

Foreword

I am honored by the invitation to write a foreword to this innovative and comprehensive volume on the Cyprus conflict and efforts to resolve it. The central focus of my work for more than half a century has been on the resolution and transformation of international and intercommunal conflict. My colleagues and I have practiced a form of unofficial, ‘track-two’, diplomacy, bringing together politically influential members of conflicting communities, and helping them develop working trust and engage in dialogue aimed at joint problem solving.

Throughout the decades, my track-two efforts have concentrated on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. But it was an exercise on the Cyprus conflict in 1966 that introduced me to the potential of this approach. And I think it is fair to say that, over the years, the Cyprus conflict has been my ‘second case’.

My first visit to Cyprus was in the summer of 1963, when my wife, Rose, and I came to do follow-up interviews with participants in an exchange program for broadcasters from 16 countries – including Cyprus – held in the United States the previous summer. We quickly fell in love with Cyprus – the beauty of the island, the hospitality of its people, and the quality of its food.

In the summer of 1966 I met John Burton, a former high-level Australian diplomat who founded the Centre for the Analysis of Conflict in London. I was immediately attracted to the approach to unofficial diplomacy that he was developing and enthusiastically accepted his invitation to join the third party for his upcoming exercise on the Cyprus conflict in London. That experience represented a turning point in my professional life. Building on Burton’s model, I developed an approach that I came to call *interactive problem-solving*. In collaboration with my colleagues and students, I applied the approach primarily – but not exclusively – to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict.

My engagement with Cyprus continued over the years. In 1979 and 1984 I organized workshops on the Cyprus conflict at Harvard. In the 1990s I co-facilitated Cyprus workshops in Canada and in England. One of the participants in our 1984 workshop at Harvard was Maria Hadjipavlou, who has remained a close colleague and friend over the years. She asked

me to serve as a reader of her doctoral dissertation. She became an active member of PICAR – our Program on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Harvard’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. In the 1990s she helped me with arrangements for meetings in Cyprus of our Israeli–Palestinian working group. Throughout the years, she kept me informed of developments in the Cyprus conflict, in the relationships between the two communities, and in the growing number of efforts – at the international and at the intercommunal level – to find a solution.

The present volume represents a sophisticated and innovative effort to analyze the potential contributions of track-two dialogue to the resolution of the Cyprus conflict and to actually engage in a track-two process. The effort is based on the proposition that track-two work must involve dialogue within each community alongside dialogue between the communities. Moreover, it is designed to bring Turkey and Greece into the process, in the role of facilitators of some dialogues and participants in others. Turkey, in particular, is seen as an integral part of the Turkish Cypriot side.

Beyond describing and discussing a dialogical process, the final two parts of the book actually put such a process into effect. They present strategy positions developed by each side, followed by responses from politically influential leaders of the other side. Thus, the volume not only describes and analyzes the history and potential of intercommunal dialogue in the Cyprus conflict, but it also engages in a dialogical process.

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