

July XX, 2006

President Tassos Papadopoulos  
Republic of Cyprus  
Nicosia, Cyprus

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the people of the United States, we are writing to express our most sincere gratitude for Cyprus's extraordinary efforts to assist American citizens fleeing Lebanon. Your government has responded commendably by launching a major effort to support the evacuation of U.S. citizens and others leaving Lebanon.

According to press reports, there may be as many as 25,000 Americans in Lebanon, and the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus has estimated that thousands of these citizens will travel through Cyprus as they leave Lebanon. Cyprus's proximity and extensive maritime facilities make it an especially suitable evacuation route.

Cyprus's commendable reaction to this crisis is reminiscent of your country's response to the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing, when Cyprus provided the staging ground for the United States' evacuation and rescue efforts. Today, the whole world is benefiting from Cyprus's actions and leadership in the region.

Cyprus has opened its ports to evacuation ships, provided food and water to evacuees landing on Cyprus, and ordered the State Fair Grounds to be made available for temporary shelters. We understand that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the police and port authorities have worked effectively with foreign governments and their representatives to handle the large influx of evacuees. We echo the comments of United States' and foreign officials praising Cyprus's efforts.

We appreciate and commend Cyprus's leadership in this time of crisis.

Sincerely,