



ORDER OF AHEPA
SUPREME LODGE HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

On behalf of the **American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA)**, the leading international grassroots service association of American citizens of Hellenic heritage and Philhellenes, I write regarding President Donald Trump's April 14, 2020 memorandum that delegates to you the President's authorities under specific provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA) and the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (East Med Act).¹ In particular, President Trump's memorandum delegates to you the authority to waive the limitations placed on the transfer of articles on the United States munitions list to the Republic of Cyprus under section 1250A(d) of the NDAA and under section 205(d) of the East Med Act. AHEPA requests for you to exercise your authority and waive the two limitations placed on the Republic of Cyprus by each of the two laws thus allowing for the transfer of articles.

The United States recognizes the Republic of Cyprus as a strategic partner. We have commended the Trump administration's approach with the Republic of Cyprus, understanding that Cyprus is a Western state in a vulnerable strategic region that needs engagement by the West. Turkey's aggressive and illegal actions and Russia's malign influences demonstrate what makes the region so vulnerable. We have also applauded the Administration's high-level engagement with the Republic of Cyprus. The United States' expressed commitment on several occasions to see a resumption of settlement talks and support for a bizonal, bicomunal federation and for Cyprus' right to explore for energy resources within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) are appreciated. The United States takes Turkey's disruption of drilling activities in Cyprus' EEZ seriously, according to then-Deputy Assistant Secretary A. Wess Mitchell.² Further, the Statement of Intent agreement signed in November 2018 signaled the United States' deepening engagement with Cyprus. The Statement of Intent strengthened bilateral efforts to combat terrorism, enhance maritime and border security, and promote regional stability. Moreover, the United States rightfully has pursued a policy to increase cooperation with Greece, Cyprus and Israel (a 3+1 framework) in the areas of energy independence and security and to defend against external malign influences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the broader Middle East. This was the essence of the East Med Act.

Therefore, Secretary Pompeo, given these aforementioned developments in the strengthening of United States-Republic of Cyprus relations, we contend the next appropriate step in the best interests of the United States is for you to utilize the authority delegated by President Trump to waive the limitations on the transfer of articles to the Republic of Cyprus.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

George G. Horiates, Esq.
Supreme President

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-delegation-authorities-ndaa-fy-2020-eastern-mediterranean-security-energy-partnership-act-2019/>

² Wess Mitchell sends clear message to Turkey over Cyprus, *Ekathimerini*, Dec. 21, 2018, <http://www.ekathimerini.com/235913/article/ekathimerini/comment/wess-mitchell-sends-clear-message-to-turkey-over-cyprus>