

As a result of World War II the Eastern Mediterranean became one of the most strategic regions in a rising bipolar system. The United States of America realized the geostrategical importance of Greece and Turkey and therefore they provided them with Truman doctrine financial support as a means of preventing infiltration of the Soviet Union to the region. Greece and Turkey assumed their important role in the security system of the West and therefore the United States had an interest in political and economical stability of the area.

Nevertheless, from the fifties deep rooted historical tensions between Greece and Turkey intensified. The main reason for this was the Mediterranean island Cyprus, which was a traditional point of contention between both countries.

The Cyprus Republic was founded in 1960 as a way of solving problems on the ethnically divided island and leading to pacify Greek-Turkish relations. However, the independence of Cyprus did not calm the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Events on the island created significant crises in 1964 and 1974; Greece and Turkey were in both years on the brink of mutual military confrontation.

The United States took responsibility for the maintenance of the southeastern flag of NATO and from the end of the fifties started to be interested in the 'Cyprus Question' which intensified worsening Greek-Turkish relations. Between the sixties and seventies the United States tried many times to find a solution to the 'Cyprus Question', but they were not successful in their diplomatic activities. Contrariwise the U.S. attempts to solve the Cyprus crises of 1964 (above all president Johnson's letter to Turkish prime minister İnönü) and 1974 only escalated the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and worsen U.S. relations with Greece and Turkey. Overall, it can be said that U.S. foreign policy towards the 'Cyprus Question' between years 1960-1974 was thus rather unsuccessful.