

FOR RELEASE, THURS., 7/20/78

WASHINGTON--U.S. SEN. ROBERT C. BYRD (D-W.VA.) SAID THURSDAY HE IS PLEASED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, HEEDING REQUESTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, IS ALLOWING GREEKS TO RETURN TO THE CITY OF VAROSHA ON THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

"THIS WAS A NECESSARY AND POSITIVE STEP," SAID BYRD. "IT SHOULD HELP EASE THE BITTERNESS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF RESOLVING THE CYPRUS QUESTION."

BYRD, INTERVIEWED ON THE CBS NEWS PROGRAM FACE THE NATION LAST SUNDAY, URGED THAT THE TURKS BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN THEIR POLICIES IN AN EFFORT TO END HOSTILITIES OVER CYPRUS.

"FOR EXAMPLE," SAID BYRD, "THE CITY OF VAROSHA WAS A GREEK CITY, AND IT IS NOW EMPTY AND UNDER TURKISH MILITARY CONTROL. I'M TOLD THAT 35,000 GREEKS COULD RETURN TO THAT CITY WITHIN A FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TURKS TURN THE CITY OVER TO U.N. ADMINISTRATION NOW."

THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN BRIEFING THE NEWS MEDIA, SAID BYRD, "FOCUSED THE ATTENTION OF THE PARTIES ON THIS PROBLEM, AND HAS BEEN VERY KEY IN THESE EFFORTS IN GETTING THINGS MOVING AGAIN."

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DAILY MAIL CHW