People united in a country divided

Press release 25.9.2013

A map of Nicosia cut in many pieces is put together into one by Cypriot teens. Two helmets for peace.

On Saturday, 28 September, 70 teens of the bi-communal youth group Cyprus Friendship Programme will make a symbolic bicycle ride in both sides of Nicosia. The ride will end in front of the Home of Cooperation opposite the Ledra Palace hotel at about noon and a short ceremony will take place to which the general public is invited.

Their excellencies, Mr Constantinos Gyorkadjis and Mr Kadri Fellahoglu will be our guests at the ceremony and will address the riders. Teenagers from the Cyprus Friendship Programme will offer them two army helmets with flowers in them. The symbolism refers to the time when a solution of the Cyprus problem will be found and the demilitarisation of the island will be agreed. One of the questions will be what to do with the abundance of military hardware. The Cyprus Friendship Programme has a proposal and the ceremony will be a public statement on this matter**: We propose that the thousands of army helmets are given free to Cypriot households so that they can be transformed into flower pots hanging at the front of houses. And when the next generation will be asking what those are, we will say that they are reminders of a long period of conflict and pain that is no more.**

The ceremony will end with teens from the two communities holding many pieces of a large map of Nicosia and putting them all together into one map. This will symbolise the brokenness that the conflict has brought to our country and to our souls and how the young people from both communities wish to live in a united country.

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