**Address of the President of the CPC Stelios Sofokli**

**Pancyprian Peace March,**

**Sunday 10 June 2018**

Dear friends,

Fellow campaigners for Peace,

Brothers and Sisters,

We welcome you to this mass gathering of Peace.

We welcome you to the 8th Peace March organized by the Cyprus Peace Council, together with the progressive democratic masses of Cypriot society.

We have once more gathered in front of the NATO British Bases to shout out loud “BASES OF DEATH OUT OF CYPRUS". Our people is "condemned" since its existence to struggle against occupiers. The struggle against imperialism is common for all the peoples of the world.

The political and military situation in our region is very difficult and harbors the dangers of a major regional war breaking out. With the volume of weapon systems that have been accumulated in our region and on our own island, a "careless act or an accident", as experts say, may trigger a new terrible war that for sure will not be restricted just to the Middle East.

The possession of nuclear weapons by Israel, but also the Israeli President's war-mongering rhetoric against Iran, as well as the other countries in the region, reveal real images of war and destruction.

The occupation of 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by the Turkish army. Turkey's invasion of Syria. The anticipated invasion by Turkey in Iraq. The ongoing threats issued by Turkey against Cyprus and Greece. As long as this situation continues without any real denunciation by the international community in a way that would have serious consequences for Turkey itself and so long as the stalemate with regards the solution of the Cyprus problem continues, the danger remains that we may be led to situations that will be undesirable and unpredictable for our people and the peoples of the region.

Fellow fighters for Peace,

The Cyprus Peace Council once again expresses its solidarity with the struggling Cypriot people, towards the people of Palestine who is being massacred daily by the troops of the occupier of its lands. We express our solidarity with the suffering people of Syria, Iraq and all the peoples who are struggling against the imperialists for their right to live in their own countries as they themselves choose, far from any threats and aggressions.

Finally, I would like to thank and welcome our brother and sister fellow combatants from the various peace movements from the Middle East and Europe. We also express our gratitude to all the comrades and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to organize this event.

We demand that our children get around to growing up and struggling for peace, as their fathers, mothers, grandparents and their grandparents did so that their own children can live without wars and disasters.

**"ALL TROOPS OUT OF CYPRUS - INDEPENDENT ISLAND"**

**“BASES OF DEATH OUT OF CYPRUS"**