



Cyprus-UK relations lauded at the palace

Prince Charles cracks a joke about halloumi

By George Psyllides

PRESIDENT Nicos Anastasiades attended a reception at Buckingham Palace hosted by HRH the Prince of Wales on Monday evening to celebrate the ties between Cyprus and the UK, as well as the UK Cypriots' contribution to British public life.

Guests included more than 150 scientists, businessmen, artists, academics, professionals and other members of the Cypriot diaspora that have excelled in their area.

Among them were Christopher Pissarides, Kypros Nicolaides, Theo Paphites, Toukar Souleyman, Tracey Emin, Linda Papadopoulos, members of the Leventis and Lazari families and others.

In his speech, Anastasiades thanked His Royal Highness for the invitation and the hospitality for the special event, which marked the first time the Cypriot diaspora and the bilateral ties were celebrated at Buckingham Palace in such a way.

"Tonight's event offers us the opportunity to celebrate the long-lasting friendship and enduring bonds between our two countries and peoples," Anastasiades said.

He said those bonds were also celebrated last year, on the occasion of the centenary since the end of the First World War, during which 16,000 Cypriots fought alongside the British.

During the Second World War, he added, more than 60,000 Cypriots joined the struggle against fascism, among them former president Glafcos Clerides.

He praised Her Majesty the

Queen's leadership of the organisation and stressed that he has no doubt that Prince Charles will be "equally successful" as the next head of the Commonwealth family.

He then stressed the important and dynamic relations between the Cypriot and the British people, as demonstrated by the more than 300,000 people of Cypriot descent living in the UK and the more than 1 million annual British visitors to the island.

Referring to the three exhibitions that were set up for the reception (one with antiquities from Engomi hosted both at the British Museum and the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia; another with authentic maps of the late 19th century Cyprus by Lord Kitchener; and a reference to a joint academic project by the University of Cyprus and Imperial College, the president spoke of "undeniable proof of the historical depth and of the dynamic contemporary relationship between our two countries".

The Prince of Wales started his speech by praising the "indispensable contribution" of UK Cypriots to the UK and the Commonwealth.

Prince Charles also highlighted the joint efforts of the two peoples during the two World Wars and he then briefly referred to the development of the UK Cypriot community, first in north London and later on in other areas of the UK.

He then commented, jokingly, that when shortages of halloumi cheese were reported in the UK last summer the situation was considered to be "nothing short of a national crisis."