



July 20, 2015

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As conference deliberations proceed on the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the **American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA)**, a leading association for the nation's millions of American citizens of Greek heritage and Philhellenes, requests consideration of our position on the following provision, which is of interest to the American Hellenic community:

SUPPORT Subtitle F of Title XII, Sec.1274: *Report on the Security Relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus.* The provision requests an assessment of the security relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus be conducted and reported to the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, and the relevant congressional committees. If enacted, AHEPA believes it would be the first step toward addressing the need to lift the U.S. arms embargo on Cyprus.

Background

Because of the U.S. embargo enacted after the Turkish invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974, which prohibits the transfer of U.S. arms to Cyprus, and subsequent expansion to cover all defense articles and services destined for Cyprus, the Cypriot government is left with no other choice but to turn to other markets to procure its defense equipment. The U.S. arms embargo remains in force today.

Position

It is in the best interest of the United States that the Republic of Cyprus maintains its Western orientation and it is preferred that the Republic of Cyprus turn to the United States to procure its defense materials and not to other foreign markets. Therefore, we request that the final FY16 NDAA bill, when produced by the conferees, includes the provision, "Report on the Security Relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus" (Subtitle F of Title XII, Sec.1274). Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

John W. Galanis
Supreme President

Cc: House and Senate Conferees for the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act