

INTRODUCTION

The RoC became the 12th member to join the Commonwealth on 13.3.1961. Whereas nowadays the RoC seems like a perfect fit, admitting a small state was controversial when it applied for membership. At the time, the smallest member of the Commonwealth was New Zealand with a population of 2.5 million. The Federation of Malaya (6.3 million), Ghana (6.7 million), and Ceylon (9.2 million), were the only other members with fewer than 10 million inhabitants. Australia had 10.2 million, South Africa 14.7, Canada 18, Nigeria 36, the UK 51, Pakistan 84, and India 397.5 million. The newly independent RoC, with a population of 572.000 was comparatively extremely small, and its Constitution provided for rights of guarantee to two non-Commonwealth countries, i.e. Greece and Turkey. The entry of the RoC as a member was accordingly a landmark in the history of the Commonwealth, as it was the first small state to join. Furthermore, although a number of Commonwealth members had adopted republican constitutions in the years following their independence, the RoC was the first member to join the Commonwealth as a republic.

Today, the Commonwealth is very different. It comprises 56 members, out of which 33 are classified as small states. The majority of members are republics, whereas some members have no links to the former British Empire. For instance, Namibia, a former German colony, was under the mandate of South Africa - another Commonwealth member - until independence, but was never a British colony. Similarly, countries like Papua New Guinea, and Samoa, were linked to Australia and New Zealand respective-

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ly, rather than with the British Empire. There are members who were never linked to even other Commonwealth members. Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, was admitted as a member in 1995, whereas Rwanda, a former Belgian trust territory and German colony, joined in 2009.

Since admission, the RoC has established itself as an active and enthusiastic member. It hosted the 1993 CHOGM in Limassol, as well as other significant Commonwealth conferences and meetings, and its parliamentary and governmental officials participate actively in all Commonwealth meetings. Despite the above, research output regarding RoC-Commonwealth relations has so far been limited. The objective of this study is to offer a comprehensive account of the relationship between the Commonwealth and the RoC. This has not been previously attempted, and I therefore hope that it will fill a vacuum, and prove useful to Commonwealth researchers and practitioners. It is noted that this monograph mainly focuses on the Cypriot perceptions and aspirations towards the Commonwealth, rather than the respective perceptions of the Commonwealth or its members towards Cypriot membership, although these are also considered to the extent that there is available data.

My personal research interest in the Commonwealth intensified when I became the Chair of RCS Cyprus. RCS Cyprus launched in 2018. The 60-year anniversary from the admission of the RoC to the Commonwealth provided an opportunity to assess this under-researched topic. The School of Law of the University of Nicosia, where I serve as the Dean, and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, co-or-

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ganised an international conference on 20-21.5.2021. The Commonwealth's Secretary-General Patricia Scotland delivered the keynote address to the Conference. In early 2022 a special issue of the *Round Table* on Cyprus and the Commonwealth was published;¹ it sought to present original contributions exploring how the RoC has both shaped and been shaped by the Commonwealth. This monograph aims to further expand on my previous research work and establish a framework for further research on the subject matter.

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1. THE ROC JOINS THE COMMONWEALTH

1.1. The creation of the modern Commonwealth

The term 'Commonwealth of Nations' had been used since 1884 to describe the changing British Empire. Periodical conferences between the British and colonial Prime Ministers led to the eventual creation of the Imperial Conferences in 1911, and the discussion of specific proposals for readjusting the future relations between GB and its dominions. The term 'Commonwealth' was formally adopted in the Balfour Declaration at the 1926 Imperial Conference. The Balfour Declaration stated that the UK and its dominions were autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status and not subordinate to one another in either their domestic or external affairs. Dominion status was accorded at the time to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, South Africa, and the Irish Free State. United by a common allegiance to the British Crown, they would be voluntarily associated as members of the 'British Commonwealth of Nations'.² The Statute of Westminster was adopted by the British Parliament in 1931 and gave legal effect to the Balfour Declaration, by removing the power of the British Parliament to legislate for the dominions other upon their request and with their consent.³ The Statute of Westminster applied to Canada, South Africa, and the Irish Free State, without a need for ratification. It was ratified by Australia in 1942, and by New Zealand in 1947. It was never ratified by Newfoundland, because the UK resumed direct control over the dominion in

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1934 pursuant to its request, until 1949 when it became a province of Canada.

Following the end of WWII and the decline of the British Empire,⁴ the Commonwealth was gradually re-envisioned so as to address the new international realities. The Imperial Conferences were rebranded and regularised as the CPMCs which were held biennially in London. The first CPMC was held in May 1944 with the participation of the Prime Ministers of the UK, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand, and with the objective of coordinating the war efforts. The independence of India became the catalyst for the creation of the modern Commonwealth. India became an independent dominion on 15.8.1947, but it decided to become a sovereign independent republic and, contrary to other dominions, to cease recognising British King George VI as its Head of State. However, India opted to remain as a member of the Commonwealth. The Republic of Ireland also became a republic on 18.4.1949 but left the Commonwealth.

The London Declaration, adopted by the 1949 CPCM, confirmed that India would remain a member of the Commonwealth even after becoming a republic, and that it would recognise the King of England as the Head of the Commonwealth. This marked a significant change since the King of England would no longer participate as a joint Head of State, but, as stated in the London Declaration, as *'the symbol of the free association of its member nations, and as such Head of the Commonwealth'*.⁵ The term 'British Commonwealth of Nations' was substituted by the more inclusive 'Commonwealth of Nations' which signified the Commonwealth's evolved acceptance that all members should be free and equal.

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In addition, the term ‘Dominion’ was abolished and substituted by the term ‘Commonwealth realm’, a term denoting a sovereign state recognising the King of England as its Head of State. There are currently 15 Commonwealth realms; all are members of the Commonwealth.

The London Declaration marked the beginning of the modern Commonwealth.⁶ Without the British Empire, London ceased to be the defence and financial centre of the Commonwealth. After WWII, rather than acting as the defence leader of the Commonwealth, GB belonged to the NATO, the military alliance of the western world, where the USA was the unquestioned leader. At the time the only other Commonwealth member belonging to the NATO was Canada. The USA had also signed the 1951 ANZUS Security Treaty to co-operate in military matters with Australia and New Zealand. After the loss of India, the defeat at Suez, and in view of its increased dependence on USA for financial issues and the exercise of foreign and defence policy, GB had to gradually accept that the Commonwealth would no longer be ‘British’.⁷

1.2. The establishment of the RoC

During the 1950s the UK would also have to face a Cypriot military struggle for self-determination. The period of the British rule of the island⁸ began when the Ottoman Empire assigned to GB the rights of possession and administration of Cyprus by signing the Convention of Defence Alliance on 4.6.1878 in Constantinople.⁹ While Cyprus still legally belonged to the Ottoman Empire to which it could theoretically return on the fulfilment of certain conditions, in effect the only sovereign of Cyprus was GB which

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exercised the administration of the island.¹⁰ This peculiar situation ceased in 1914, when, immediately after the outbreak of WWI, GB annexed Cyprus by Order in Council of 5.11.1914.¹¹ Such unilateral annexation was eventually recognised by Turkey in 1923 by Article 20 of the Treaty of Lausanne. By Article 16 of the Treaty of Lausanne,¹² Turkey renounced all rights and titles whatsoever over Cyprus. The island was proclaimed as a Crown Colony on 10.3.1925.¹³

Ever since the British rule began, the Greek majority of the island, which comprised approximately 82% of the population, demanded that it should be allowed to be united with Greece. Fueled by anticolonial sentiments, and relying on the continuously evolving principle of self-determination,¹⁴ the Orthodox Church of Cyprus organised a referendum on 15.1.1950 where 95.71% of the indigenous Greek population signed in favour of the union of the island with Greece.¹⁵ The British colonial Government immediately rejected the Greek demand. On 28.7.1954 it was announced that the Churchill Government had reached an agreement in principle with the Egyptian Government on the future of the Suez Canal Zone Base, which provided that all British forces would withdraw from the Canal Zone within a period of 20 months.¹⁶ Minister of State for Colonial Affairs Henry Hopkinson declared on the same day that Cyprus would never be allowed full independence,¹⁷ a statement which fueled the already tense sentiments of the Greek Cypriots.¹⁸

Between 1955-1959 there was an armed insurrection against the British led by EOKA with Greek Cypriots demanding that they be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination and union of the island with Greece.¹⁹ Turkey, with the encouragement of the

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UK, became involved in the conflict, arguing that it intended to safeguard the rights of the 18% Turkish Cypriot minority of the island. Negotiations ensued between the UK, Greece and Turkey. Several proposals for a constitutional settlement were rejected,²⁰ until on 11.2.1959 the Prime Ministers of Greece and Turkey, Konstantinos Karamanlis and Adnan Menderes respectively, signed the Zurich Agreements, which provided that Cyprus would become an independent bi-communal State. The Agreements were approved in London on 19.2.1959 by the Prime Minister of the UK Harold Macmillan and the representatives of the Greek and Turkish Community of Cyprus, and first President and VP of the RoC, Archbishop Makarios and Fazıl Küçük respectively.²¹

The Basic Structure of the Zurich and London Agreements of February 1959 provided for the fundamental provisions of the Constitution.²² The complex and rigid structure provided by the Constitution aimed at assuring that the numerically smaller Turkish Community would effectively participate in the exercise and functions of government in such a way so as to avoid the supremacy of the larger Greek Community.²³ Two additional international treaties were signed, which became part of the package deal agreed upon in Zurich; the Treaty of Alliance, signed between Greece, Turkey and the newly established RoC, pursuant to which Greek and Turkish contingents would be permitted to be stationed on the island,²⁴ and the Treaty of Guarantee, signed between the RoC, Greece, Turkey and the UK, pursuant to which Greece, Turkey and the UK would act as the guarantor powers of the independence, territorial integrity and constitutional order of the RoC.²⁵

From an international law perspective, the transfer of sover-

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eighty occurred with the enactment of the Cyprus Act, 1960, which was enacted by the British Parliament on 29.7.1960, and which authorised the Queen of England to issue an Order in Council which would enter into force the Constitution of the RoC. On 16.8.1960, which was the date that the Order of Council 1368/1960 entered into force, an independent and sovereign RoC was established and the UK no longer had any sovereignty upon Cyprus.²⁶ A Treaty of Establishment determined the territory of the new State, ensuring that the UK would retain sovereignty over two military SBAs which cover 250 sq. km of the land area of the island of Cyprus. A further 13 sites, most notably the listening post on Mount Olympus, the highest point on the island, were retained for use by the UK under provision made in the Treaty of Establishment. The RoC agreed to co-operate fully with the UK, in order to ensure the security and effective operation of the SBAs, as well as the full enjoyment by the UK of the rights conferred by the Treaty.²⁷

1.3. Negotiating a special status

Article 22 of the Zurich and London Agreements precluded the total or partial union of Cyprus with another state or separatist independence. On 12.2.1959, at a meeting with Selwyn Lloyd immediately after the conclusion of the Zurich Agreements, the MFAs of Greece and Turkey, Evangelos Averof and Fatin Rüstü Zorlu respectively, clarified that this provision did not preclude the participation of the RoC to international organisations such as the Commonwealth. They further maintained that Greece and Turkey would support the RoC becoming a member of the Commonwealth, although the decision whether to join would need to be taken by

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the Cypriots themselves.²⁸ Before the Cypriots could decide on the issue, however, the British were themselves reluctant on whether the RoC should become a full member of the Commonwealth. UK memorandums from February 1959 acknowledged that the membership of the RoC in the Commonwealth would be positive for the Cypriots, since it would ensure the continuation of the privileged treatment of the newly established RoC in its business transactions with the UK, it would maintain the UK as an outlet for Cypriot citizens, and it would strengthen the international position of the new State. It would further provide an additional safeguard for the Turkish Cypriots that Cyprus would not unite with Greece.

However, the British were concerned that RoC was a very small state, much smaller than any other Commonwealth member at the time, and that a potential Cypriot membership would encourage other small states to apply for membership. It would further be associated, both in reality and pursuant to the Constitution of the RoC, with Greece and Turkey, namely two countries which were not members of the Commonwealth. Greece and Turkey were also recognised as guarantor powers in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee, thereby limiting the RoC sovereignty and its freedom in its external and defence matters, which was a prerequisite for Commonwealth full membership. The UK therefore considered alternative options, such as forming a special association with the Commonwealth which would not reach the status of full membership. The other Commonwealth countries seemed to share British concerns.²⁹

The British Cabinet eventually decided that the RoC should not become a full member of the Commonwealth, citing primarily its

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small size and population, as well as its special relationship with Greece and Turkey. There was no option of the RoC becoming a 'Commonwealth State' similarly to Singapore; the UK was responsible for the external affairs of Singapore, whereas the RoC would be responsible for its own foreign affairs. Furthermore, the RoC could not be an external associate like the Irish Republic, because it lacked the close geographical, historical, cultural and trading relations with the UK that Ireland had. It was therefore decided that the RoC would be associated with the Commonwealth from within. In this way, it would receive most of the benefits of Commonwealth membership, but without being named as a member, and without having the right to attend CPMCs or receiving highly confidential information on foreign affairs and defence. Most Commonwealth countries seemed willing to accept the British proposal, which would entail the introduction of a two-tier system of participation for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth.³⁰

Makarios was in principle positive to the idea. He viewed favourably the association of the RoC with the Commonwealth on economic and political grounds, but was concerned about negative reactions, and thus publicly acknowledged that the RoC might not become a member of the Commonwealth.³¹ The prevailing opinion amongst Greek Cypriot business elites was that the RoC should become a member of the Commonwealth on economic grounds, and in particular, in order to maintain the protectionist status of Cypriot products as regards custom tariffs, so as to gain access to the reserve currency of the Sterling Area, and to be eligible for prospective Commonwealth loans for development. Significant income originated from Cypriot agricultural goods being exported to

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Commonwealth markets, and it was therefore essential for Cypriot economic interests to maintain trade links with Commonwealth countries, and the UK in particular.³² Major Cypriot trade and industry organisations therefore actively supported Commonwealth membership.

However, there were many Greek Cypriots who openly rejected Commonwealth membership. It was argued that Commonwealth policies should not be imposed over Cypriot export to third countries, and that the RoC should seek better, and more profitable, trade opportunities outside the Commonwealth. It was further claimed that association with the Commonwealth entailed significant economic disadvantages since the RoC would import industrial goods which were more expensive than exported agricultural goods, and this would lead to a trade deficit.³³ In reality, the economic arguments advanced against Commonwealth membership seemed to be expressed as part of an overall disagreement with admission to the Commonwealth on political grounds. It was considered that it would be unacceptable for the RoC to continue being subordinated to its previous colonial ruler through participation in the Commonwealth, and that the British negative stance during the EOKA struggle should preclude any further association with a British-led international organisation.³⁴

Former EOKA military leader Georgios Grivas was a leading figure who opposed the idea of maintaining ties with an organisation where the former colonial rulers of Cyprus would have a leading role. Grivas argued that the RoC becoming a member of the Commonwealth would offend the EOKA liberation struggle, and cause the RoC to remain financially dependent on the UK. He further con-

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sidered the special association status proposed by the UK as humiliating, and proposed that Cypriots should be given the opportunity to express their will through a plebiscite.³⁵ In July 1959 Makarios publicly declared that there was a conspiracy against him, citing a letter between former EOKA commanders Renos Kyriakides and Fotis Papafotis where Grivas was shown to be dissatisfied with the policy of Makarios on three main issues: the position of the SBAs, the separate Greek and Turkish municipalities, and the potential membership of the RoC to the Commonwealth. The letter indicated that Grivas felt that Makarios was acting inconsistently with the interests of Cypriots, and that he was considering supporting the Metropolitan of Kyrenia Kyprianos who was actively opposed to Makarios.³⁶ Makarios and Grivas eventually temporarily reconciled in a meeting in Rhodes on 7.10.1959, where Makarios tacitly accepted that the question of membership to the Commonwealth would be left for the people of Cyprus to decide.

AKEL, the Cypriot communist party,³⁷ which represented approximately one-third of the Greek Cypriot electoral body, was also in principle against RoC membership to the Commonwealth. For ideological reasons, it supported alignment with the USSR and states which participated in the Warsaw Pact. It therefore argued that the only viable route for the Cypriot economy would be to associate itself with the Eastern countries, and advocated against Cypriot membership in the Commonwealth. It further considered that the Commonwealth would unavoidably eventually be associated with NATO.

The special status with the Commonwealth could accordingly be viewed by Makarios as a compromise which would allow the

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RoC to enjoy the benefits of membership to the Commonwealth, while at the same time not alienating Grivas and AKEL. Makarios was also sceptical about the Turkish Cypriot VP having a veto right to a potential withdrawal of the RoC from the Commonwealth.³⁸ Küçük had similar concerns as Makarios, since he was in principle positive to Cypriot membership, but Rauf Denktash, his second in command and leader of the violent Turkish Cypriot paramilitary organisation TMT, was opposed.

Hugh Foot, the last Colonial Governor of Cyprus, negotiated the question of special membership with Makarios and Küçük. They wanted to ensure that special association would not imply a second-rate status, and that the RoC would still enjoy all privileges and rights of the Commonwealth. There were further suggestions by Makarios and Küçük in a clear attempt to satisfy opponents of Commonwealth membership, that the UK would be represented by an Ambassador instead of a High Commissioner as was the case with full Commonwealth countries, and that the RoC would not recognise the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. When Foot indicated that these suggestions were inconsistent with the practice adopted by other republics in the Commonwealth, and that these issues were of importance for the UK and for other Commonwealth members, the Cypriot leaders withdrew their objections.³⁹

1.4. Reluctant membership

The situation changed shortly before the London Conference of January 1960, which was convened to discuss the pending issues relating to the SBAs. Makarios, contrary to his previous position, informed Foot that he would not accept the RoC enjoying an in-

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ferior status to other Commonwealth member. He reiterated this position during the London Conference to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations Alec Douglas-Home. Makarios was adamant that if the people of Cyprus were to decide to pursue Commonwealth association, they could not accept anything less than full membership.⁴⁰ Küçük was sceptical as to the motives behind Makarios' change of position, but eventually agreed that the issue should be left to be decided by the Cypriot HoR immediately after independence. The RoC would enjoy most of the benefits of membership until a decision would be taken.⁴¹ Since the Constitution recognised the power of the VP to exercise a veto right on foreign affairs issues, Küçük considered that this was sufficient guarantee against a potential decision of the HoR with which he might disagree with.⁴²

Faced with Makarios' firm position, and taking into account the support of the RoC candidacy by Greece, Turkey, and the USA, the British Government was forced to reconsider the issue, and revise its previous position that full membership was not an option that could be realistically considered. In late April 1960 Harold Macmillan noted that the membership of the RoC brought into question the future character of the Commonwealth, since not only was RoC a marginal candidate due to its small population, but in addition it had a special relationship with Greece and Turkey.⁴³ The UK Government undertook, pursuant to a request by the two Cypriot leaders, to ascertain informally whether other Commonwealth members viewed favourably a potential Cypriot application for membership. It would seem that the UK defended its revised position to other Commonwealth members by citing the existence

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of the SBAs in the island and the fact that there were effectively no borders between them and the territory of the RoC.⁴⁴

The 1960 CPMC (3-13.5.1960) decided to establish a CSG composed of six officials from the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Ghana to examine the wider issues of Commonwealth membership of new independent states, especially the small ones.⁴⁵ The report of the CSG was delivered on 23.7.1960 and was overall positive for Cypriot membership. It noted countries might prefer to leave the Commonwealth if their status as an independent state would be restricted by the introduction of a two-tier system. Granting full membership to the RoC and other potential applicants would be consistent with their aspirations, and would signify that small size was not an obstacle to full membership.⁴⁶ The UK Cabinet concluded that it would be preferable if the RoC was to first join the UN before applying for membership to the Commonwealth. The reasoning was that it would be difficult for members of the Commonwealth to reject the application on grounds that the RoC was not fully independent due to the Treaty of Guarantee, if the RoC was a member of the UN.⁴⁷ This was communicated to Makarios.⁴⁸ The Cyprus Act, 1960 included a provision stating that, depending on the future decision of the RoC whether to be a member of the Commonwealth, the Queen of England could act accordingly by Order in Council. A previously agreed time limit pursuant to which the RoC would have to apply for membership within nine months, was not included in the Cyprus Act.

Immediately following Independence, Makarios stated that he wished for the RoC to become a member of the Commonwealth.⁴⁹ He contemplated an interim solution pursuant to which the RoC

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would become a member of the Commonwealth for a transitional five-year period, after which it could opt to either remain a member or exit the Commonwealth. The issue was discussed before the HoR on 15.2.1961. Most MPs from the Patriotic Front, which expressed the great majority of Greek Cypriot representatives, did not initially view Commonwealth membership positively, since they originated from the ranks of EOKA. Having fought against British colonial rule, they considered Commonwealth accession as a continuation of colonialism. However, they eventually decided to join the interim solution of becoming a Commonwealth member for a transitional period of five years, after taking into account the general interests of the people of Cyprus. It was noted that following the provisional five-year period, the HoR could freely decide whether the membership should continue.⁵⁰

The five MPs of AKEL agreed with this position, remarking that whereas the proper course of action would be to withdraw from the Commonwealth, a temporary membership was necessary due to the conditions caused by the lengthy colonial rule of Cyprus. They proposed that the government of the RoC should materialise an economic strategy that would enable withdrawal from the Commonwealth after the lapse of the five-year period. The 15 Turkish Cypriot MPs also voted in favour of the proposal, but stressed that they viewed the temporary duration as a compromise; contrary to the Greek MPs their preference was for membership to the Commonwealth to be of unlimited duration.⁵¹ Nine MPs of the Patriotic Front (Costas Christodoulides, Dafnis Panayides, Pavlos Pavlakis, Georgios Ioannides, Andreas Karseras, Lefkios Rodosthenous, Nicos Angelides, Petros Stylianou, and Nicos Koshis) decided,

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however, to vote against the proposal for membership to the Commonwealth, even for a temporary five-year period, citing grounds of conscience. They argued that Commonwealth membership would amount to a continuation of colonial administration in a different form.⁵²

The RoC application to become a member of the Commonwealth was approved at the 1961 CPMC (8-17.3.1961) in Lancaster House, London. Following the decision to admit the RoC on 13.3.1961, Cypriot President Makarios joined the CPMC and participated in the remainder of its proceedings. The 1961 CPMC was of significance due to the withdrawal of South Africa from the Commonwealth. After the decision of the country to become a republic, Commonwealth leaders, with the exception of the UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Rhodesia and Nyasaland, opposed South Africa's application to remain in the Commonwealth due to its apartheid policy towards the black majority of the population. Faced with the majority of Commonwealth members resisting the application of South Africa to remain a member of the Commonwealth, the South African Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd decided to withdraw the application and to leave the CPMC.⁵³ South Africa rejoined only 33 years later, in 1994, under the leadership of Nelson Mandela who was the symbol of opposition to the apartheid policy towards the black population. This followed the 1993 CHOGM, which was the only CHOGM ever to be hosted in the RoC.

The RoC admission is characterised as a landmark in the evolution of membership in the Commonwealth as it was the first small state that joined.⁵⁴ Current Secretary-General of the Com-

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monwealth Patricia Scotland noted that the admission of the RoC paved the way for the Commonwealth to become the principal international organisation advocating the rights of small states, with approximately 75% of the world's small states being also Commonwealth members.⁵⁵

2. A SHIFT IN PERCEPTIONS: THE MAKARIOS PRESIDENCY (1961-1977)⁵⁶

2.1. From temporary to indefinite membership (1961-1965)

The 1960s were a defining era for the development of RoC - Commonwealth relations, and led to a significant shift from the initial Cypriot perception of the Commonwealth as an unavoidable transitional stage, to the RoC embracing the Commonwealth as a vital forum where it could pursue its political aspirations.

The first issue of grave concern for the RoC following its admission to the Commonwealth, related to the pending negotiations of the UK to become a member of the EEC. The UK applied to join the EEC in 1961, but French President Charles de Gaulle opposed the application. Following a second membership application and a change of government in France in 1969, the UK finally became a member of the EEC in 1973. At the time, the RoC was highly concerned about the consequences of a potential accession of the UK to the EEC for the RoC commercial and trade interests. Makarios met with the British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations Duncan Sandys on 2.4.1962. Sandys explained the status of the negotiations, and elaborated on how the interests of the RoC could be safeguarded if the UK joined the Common Market. This issue had been discussed in Brussels between the UK and EEC. Cypriot Ministers who were present in the meeting expressed their