, scholar, and as member of international organizations concerned with a broad range of agricultural and economic questions. In 1984–85, he served as Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the Republic of Cyprus. During this period, as earlier, he participated actively in and hosted numerous international seminars. A prolific writer, his scholarly publications include *The Evolution of the Rural Land Use Pattern in Cyprus* (1959), and *The Unpromised Land: Agrarian Reform and Conflict Worldwide* (1990). Presently Demetrios Christodoulou and his wife Sylvia reside in Cyprus but spend considerable time on the continent, especially Switzerland and Great Britain.