

Text of Thesis submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the
University of Oxford, 1971

CYPRriot MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT
IN BRITAIN

by

ROBIN OAKLEY

Nuffield College, University of Oxford

1971

Dr Robin Oakley
Honorary Research Fellow
Centre for Ethnic Minority Studies
Royal Holloway College
University of London
2011
oakley@easynet.co.uk

PREFACE 2011

This D. Phil. thesis was prepared in the late 1960s, and submitted in 1971. Although some material was published subsequently, the thesis as a whole has only been accessible via the Bodleian Library at Oxford. As it remains the only detailed analysis of the migration and settlement of Cypriots in Britain up to that time, advantage has been taken of modern information technology to have it retyped onto disk, so that copies can be made available to interested individuals and to libraries.

The text of the thesis is unchanged, apart from the correction of a small number of errors in the original typescript. The original tables and diagrams have been scanned and inserted into the document as images. The temptation to revise and update the thesis has been resisted. As a result it reflects the perspective, style and terminology of its time, which are in some respects a little different from those of forty years on (e.g. the references to 'coloured immigrants').

Its value today lies in two features. The first is that it remains a unique source of detailed statistical information on the migration and settlement of Cypriots in Britain. It has been drawn on by some scholars subsequently, but for many it appears to be unknown. It also remains one of the few comprehensive analyses of the migration from a Commonwealth country to Britain during the post-World War II decades. It explores in detail the various underlying factors and their complex interplay, and *inter alia* shows that it was economic circumstances rather than the British Government's immigration controls that led to the decline of the migration in the early 1960s.

Two articles based primarily on the chapters entitled "The Social Organisation of Migration" and "The Distribution of Settlement in London" were published subsequently: "Family, Kinship and Patronage: The Cypriot Migration to Britain", in V. Saifullah Khan (ed), Minority Families in Britain: Support and Stress, London: Macmillan, 1979, pp. 12-34; and Changing Patterns of Distribution of Cypriot Settlement, Research Papers in Ethnic Relations No.5, Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, 1987.

Two articles analysing Cypriot migration to Britain prior to World War II, which is only treated briefly in the thesis, were produced separately: "Cypriot Migration to Britain prior to World War II", New Community, XV, 4, July 1989, pp. 509-525; and "The Control of Cypriot Migration to Britain Between the Wars", Immigrants & Minorities, VI, 1, March 1987, pp. 30-43. And for more general background information about Cypriots in Britain see: "The Cypriots in Britain", Race Today, April 1970, pp. 99-102; and "Cypriot Families", in R Rapoport et al (eds), Families in Britain, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982, pp. 233-251.

Relatively little research has subsequently been conducted and published on the Cypriot community in Britain. There has not been any substantial further migration to Britain since the mid-1960s, except during the immediate aftermath of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, when up to 10,000 Cypriots fled to Britain, most of whom later returned. A further difficulty for the inquirer is that since the 1960s, UK Census data no longer distinguishes Cypriots in any way as a distinct category.

The reader seeking a more recent overview of the situation specifically of Greek-Cypriots in Britain is recommended to consult Maria Roussou, Greek Outside Greece: Cypriots in Britain, Diaspora Books, 2nd edn 1991, and Floya Anthias, Ethnicity, Class, Gender and Migration: Greek-Cypriots in Britain, Aldershot: Avebury, 1992.

Robin Oakley
Centre for Ethnic Minority Studies
Royal Holloway, University of London
oakley@easynet.co.uk

ABSTRACT

This is a social scientific study of the extent, character and causes of Cypriot migration and settlement in Britain between the years 1945 and 1966. It is based largely on published sources, mainly statistical. Some 75,000 Cypriots, mostly young adults, emigrated from Cyprus to Britain during the period - numbers increasing up to around 1960, and then declining sharply. A variety of circumstances affecting the movement are considered, the most important of which are found to be economic conditions in Britain and Cyprus. Cypriot settlement in Britain amounted in all to more than 100,000 persons in 1966, and was highly concentrated in London. The demographic and economic characteristics of London Cypriots are analysed in detail, and the settlers are found to have developed a thriving and remarkably self-sufficient economic base for community life as an ethnic minority in modern Britain. While their migration has been roughly coincident with that of recent 'coloured' immigrants to Britain from other Commonwealth countries, the character of Cypriot settlement has more in common with that of Jewish immigrants to Britain over half a century previously.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

INTRODUCTION

PART 1: MIGRATION

1. POST-WAR MIGRATION FROM CYPRUS TO BRITAIN

- Sources
- From Cyprus to Britain
- Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots
- Alternative Destinations
- Return Migration
- Net Migration

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF CYPRIOT MIGRANTS

- Sex Composition
- Age Composition
- Marital and Family Composition
- Occupational Composition

3. GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND ITS INFLUENCE

- Regulation of Emigration from Cyprus
- Regulation of Immigration into Britain

4. THE SOCIAL ORGANISATION OF MIGRATION

- Family, Kinship and Patronage
- Communications and Travel

5. THE INFLUENCE OF CONDITIONS IN CYPRUS I

- Political Factors
- Demographic Factors

6. THE INFLUENCE OF CONDITIONS IN CYPRUS II

- Economic Factors: Introduction
- Economic Conditions: Agriculture
- Economic Conditions: The Non-Agricultural Sector
- Economic Factors: Conclusion

7. THE INFLUENCE OF CONDITIONS IN BRITAIN

- Economic Conditions in Britain
- The Effect of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act
- Britain and Alternative Destinations

8. CYPRIOT MIGRATION TO BRITAIN: CONCLUSION

PART II: SETTLEMENT

9. THE SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION OF CYPRIOT SETTLEMENT IN BRITAIN

Sources

The Size of Cypriot Settlement in Britain

The Distribution of Cypriot Settlement in Britain

10. THE DISTRIBUTION OF CYPRIOT SETTLEMENT IN LONDON

Distribution of Settlement

Density of Settlement

Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots

11. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CYPRIOTS IN LONDON

Sex Composition

Age Composition

Marital Composition

Family and Household Composition

Inter-marriage

12. THE EMPLOYMENT OF CYPRIOTS IN LONDON

The Pattern of Employment

The Catering Trade

The Clothing Industry

The Ethnic Economy

13. HOUSING CONDITIONS OF CYPRIOTS IN LONDON

Cyprus and Inner London: The Contrast

Housing Tenure

Household Amenities

Housing Density

14. CYPRIOT SETTLEMENT IN BRITAIN: CONCLUSION

APPENDIX: NON-CYPRIOT MIGRATION FROM CYPRUS TO BRITAIN

The British

The Armenians

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to many persons and organisations who have given help with this study. I am particularly grateful to Nuffield College, Oxford for a grant enabling me to visit Cyprus to obtain necessary information, and to the Survey of Race Relations in Britain for financing and permitting use of special tabulations of Census data made by the General Register Office.

ABBREVIATIONS

- C.I.C. 1961 General Register Office, Census 1961, England and Wales, Commonwealth Immigrants in the Conurbations, H.M.S.O. 1965.
- C.I.T. 1966 General Register Office, Sample Census 1966, Great Britain, Commonwealth Immigrant Tables, H.M.S.O. 1969.
- C.P.A. 1960 Republic of Cyprus, Ministry of Finance, Census of Population and Agriculture 1960, Nicosia.
- D.R. Republic of Cyprus, Ministry of Finance, Demographic Report, Nicosia.
- G.R.O. 1961 Special tabulations for Cypriot immigrants derived from C.I.C. 1961 and made available by the General Register Office.
- G.R.O. 1966 Special tabulations for Cypriot immigrants in the Greater London Conurbation derived from the 1966 Sample Census and made available by the General Register Office.
- Nearchou Nearchou, V., "The Assimilation of Cypriot Immigrants in London", M.A. Thesis, University of Nottingham, 1960.
- V. & M.S. Republic of Cyprus, Ministry of Finance, Vital and Migration Statistics, Nicosia.

