

Mr. Economou as a non party citizen was the first to make his presentation.

He expounded the thesis that Greece and Cyprus together are the par excellence strategic allies of the West in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The combination of Greece and Cyprus adds strategic depth to the West in the region and is a multiplier of power because of the alliances developed with Israel, Egypt and the other countries of the area, a fact which expedites and ensures the joint exploitation of the EEZ of the countries of the region and of the routes of the Eastern Mediterranean for hydro-carbonates and natural gas.

The use of the full potential of Suda Bay in Crete in combination with the British Bases in Cyprus or with new American facilities in Paphos will more than compensate for the possible loss of the military facilities in Turkey and the Middle East. The West should terminate its dependence on Turkey in the region given Turkey's rapprochement with Russia, Iran and China.

Even with the withdrawal of the United States forces from the region, the combination of the bases in Greece and Cyprus fully

compensate for any weakening of the alliance with an unreliable evasive neutral, such as Turkey.