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**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSES STRONG SUPPORT FOR JULY 8 2006
AGREEMENT BY PASSING HOUSE RESOLUTION 405**

WASHINGTON, DC – [October 10, 2007] – Yesterday the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously adopted H. Res. 405, which expresses strong support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered Agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of the Republic of Cyprus.

On July 8, 2006, President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, agreed, under the auspices of the United Nations Under Secretary General Ibrahim Gambari, to a set of principles to begin a process of bi-communal discussions. H. Res. 405 calls upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006 Agreement in its entirety and without deviation from that process.

H.Res. 405 reaffirms the U.S. Government's long-standing support of fostering the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, and within a process that is led by the United Nations, thereby consistent with the intended aim of the July 8, 2006 Agreement, and as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Republic of Cyprus has repeatedly expressed its commitment to starting the process, which would create the necessary conditions for the commencement of negotiations leading to a reunification of Cyprus.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the US, Andreas Kakouris, stated, "By passing H.Res. 405, the House of Representatives has sent a strong message that the time has come to finally implement the Gambari process and to fulfil the July 8 Agreement in its entirety, which President Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat agreed to last year."

The Ambassador added that, "President Papadopoulos is committed to doing so as shown by his initiative to invite the Turkish-Cypriot leader Mr. Talat to a meeting held on September 5th with the sole purpose of moving forward on what was agreed to last July and complemented by letters exchanged between the leaders of the two communities and UN Under-Secretary for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari on 15 November 2006."

He noted that in his speech to the UN General Assembly on September 26th, the President stated that, "though the September 5th meeting with Mr. Talat did not signal the beginning of the implementation of the agreement as we had hoped, we will not deter our efforts to put the July 8 process back on track."

Finally, the Ambassador expressed his appreciation to Congressman Bilirakis and the House of Representatives for their "clear and succinct position on the need for the immediate implementation of the July 8 Agreement in its entirety and without deviation from the process."