

NEWS

from
**Paul
Tsongas**

U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

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TSONGAS DEPLORES ACTION OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS

Senator Paul E. Tsongas said that he is "shocked and dismayed" by the establishment of a Turkish Cypriot government on the island of Cyprus and has asked the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to hold hearings on the situation as soon as possible. Tsongas has also signed on to Senator Paul Sarbanes' resolution condemning the unilateral declaration of independence.

"Clearly, this action by the Turkish colonists on Cyprus destabilizes the Aegean area and brings into question the already fragile relations between Greece and Turkey," Tsongas stated at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting this morning. "The Reagan administration is the third administration to pay only lip service to progress on Cyprus, but this administration makes the problem even worse. The President invokes the strategic importance of Turkey and increases military aid in the FY 1984 appropriations. This sends a message to Turkey that by accident of geography they are of paramount importance to the U.S. It is of critical importance that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee take action and thereby inform the countries in the region that it has grave concerns about the political and strategic implications of this precipitous event."

Tsongas expects to give a statement on the Floor of the Senate later this afternoon.