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## ADVANCE COPY

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FM NICOSIA  
TO DESKBY 221030Z FCO  
TELNO 48  
OF 220830Z FEBRUARY 88  
INFO PRIORITY ATHENS, ANKARA, HQBFC, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON  
MY TELNO 47 : PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

### SUMMARY

VASSILIOU WINS. BOTH CANDIDATES HAVE REPEATED THE NEED FOR UNITY.

### DETAIL

1. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND JUST UNDER HALF OF KYPRIANOU'S CENTRE DEKO PARTY, GEORGE VASSILIOU WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT ON 21 FEBRUARY FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM. THE FINAL SHARES OF VALID VOTES CAST WERE:-

GEORGE VASSILIOU (LEFT-WING BACKED INDEPENDENT): 51.63%  
GLAFCOS CLERIDES (RIGHT WING): 48.37%

ABOUT 5% OF VOTES WERE INVALID (MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER IN THE FIRST ROUND).

2. VASSILIOU WILL TAKE OFFICE WHEN PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S TERM EXPIRES ON 28 FEBRUARY.

3. SPEAKING AFTER THE RESULTS WERE RELEASED, BOTH VASSILIOU AND CLERIDES URGED THEIR SUPPORTERS TO STAY CALM AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY. VASSILIOU, IN PARTICULAR, EMPHASISED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO WINNERS AND LOSERS. HE ADDED THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND CLERIDES WAS NOT GREAT AND THAT THE GREEK-CYPRIOUS SHOULD UNITE IN THEIR COMMON CAUSE.

4. ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, VASSILIOU SAID THE GREEK-CYPRIOUS HAD THE WILL AND THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION WHICH SECURED THE WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS AND SETTLERS, THE RIGHT OF RETURN FOR ALL REFUGEES AS WELL AS THE BASIC FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS. HE CALLED ON THE TURKISH-CYPRIOUS, AS FELLOW CITIZENS, TO JOIN THE GREEK-CYPRIOUS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

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COMMENT

5. THE ELECTIONS WERE PEACEFUL AND, DESPITE THE CLOSE RESULT, PASSED OFF WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT. VASSILIOU AND CLERIDES BOTH WORKED HARD TO PREVENT VIOLENCE BETWEEN THEIR TRADITIONALLY HOSTILE SUPPORTERS.

WILBERFORCE

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