

Appendix H – INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS

Detailed Transcripts of Interviews Conducted for **BEYOND CONTESTATION: A BOTTOM-UP REGISTER OF VAROSHA'S TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE**

Nilsu Erkul

This thesis is submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture.

December 2024

Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University

Preface

This appendix includes the full transcripts of 48 semi-structured interviews conducted from February to May 2022, integral to exploring Varosha's contested heritage. The interviews, conducted via digital platforms due to COVID-19, engaged a diverse group of participants identified in Chapter 5, section 5.5.3.1 of this dissertation. These transcripts provide comprehensive insights into the personal and collective memories that shape Varosha's heritage, serving as a vital qualitative data source for the research.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>E00 Transcription</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>E01 Transcription</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>E02 Transcription</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>E03 Transcription</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>E04 Transcription</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>E05 Transcription</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>E06 Transcription</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>E07 Transcription</i>	<i>84</i>
<i>E08 Transcription</i>	<i>98</i>
<i>E09 Transcription</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>E10 Transcription</i>	<i>131</i>
<i>E11 Transcription</i>	<i>141</i>
<i>E12 Transcription</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>E13 Transcription</i>	<i>175</i>
<i>E14 Transcription</i>	<i>191</i>
<i>E15 Transcription</i>	<i>206</i>
<i>E16 Transcription</i>	<i>208</i>
<i>E17 Transcription</i>	<i>235</i>
<i>E18 Transcription</i>	<i>251</i>
<i>E19 Transcription</i>	<i>272</i>
<i>E20 Transcription</i>	<i>286</i>
<i>E21 Transcription</i>	<i>302</i>
<i>E22 Transcription</i>	<i>304</i>
<i>E23 Transcription</i>	<i>319</i>
<i>E24 Transcription</i>	<i>327</i>
<i>E25 Transcription</i>	<i>349</i>
<i>E26 Transcription</i>	<i>364</i>
<i>E27 Transcription</i>	<i>386</i>
<i>E28 Transcription</i>	<i>402</i>
<i>E29 Transcription</i>	<i>417</i>
<i>E30 Transcription</i>	<i>435</i>

<i>E31 Transcription</i>	450
<i>E32 Transcription</i>	474
<i>E33 Transcription</i>	496
<i>E34 Transcription</i>	514
<i>E35 Transcription</i>	533
<i>E36 Transcription</i>	548
<i>E37 Transcription</i>	570
<i>E38 Transcription</i>	607
<i>E39 Transcription</i>	624
<i>E40 Transcription</i>	637
<i>E41 Transcription</i>	649
<i>E42 Transcription</i>	656
<i>E43 Transcription</i>	675
<i>E44 Transcription</i>	695
<i>E45 Transcription</i>	714
<i>E46 Transcription</i>	724
<i>E47 Transcription</i>	745

E00 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Of course I do, because I always remember my father telling me about Varosha and I remember actually when I was in the primary school our teachers were asking where we are from and I always, you know they were always giving us a paper to sign, for our parents to sign every year and it reads the origin of each parent so I always looking at my mum's which is Nicosia for her origin because she is from Nicosia and I have always seen Famagusta in my father's name but I knew that Famagusta was actually occupied and, was for a kid it is a little bit weird because they can not understand everything. And I remember I asked my father why it says Famagusta for your origin, and he told me that because I am from Famagusta and I was like why we are not living there and he was trying to explain to me, what is going on and the situation. Since that time I started feeling connected to Varosha because it was you know my roots are there, half of my roots are in Varosha and I believe that it's not good that just ignore them because the situation is like it is today. So, yes I always feel connected to Varosha because of that.

- So you said that your dad was always explaining Varosha to you, is there a specific memory where your dad constantly speak to you about Varosha ?

- Yes, I remember that he was telling me, I remember it was Christmas and we got the presents from the Santa Claus and he was giving us small cars and this kind of stuff and he always telling me that I really like these kind of toys because I used to have them in Famagusta as well and Turkish took all of them maybe, I don't know what they did with his toys but always his mind was in Famagusta, as always. This is something that hurts and I totally understand refugees of both sides even the Turkish Cypriot refugees and Greek Cypriot refugees because they have the same pain because they left their houses as refugees. I remember my father telling me all this kind of stuff. For example even for some foods that we used to eat, he was telling me that as a kid I was eating this fruit in Famagusta, cause you know Famagusta was really developed at that time and everything like the cultural stuff, the museums, the

theaters, the libraries they used to have, everything was so developed even at that time. He had a lot of memories, I guess it's different for someone whose origin is from a village that hasn't had a lot of stuff to do if you compare it to Varosha because it was like, it was even way more developed than the capital city, Nicosia

- What does the name ghost town mean to you?
- That is a bit hard to say, confused in my mind because I think it counts from all this propaganda they did to us while we were in the primary school. Because I remember when it was, when we had some events let's say, talking about Cyprus and the conflict around Cyprus or for example the 1st of October which is the independence day of Cyprus, the republic of Cyprus. I remember preparing small events at the school and they were dressing kids up and the kids actually were representing the districts of Cyprus, one was Nicosia, the other was Limassol, Larnaca, etc. and I remember that Famagusta was always something like a ghost just to make the kids believe that Famagusta is a ghost town. I remember that they used to print out pictures of Famagusta the hotels and the Golden beach there at Palm Beach and they told us that for example that Greek Cypriots were living there and just a good day Turkish came and occupied Cyprus and they closed the part of Famagusta. So, this is actually what ghost town means to me, it means like a person who is actually a ghost. And it means that it is a no man's land, abandoned city, a very big city, all abandoned and empty houses, empty shops, empty churches, empty mosques, etc.
- If you compared to what it means to your dad do you think your dad also consider Varosha as a ghost town or what does your dad or your grandparents vision Varosha as, or ghost town as?
- First of all, unfortunately I have never met my grandfather because he died 6 years before I was born. My father actually used to tell me that Famagusta is a ghost town because you know it is closed up and nobody can go there, not even Turkish Cypriots used to, they couldn't go there or even Turks because it was a military zone of the Turkish army. So, that's just the fact but my dad tried not to promote hatred to me because for example it's not your fault the fact that you are a Turkish Cypriot, it's not

your fault that Turks came and occupied Cyprus, Turks like they closed the city of Famagusta. He always tried not to promote hatred to me or to my sisters as well but I always remember my grandma, she is still talking about, she is 96 years old and her soul belongs to Famagusta, to her house. Because she grew up there, she did her job there, she had everything, it was her whole life, her friends were there, her everything was there. So, when she talks about Famagusta you can always feel like the pain she has inside of her for the past 48 years. It creates something like, I'm not going to say words such as hate or whatever, it is a mixed emotion.

- So, you said your grandma also spoke about Famagusta and her job and her friends. I know that there are Facebook groups which are my data collection method as well. Do you know if your dad also tried to connect with others through those groups?
- Yes, of course. I remember my dad when, like 10 years ago or something when he created his facebook account, he found out that this facebook groups actually are existing and the existence of these groups. It was really, I remember that he was telling that he found friends of him and his friends from the school or some friends he used to play with, the other kids in the neighborhood and each one of them were posting some pictures that they could save from their houses. I could feel he was moved about that because he even saw himself in some pictures when he was in the school, the primary school. That was so moving, it really touches your heart when you actually see that and when you see your neighborhood where you used to play as a kid and now it's like a ghost town. It is insane, truly insane, mixed of emotions
- You said his neighborhood; do you know which one?
- Yes, of course I know. I remember that when the checkpoints first opened in 2003, I remember I was like, 5 to 6 years old when the check points first opened and I still remember the very first time we have been to my father's house. Actually I don't know if we are lucky or not but our house is actually on the border of the closed city and the open city. So we could see it. And my hand was actually, 20 meters maybe even less, 10 meters away from it, was able to touch my house and I could not because of the fence. I don't know if that is good or not, the fact that I can even see my house,

even before Varosha opened up (October 2020). I remember other things that my father used to show me on google maps, the exact road that goes directly to our house, it actually that road where Deryneia checkpoints opened, and he was showing me the whole city and he was telling me 'that's our house, that's the church behind our house, that's the house of a friend of mine, etc'. 'here I was coming to school, I was a student in that school, here I was dating some girls in that café, here I was working as a teenager to some hotels at that time'. And even before Varosha opened, I knew Varosha, I knew each place in Varosha, I mean the main streets. I think that it was something good that my father spoke to me, he even draw our house on the paper and he told me that here was a kitchen, here was bathroom, here was the living room, here was my room, etc. I really believe that if one day Varosha opens and I can go to my house, I am sure that I will recognize each room, because he explained that to me with so many details not even only our house, the whole city. I mean when I have been inside the city, I knew every single place.

- Which places did you know inside Varosha? Just the place you knew before the October 2020 opening?
- I knew about the Market, where we can not go now because it is not on the open part. But I knew that place from pictures as well. I knew Golden Marianna Hotel, Constantia Hotel, Edelweiss Café, the Greek Gymnasium and the Lyceium of Greeks I guess if it is the exact translation, the most beautiful buildings of Varosha, the Lyceium of Greeks and the Gymnasium of Greeks, the Greek Gymnasium let's say, where the municipal garden is now with the fountains and this kind of stuff. Okay a very basic picture you know the building with the TOYOTA sign, the building of Olympic airways I mean several buildings and the old cinema as well which now almost went down, the Kings George of course that fell down as well. I think that's the most important building.
- Was your dad talking about these buildings before the opening?
- Yeah, wow, really. I always remember, first of all he was working at Golden Marianna Hotel and Constantia Hotel, that's why I know these hotels. In Edelweiss Café he

used to go for dates, and not only dates catching up with his friends, etc. He was a student of the Greek Gymnasium, of the beautiful building behind the Municipal Gardens. He used to go to the cinema of course, I mean he was just telling me, he was explaining to me his everyday life and I knew I felt like I was living his everyday life as well. Even when I have been inside the city

- Before when I asked you, you said that as soon as the checkpoints opened you went to see the house. Would you say that you kept going there over the years or was it just when it opened?
- No, we used to go there, we have been to Varosha several times but we were just making road trips, we have been to Salamina as I remember, we have been to the city for a walk around the walls of Famagusta. I mean we used to go there because my father wanted me, not only me, my sisters as well, to know our city, to know our roots, to feel like we are Famagustians as well. But suddenly, he just stopped taking us to the Northern side of the island, I don't know maybe it was a disappointment, I don't know what it was, he didn't answer to me to that question even today. But now I grew up, I am mature enough to be able to go to the northern side more often, I am actually going every week there. But that is the exact reason, I feel like somebody took my city and I don't want to feel like, not only my city you know half of our country, I guess you feel the same for the southern part of Cyprus, I mean it was a place that you never could go easily, I mean there was something that happened years ago, so that's what I feel now that why I go to my city and I wanna feel more connected to it, to the whole of the island.
- You said you went to Varosha two times. Is there any reason why you didn't go more?
- Well, there is no specific reason actually, maybe, okay, the first time I have been to Varosha I have been there with a bicommunal organization called HADE, we have been there to make a human chain of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. So, the second time when I have been there it was like so crowded, because I think it was the weekend, I think it was a Sunday, it was full of people inside the city and what made me feel really really angry it was the fact that a lot of people and especially the

tourists or students who were studying in the Northern part of the Cyprus, they were sightseeing in the city and they were taking pictures smiling in front of the buildings, the abandoned buildings. And that pissed me off a lot and I remember I have been there with a friend of mine and we walked like 30 minutes and we didn't say anything to each other we were just walking and we were silent and it was like an awkward silence and as I told you that really pissed me off because I call Varosha the museum of war because this is what it is, it is the museum of war literally. You can go there and see what the war did in that city and to its people. I mean you can not see it from the one side people who are going to see their childhood memories and on the other hand you see young people taking pictures laughing in front of abandoned buildings, I mean I find that really disrespectful about that city. So that's why I don't think I really wanna go again cause there are a lot of stuff I didn't see yet. I really wanna go again but I just didn't find the right timing cause I am quite busy as well. It's not the fact that I don't wanna go again

- I noticed that you didn't go with your dad. Is there a reason for that?
- Well first of all, my dad didn't want to go at the first part, when they first opened Varosha and I told him, dad do you wanna go to Varosha, how do you feel about the opening of it and he told me, well it doesn't make any change to me. So, he wasn't surprised about that and he told me I don't wanna go there, I prefer to have memories of how it used to be in the past and I know that if I go there I am not going to be fine, I am going to get angry, I won't be able to sleep in the night and this kind of stuff and after like 6 months or 7 or 8 months, several months later he told me that he wants me to take him to Varosha. Well we haven't been there yet though but I am sure we will one day
- To be fair my research is mostly focused on the fenced off area. But when I started my interviews I noticed that people want to talk about the whole of Famagusta because they don't consider Famagusta as just Varosha. So yes of course if you have anything to share about the walled city, go ahead.

- So yeah, in the city within the walls I really loved St. Nicholas Church, Lala Mustafa Pasa Mosque, that gothic architecture with the architecture of the Venetian walls and the small churches in the city, it's really amazing for me. I really wish I could live back to that time, like my father, like he used to live there and he lived like the whole of it, you know the whole city not just the closed part, I mean of course he couldn't go to the city within the walls back in that time because it was a Turkish Cypriot gettho, lets say. But I still remember he was telling me that he always wanted to go there and see St. Nicholas church, you know the gothic church it used to be. He was also telling me about St. George Church which is now like, I think it's just rotten walls and it's not a church anymore, obviously. That's what I love in Famagusta, I just like, that's why I love Nicosia as well, it has the Venetian walls and the city within the walls, which is like the traditional Cypriot architecture and outside you can see like the modern part of the city and I love this combination.
- You talked about the Agia Triada Church inside the fenced off area, would you say, when you visited inside that building was the one that struck you the most?
- Well, yeah, actually, it was one of the most impressive building, not impressive I think that is the wrong word, it was something very unique, I have never seen something like that before, even, and I travel a lot, a lot of countries but the design of that church, the architecture is something really unique. It's a church and usually churches are simple and not simple actually, I mean the orthodox churches in Cyprus are just the standard architecture with the bell tower and this kind of stuff but this church's shape is unique. And some other churches I mean the towers are like, it's just a beautiful architecture
- Is there any other inside Varosha that stroke you more like this church?
- Yeah, the Greek gymnasium, the school opposite of the gymnasium. Both schools because one of those who believes that Cyprus has a lot of Greek influences and that's something that I really like, the combination of all of these different architectures we have in Cyprus. I mean we have the Ottoman architecture, we have the Greek architecture, Venetian and then the Lusignan, etc. This is what I like the

most in Cyprus and when you actually, I am not going to talk about Varosha I am going to talk about whole of it because this is how, it is connected. You can see that Greek part, with the columns and the windows and the stairs, etc. even the door, you can see the modern part, as we said that modern church you can see the Cypriot/Ottoman/Greek part of the city within the walls and you can see gothic part, gothic architecture which is the ala Mustafa Pasa Mosque, and you can see the Venetian as well. It is something really unique, you can see so many architectures within one city and it's really amazing.

- What did you expect to see when you went there? To Democracy Avenue, Kennedy Avenue? Did you have any expectation in mind to see anything?
- Not at all actually. I was expecting to see what I was expecting to see. I think there is not a lot of expectations in Varosha because you know it is an abandoned city, its untouched. So the pictures that you are actually watching on television or in the magazines or in the media it's exactly the same. So you are not expecting something different.
- From the memories and what you heard from your dad was there any particular building that you were looking forward to seeing?
- Well, first of all our house. Actually I just wanted to see the whole architecture of Varosha because as I said before, Varosha was really developed for that time and you could even see that from the architecture of the whole city. You could see the houses, you could see the shops, I just wanted to see the whole city because there was something that my father used to tell me as well, that even the architecture was really modern for that time. There is a church, the wheel shaped church, I really wanted to see that church in person, I mean live, because that's a really modern church for that time, for 1974 like for 48 years ago, almost half a century, its architecture look like a church, there was something that was really interesting for me and I don't remember there was another building. Even the houses were different. The combination with the garden, the front garden of the houses, and the house and the backyard. I really don't know how to explain that I mean the architecture of

Varosha was just amazing. Even if you go out of Varosha, to the open Varosha you can even see there the building. It's kind of, it combines the modern part of the city which is now abandoned with the traditional Cypriot architecture with the small balconies and some buildings that are from our colonizers. You can understand that these buildings are British and they used to be back in that time. I don't know if you wanna talk about the city within the walls as well.

- Do you see a future for Varosha?/ Famagusta?
- Unfortunately with the statuesque it's really difficult to believe in a better future for Famagusta because in the southern part of the Cyprus we are getting a lot of funds from the union to make the faces of the buildings new, to do constructions and renovations and stuff like that. And this is something really important that the European Union are paying a lot of money to improve the cultural stuff of the country. This is something that Cyprus really needs, Nicosia as well, Nicosia is the only divided capital in Europe and the city centre of Nicosia is just divided into two parts. The historic city centre of Nicosia which is exactly the same as the city within the walls of Famagusta. I believe that if Cyprus will be united one day both Greek and Turkish speaking Cypriot Famagustians will be able to work together and rebuild their city, both cities I mean Maras, Varosha and the city within the walls to make Famagusta being the most beautiful city in Cyprus, like it used to be, in my opinion.
- Did the October 2020 opening change your thoughts about the future of Varosha?
- Well I wouldn't say so to be honest, I believe that this is something that is not really good, on the one side of the view it's a good part that Famagusta is open, sorry Varosha is open. I don't know if it's good the fact that they opened Famagusta or if I prefer it to stay closed for like I don't know maybe more years. On the other hand I am really happy that I have been inside my city and I saw my home town after like 23/22 years back in last year when I first been there but yeah it's a mixed of emotions.
- Do you think some places in Varosha should be protected as they are?

- Well I wouldn't say so I think that this is something that is not good. Wait are you talking about the future of Famagusta, for example say we are going to be reunited, start rebuilding it. Are you talking about that?
- Yes, it doesn't necessarily mean, it can be in any scenario, if you can think about a better future or future of Varosha, would you want to see anything inside of Varosha to stay as it is now?
- No, it is going to be, it will remind us the dark past of the city. So I believe that the best thing for Famagusta is to, for its people to rebuilt the city and make it famous, glamorous like it used to be. I don't know about your point of view, actually I never thought about that in this way. But I don't think that I would love to see any buildings as it is today.
- If you think about the memories that they are holding or from your dad's point of view like edelweiss café where they used to have dates or golden Marianna where he worked, from this perspective do you still think it shouldn't be protected as it is?
- They can make a renovation and use it again, that's what I think is gonna be the best thing and it's gonna be the justice for the city to just renovate every single building and make it full of noises and full of people again. I think this is something that Varosha really needs after 48 years of silence and pain. I don't think that leaving any building inside the city as it is now is going to be good for Varosha. I just want to see my country united and if one day Varosha will open, and if I will be able to go there and live, I will definitely go there. It is my city, it is my hometown and I really feel like both Nicosia and Famagusta are my hometowns. I really feel close to Famagusta for several reasons. I told you some of them now, in our general discussion. The only thing I need to say is peace and justice for all Cypriots

E01 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- I feel and I am connected.
- What is your relationship to Varosha?
- It is (part of) my Home Town and I lived there for a few years.
- Were both your parents from Famagusta?
- No. Only my mother is from Famagusta.
- How old were you when 1974 events happen?
- I was 8 y.o.
- Do you have any vivid memory of Varosha?
- Some of my memories include the following: The lively area around the Municipal Market, where my Grandparents lived. The beach where my home is. I remember spending hours swimming and catching little fish in the sea, building sandcastles or exploring the nearby sand dunes.
- Demokratias avenue is one of the main avenues of Famagusta and always busy. Sometimes my mother would buy me a very nice sandwich from “Cafe Vienna”. From there we would walk at the Municipal Garden where eventually most of my sandwich would end in the water ponds while feeding the fish (they were huge compared to what I was catching in the sea). Also the Hadjihambis Cinema (its the one with the collapsed facade) where I remember watching my first movie on a Saturday afternoon. I also remember the modern hotel and apartment buildings along Kennedy avenue, another major street in Famagusta. At that time (and at my age) these buildings seemed to be huge. I remember the first time when my father took me at the GSE Stadium to watch

a football game for the first time. I also remember going with my father at the “Anorthosis” clubhouse, located on Evagorou avenue to watch a basketball game. Some areas of Varosha were very green, because at that time there were many orange orchards. There was an annual “Orange Festival” in Famagusta. Last but not least, I remember very well my Primary School, my Teachers and my classmates (several years after 1974 I was finally able to reconnect with many of them).

- What do you remember the most about the Municipal Market area? Was it a place that you would go often?
- The noisy streets that were always full of people. Also the smoke and the smell from the souvlaki (kebab) that was being grilled early in the morning. As I already wrote, my Grandparents lived in that area so we would visit them occasionally.
- Were you visiting any of the hotel/apartment buildings in Kennedy Avenue? If yes how often and what for?
- It is important to understand that most of the buildings on Kennedy avenue were not hotels but apartment buildings where people lived. In this context I would perhaps visit friends or relatives who lived in these buildings and nearby.
- You have said some areas of Varosha were very green, what parts are these?
- At that time the Agios Memnon area still had many orange orchards. These do not exist anymore.
- What is the most memorable thing about the “Orange Festival”?
- Probably the Orange Parade and the orange decorations of the metal sculptures in the Municipal Park.
- Where is your Primary School?

- The “Chrysi Akti” Primary School is located in an area that to this day remains inaccessible and approximately 250 meters west of the Turkish military checkpoint near the Marangos House on Kennedy avenue. “Chrysi Akti” means “Golden Coast”.
- What does the name “Ghost Town” mean to you?
- It means 47 years stolen from my life.
- Have you visited Varosha after the October 2020 opening?
- No
- Is there particular reason for you not visiting?
- I do not want to return to my Town as a temporary “visitor”, under constant surveillance and all kinds of other restrictions to see my home and other places that still mean a lot to me. I understand that we do not live in a perfect world but still, in the 21st century this kind of thing should be totally unacceptable.
- Is there a place that carries a value for you
- If I have to point out one place that is special to me then this would be the sandy beach and the sea in front of my home.
- What is this place? Why did you choose this place? How that place has changed?
- The beach and the sea are still there. My home is in an apartment building that was built sometime in the late 1960’s. The building itself is not in good condition anymore. I understand that if I go there and try to enter it, I may get arrested.
- What does Varosha mean to you? What does it represent?

- Varosha and Famagusta will always be my real Home. In its current state and status, unfortunately it reminds me of the deprivation of my right to live as a free person in my own town and home.
- Do you see a future in Varosha?
- No. Not for me. Not as long as the place remains under Turkish occupation and as long as the town's indigenous population and rightful owners cannot return.
- Did the October 2020 opening change your thoughts about the future of Varosha?
- Yes. Until not so long ago I still thought that a solution to the Cyprus problem was still possible. Now I am not sure anymore. Altering the status of areas that could be returned in the event of an agreement (as it happened with Varosha), does not help.
- Do you think that some places in Varosha should be protected as they are?
- Leaving all other issues aside, Famagusta as a whole is a truly unique place and Varosha is a very special part of it. Many of the buildings that are still standing there are quite amazing and in some cases they have even defied time in a beautiful manner. Trying to preserve or even recreate the past feeling and character of all these, would require a lot of Wisdom as well as the involvement of those who lived there until 1974 and who have memories of the place from a very different time. While this task could be approached from several directions, realistically speaking and because of the different parameters involved, it would be a complicated project to execute. Personally I am not aware of a similar precedent to something like this. I also understand that this is a hypothetical question.
- What needs to be protected? Why?
- This is a very big question to answer in one or two sentences. My own list would include many public buildings and spaces such as Churches, Schools, markets, stoas, cinemas, parks etc.

- Is there a place that you think has a public/historical value of all the Famagustians?
- There are many such places (i.e landmark buildings and areas) and these are located inside and outside the fenced area and the reason for this is easy to understand, considering that the fence itself is an artificial barrier that did not exist before 1974. I have already mentioned several of these places in my previous replies.

E02 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha? / Famagusta

- In a way because when I went there to serve with United Nations I was just 20 at that time I had not been very much abroad I have been to Normandy studying the occupation in the military academy and then Denmark because during my school time we lived in south of Sweden so Denmark was very close but it was kind of adventure and were going to do something that we thought probably to help the people in Cyprus so I went down in, I think, September 1972 and left end of march beginning of April 1973 so I was there during the winter period and then I remember it, you know like a happy time. It was an adventure that it was also a very calm period in Cyprus, they say that two battalions I had said that it was calm and one of them was my battalion, so we spent some time on the beach, discotheques, lots of tourists in Varosha at that time.

- So you said that you came in September 1972 but you weren't living in Famagusta were you?

- Yes, we had our camp on the road to Salamis, I think it was called general Stephanie or something today, during my period was called gusto camp which is not from the Swedish king but for the first battalion commander at that camp, it was in the old British second world war camp from the start, I think

- Before getting into the more details you said you remember the beaches, the discotheques. If I ask you what the most vivid memory from Varosha what would you say?

- One thing I remember is we are out in the city, people looked happy, they were smiling. In Sweden we thought people were a bit more down in a way. And it was, they were driving on the wrong side of the street and it was something special. I cannot say exactly but it was in a way happy time when we were working. I had a fantastic job because I was on the duty only four days and so we had lots of time. I was taking part

in we had an economics officer in the battalion, he was very interested in archeology so we went out to Engomi, we spent some time there with him and I was very fascinated about this, when I was young I was interested in history so to see all these things, to see salamis ruins and see what they built so long ago was fantastic.

- What does the name ghost town mean to you?
- It's something sad that happened, because of all the people's stupidity and being a place, which was joy for so many people, both those living in the area and those coming from just as tourists. It was something very very sad to see this town being a more or less ruin and abandoned by its inhabitants.
- So, when you were in Cyprus how often did you visit Varosha, would you say?
- I guess we were into Varosha mostly every day when we were not on duty. We were often in the walled city too, but the first who came from our camp was to Varosha.
- And why was Varosha the first?
- You had the walled city you had to go across the what you call, you pass through the gate, I think the gate was, the closest gate where we went into the walled city, land gate. We had a camp which was not used, we call it gold fish, its, there was a roundabout just outside the land gate I think very close to that one we had a couple of villas, where people from the battalion was living. And very close there, there was a hospital I remember, close to land gate and my, the one person left from going home to Sweden and I convinced him to stay and he wanted to learn Turkish. he met Turkish Cypriot family, the husband was working in the hospital and his wife had a bar very close to the land gate and the first night in Cyprus we went to them, they were living in the walled city and what I remember was you need to raise your hand and pick some grapes or some very small bananas and they had earth on their floor in their house but they had all modern things like you know fridges, televisions but earth and soil on the floor which was a bit exotic to a person coming from Sweden but it was a good start to go and visit this family. We also go to them for couple coffee or a beer or

something. I didn't know how a Turkish coffee, to know if it was sweet, not sweet or if it was poison.

- So, it's really interesting that you said first you went to the old town and I will ask more questions on that. So, from walled town, how did you end up going to Varosha? How did you end up going to Varosha for the first time?
- The soldier office in the camp they took us into Varosha but the first evening in Varosha I was with my old comrade, who wanted to know this family in the old town, walled city. But after that we, I think we mostly visited Varosha because we were in the 20s, we wanted to go to discotheques, bar and most of it was in Varosha.
- You said, you knew Turkish Cypriots inside the old town, so, what was the relationship between the old town and Varosha at the time?
- It was, the walled city was in a way closed. Because, if, we often took a taxi from our camp to visit. If we wanted to go to the old town we had to stop the taxi outside and walk across and into. Because a Greek taxi couldn't go into the old city. They said they were shooting if they did. It was in a way closed like strict Turkish Cypriot part of Famagusta. But also, outside the old city there were Turkish villages like it was Greek villages. Observation post in the Othello tower, so I went in, sometimes we went in just to go to barbers, buy something just stroll. It was old town square, it didn't had hotels like Varosha. It was many houses I think were medieval almost and it was fascinating. It was a little bit quiet, it was cozy in a way to be in the old city.
- How was the relationship between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots? Were there any Greek Cypriots inside of the old town?
- I have never met a Greek Cypriot inside old town. I think the Greek Cypriots were not going in, I don't know if they were allowed to, but they didn't. It was very strange in Cyprus at that time because the only flag you did not see was the Cyprus flag. There was Turkish flag or Greek flags. The national guard camps had Greek flags not Cypriot flags. In a way it was like you weren't in Cyprus and you were in the two other

countries. And in the old city there were Turkish Cypriots police and they have, we call the Turkish Cypriot fighters, the soldiers and in the main part of Varosha not the Turkish the main part you have the Greek Cypriot police and soldiers. And something very strange is that no officer higher rank than major in the national guard was Cypriot, all the others came from Athens. It was during the cunta in Athens. It was very obvious that they wanted to be part of Greece more than part of Cyprus.

- How was the Turkish Cypriots looking at Varosha? Were they visiting Varosha? Or working there?
- As far as I know there were definitely visiting Varosha but I cannot tell if they were working there but I guess some of them were. As I said the hospital were definitely for both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. In a way how, many work in the Greek part of Varosha I don't know
- It is really interesting that there is this totally isolated part of the town. Compared to old town Varosha was more developed with hotels and tourism. Were you feeling any conflict when you were visiting Varosha?
- Not really. Maybe because the town was divided in a way, the wall was a natural divide in a way but I have no idea how many people lived in the walled city and how many Turkish Cypriots were living outside the walled city. What I remember is that one of the closest neighbor, villages to our camp was a Turkish Cypriot village. I am not sure but the name is Sakarya, something that is in my head. Every night we would do some patrolling in the evenings to show the UN flags and from the camp we went into closest village which we were just driving through it and a couple of villages and we took through Varosha and out along the big street in the hotel area, I think it is called Kennedy Avenue. But the most important thing when you are 20 is to see where all the girls might be.
- So were you patrolling every night?

- Yes, we were, I was duty officer in the battalion, and we were four duty officers. So, every fortnight I was doing patrol and some other patrol during the daytime. If you go from the land agate passing the Famagusta hospital you had Greek Cypriot governor had its office on the left side and the opposite the street was the police station and something called first higher pack command mission of national guards, commanding Greek coronals. We had something, two liation committees, I was always taking part with the Greek part and sometimes with the Turkish. The Turkish leading figure, I remember his name because he had a lovely daughter. She was visiting us in our camp couple of times.
- After you left in 1973, have you visited Cyprus?
- Once, unfortunately once and that was to Limassol. So, I had not been in Varosha since I left.
- When you came to Limassol, when was this?
- It was just for you know to go to the beaches, but we went into Nicosia one day and this was in end of June and Nicosia was not very nice at that time, it was hard to survive in the heat.
- When you left in 1973, did you continue to follow up what was happening in Cyprus or in Famagusta?
- Yes, we, when they lost the coop and then the occupation happened, I read about it, saw about it on TV. It was something very sad because for us, when you go back to early 70s you had no smartphones and lots of things. So, you have not much experience of being abroad so for us, for very far north of Sweden you go to Cyprus it's like coming to paradise or something. And it's very sad when your paradise is suffering from occupation or other things. Maybe not too surprised because, there was no fight between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots when I was there but internally on the Greek side when this terror organization EOKA begin with general Grivas and there was some fights between EOKA and especially the Greek Cypriot police and

there was some nights there was bomb explosions but when it was just internal with the Greek side UN did not do anything about because our task was to see that Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots did not fight. There was nothing like that during my period.

- I know that you are in some of the groups that are created for Varosha. How did you find them? What made you find them?
- I am not quite sure cause when you find one you find the next. I guess it started with some UN groups, I am in many UN groups from former UN soldiers from different parts but there are some special groups for Swedish served in Cyprus. I think that through one of those I found the first one (first group related to Varosha) and then you find another, there is one which is very active.
- So, the first one you found was in Greek one, right?
- Yeah, it was the one with the long name, I think the last name is Famagusta in Greek, Ammochostos.
- What did you expect to see in those groups?
- See what was happening in Varosha and see if there were signs that could make maybe the situation better and maybe even unite the island and that there are many writing in that group sometimes there are periods with a bit of hate and I ask myself what they teach in schools in Cyprus. Because it seems like especially I can understand that there are bitterness for those who had to leave Varosha but when I will say they will never solve this if they don't accept what is, how the situation is now and start, you cannot turn back times before summer 1974 its impossible by memories but to me it seems like they do not teach in Greek schools about EOKA and the coup and things like that. So that there is some hate but most people are thinking of quite nice. I think they want solution but they will tell how it should be the solution, they cannot accept that its happened a lot since 1974, in two years' time its 50 years. But we still hope.

- You said that it is hard to go back to how it was before 1974. So, when you go on these Facebook groups there are many photos how it was before and everything. Going through those photographs was there any place or a space that helped you remember your memories?
- I cannot say; many pictures are hotel buildings and I cannot say that I remember so many of those buildings. It is I think the Golden Sands I have a bit memory of and King George I think those hotels that were quite close to, shall we say the central part of the Varosha, the commercial part of Varosha and then the head shall we say the restaurants, Edelweiss, they show in quite many pictures. And there was Demokratias, there was a street and I think it was you know divide like a V and in this V, the national of our head officers lived (?). And every Sunday they close the street and military music court and after that shouting enosis.
- Where did you say this was happening?
- They were closing the street and they were marching with a band and after the band the soldiers were shouting enosis which is the main problem, cause the problems in Cyprus. After that all the unmarried girls were put on the streets to show that free for marriage. There were many soldiers sitting on the front row of all the bars along the street, something that happened on Sundays.
- So this was happening on the Democracy Avenue?
- Yes.
- You said you had memories of Golden Sands and King George Hotel. What kind of memories did you have there?
- We have been sometimes I think we visited people, it happened that someone you know, if you know that your friends are serving in Cyprus and thinking going for a holiday it's easier to go there because you know there is someone that maybe can show you something and sometimes I guess it was we were visiting tourists staying in

those hotels and on top of this Salamina Tower hotel, which is if I remember correct it is quite close to king George Hotel they had a night club on the top floor in that hotel.

- What other places are important for you inside Varosha?
- I think for us going out eat good food for a reasonable price in restaurants but I cannot say that I can picture them in my head but I remember we had good food, good wine, good beer and KEO was something important in a soldiers life so it's in a way you can say it's something like the whole thing of being in Varosha, being in such another environment that I was used to. So I think it's more another environment, the special buildings, and another strange thing I went once to cinema, which I think was not far away from the indoor market where they sell groceries and meat and they had text on the film and we are used to that in Sweden because we do not let people in an American movies be Swedish so the text was in Swedish but they had text in many languages and you try to read all when you don't understand anything but your eyes go to the text so I can't remember what movie I was seeing but I remember four or five languages texted on the screen.
- Did you see any photos of this cinema?
- I haven't seen, I have seen from this big market place but I tried to find out on an old map where it could have been but I am not sure and I cannot get clear picture of what it looked like. Because I was there once.
- So, it was around the neighborhood of Municipal Market you said?
- Not too far away from there I think it was.
- If I asked you to explain me how life inside Varosha was, not just the people or tourist, in terms of town and city dynamics, like the education, the culture. How would you describe it to me?

- I think that tough Cyprus had problems between the two main groups of people, it seems like people were still quite happy and with the life they had, the material standard, I think the Cyprus was higher than many other Mediterranean countries and they have like, most of taxi cars were quite new Mercedes so it was, there was something that hit us, it was that material standard was quite high. I cannot say very much about schools but I think they had good schools. They tried to learn English in an English schools with English teachers. I think it was called English grammar school or something. I remember one boy had thrown balls on the wall and had to write 1000 times I shall not throw the ball on the wall. He was being while there were about 10 officers watching him. I guess he was not feeling very comfortable with that. I guess he did not throw the ball anymore. And the culture yes, I am not sure but we saw like folkdance but I cannot say where or how much but I think they have different festivals there and it has history. I mean the Richard the lion heart started his crusade from Cyprus. So, has a rich history from romans, they have this salamis with its theater.
- After the October 2020 opening, from the photos, was there any particular place or building where you were surprised to see or felt sad for what happened?
- Most pictures are from the hotel part of the Varosha. I cannot say that there are buildings I recognized very well but sad to see that they had been ruins. I think it's time, it not that they have been ruins because of architecture, fire or something. They have just become ruins because there have been no maintenance and its also because, I think bad quality in the constructions in the beginning and when we were there on the beach we were quite sure that they have built the hotels much too close to the beach and the sea is eating up the sand. We were discussing how many decades before the hotels just fall out into the Mediterranean. They were built too close to the beach we thought and I think the quality was not the best if it had been I mean salamis is couple of thousand years old and its in better conditions than some parts of Varosha.
- What about the streets that opened, the Democracy avenue? From those photos did you recognize anything?

- Yes, a bit, I see some buildings I can not tell their names. I know that a bar/restaurant called Edelweiss what they show in many. Both before the opening and after the opening. And I have seen, mike and robin made some videos while they were walking after the opening and I watched them. I can not say very sure that oh that I recognize but there are some but I am not quite sure of everything. Some I think I remember a place or a building but I am not certainly sure I really do. I want to recognize them.
- From as much as you remember or recognize, what are those places? You don't have to remember the name but what was your connection to those places that you remember?
- It was where we were out eating, having a beer, in our team I think we were more like tourists.
- So you said Edelweiss, were you visiting Edelweiss as well?
- Yes, I remember but I cannot say more than I have been there.
- How did it make you feel to see the places that you have been before, having fun and now they are -in your words they are ruins-?
- It's sad, it's a kind of joy that they opened so people can go into Varosha again but it's sad to see what has happened. You can understand why but it's sad to see because it's so much destruction of something that could have been so good for both people living there and people visiting Cyprus. If they tried to in a way open up everything, to rebuild it, is it even possible to do but you wish it will happen. I have got not much, I have a couple of friends renting house in outside fig tree bay that is in Protaras and they have gone to north and they have Turkish Cypriot friends from north Famagusta. But they have not shown many pictures from Varosha I think they go to the nearest beach. I think they had a first sign, they told me that a road that they have been to this part I was a bit surprised because of not possible to go in but now I know it has been possible quite a long time even if they have not open so much the ghost town until 2020.

- What part is that? That you were surprised it is open?
- I think, I missed, I knew that you could go in to the north in Nicosia but for a long time I thought that was the only possible way in and this place where you can go and spend time on the beach in Famagusta.
- Is there a place in Varosha where you feel connected? Where would you say?
- The beach. I cannot tell you the name but I was a bit fascinated of the wall around the old city. The camp of course because it was a nice place to be but not one single place, house or building that I feel very connected to.
- If I am not wrong the hotel next to the Edelweiss Café used to be rented to the Swedish Army right?
- Maybe after 74 but when I was there we had our camp and we had a few villas close to the old Gold Fish camp which quite close to the land gate, but I don't know, I have seen pictures I think that they had observation post inside Varosha after 74, summer 74.
- So when you were going inside Varosha, was there a particular place where only the UN officers would go? Was there a difference between the locals and the soldiers? Or most of the places were where everyone was together?
- As far as I remember, there were no places that we would go and there were no other people but there were tourists Greek Turkish Cypriots, it's hard to say but I cannot say that about places where for instance only military personnel went.
- Would you say you spent more time on Democracy avenue than the Kennedy avenue?
- Yeah, I think so.

- And the reason for it is the food places
- The restaurants bar were in that part. There was one restaurant on I think it was on Kennedy avenue on shall we say the land side of the Kennedy Avenue where we went for late dinners having some soup I think the soup was called souppa angiloma, taste of lemon and chicken and rice and it was a night meal with some wine. I remember that we had not all the military personnel but the police personnel from Sweden, too and they were living in a villa which I think is the direction of the hotel part but I can not say exactly where I have been there once but they have had that. Also military police had a house of their own between the camp and Varosha.
- What kind of future do you see for Varosha?
- I hope it will be a bright future but unfortunately it would take long before, if I think Varosha being the tourist city again with hotels, clubs, restaurants and so. Because I think you have to tear down the town to build new. Because it's so destroyed because of bad maintenance not war but maintenance. Without anyone taking care loving the building but I hope it will be a bright future.
- Did the October 2020 opening changed your thoughts about the future of Varosha?
- You may be able to see light tunnel but there may be if this can make people think in another way and to be more constructive way to make it one way or another to live together develop Cyprus together because it has, it must have been opportunity especially for having tourists. Swedish people go to Agia napa, we went to Agia napa to get to not be tourists, when I was there it was a place without tourists, without hotels. It's not like that today I think, I have not been.
- Do you think some places in Varosha should be protected as they are?
- I am not sure if some kind of monument of how stupid mankind can be, maybe. But we had ruins from medieval time, houses from roman times so maybe, I cannot say which building but maybe some but not many. But it must be buildings that are very

typical for the buildings at the time of 1974. And maybe if there is some very old building. But some typical for the 1970s, but not too many. It's depressing to see in a way it is.

- What buildings those would be? Would you be able to give names of them that you think it should be protected?
- Unfortunately, not.
- If I asked you to think about the time you spent in Varosha, were there particular places or buildings that was important for you but also for the people that you were seeing on the street?
- I think this Municipal market was something that, especially we have some markets in Sweden but not as big. I remember it, it was special atmosphere in that market. I have been too similar in Limassol when I was there and I think it's fascinating to see all the groceries and meat. I was the kind of atmosphere that was very nice in a way and I understand if you restore the city it will not be the same way. Yes, it was nice at that time.
- So, were you going there to get food?
- Yes, we were out there, it was like going to McDonalds today, it was about the same. McDonalds was not invented at the time and they definitely did not have it in Cyprus.
- Are there any other places like Municipal Market, that was local but you were visiting and you think it was important?
- We went into the, there was a, I remember it was a square in the old city and we went there to go to the barber and get our shoes done before dinner. It's a Mediterranean thing to have shoes done, specifically black and so on. It's something we don't have in Sweden so it was exotic to us to go there.

- So, if some place to be protected in Varosha, you say Municipal Market

- Yes, I think but I don't have, I think it's not very destroyed, it can be a place that be a market again but I don't know sometimes it's difficult to see from pictures. Especially if the picture doesn't show if it's taken now or if it's an old picture you see. But if you mean you should protect it as a when its ruin or something, then maybe municipal market is not the best place. I cannot really tell another place. I think that there is a villa or something that famous actor from like Rachel welsh or Sophia Loren has been, maybe if that is something that maybe something to maybe protect.

- But for the Varosha's history, if you think about the times that you spent in Varosha, is there any place that was being used by locals, by you or friends?

- I cannot tell, Varosha was quite modern city and that's not the same as when you see an old city when you see old houses it's very beautiful but in a modern city like Varosha the city, it's not the same. They are all square in a way, so I cannot say that I could remember houses to say that this one should be protected.

- What about in terms of personal value or public value? Not how they look or if they are historic but the values they carry on them.

- Unfortunately, I cannot help you with that. If you don't count peroquet discotheque as something to protect or Isadoras (Laughs). The two main places during the winter

- Literally that was going to be my next question you said you were going to discos and clubs but you didn't give any of their names to me.

- Two names, Peroque and that was among Democratias I think and it was not far away from the municipal market it was a club called Isadoras and it got its name from the

band playing and some incidents there. Those were the two main places that we went for having fun in the evenings.

- Is Isadoras also in Democracy Avenue?
- No, if you go from Democracias and have the sea behind you it was to the right a bit and then it was down, I think not in big street because you went down to the basement so it was in the basement. But I am not able to find exactly where it was.
- Did you see the recent photos of the Peroquet Club?
- I have seen one picture with the sign of the Peroquet but I haven't seen no pictures of Isadoras. But I remember that there were one of the groups when we wrote something about this there were one person telling that I think it was a relative playing in that band. Band named Isadoras too.

E03 Transcription

- do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yeah, it's quite weird because as, I said, I don't come from Cyprus, I never visited Cyprus until 2009. But I knew of Cyprus, and I knew of the conflict that happened and the troubles prior and then when I met my partner, I wanted to learn more and understand so I could get my head around the subject and I thought there's got to be you know more to it, so I need to understand it. And I kind of become a bit obsessed with it, which is a bit strange because as I say, I'm not Cypriot but when I first went to Cyprus, I've been researching lots about varosha and what happened. And I remember saying we must go to this place, we've got to find this place and we were driving around and luckily because my partner can speak Turkish, we were able to ask some questions to some people and we we found our way there. And I remember just walking, remember driving up to where the Arkin Palm Beach Hotel is now. Just as we came round the bend just seeing the Salamina Tower Hotel with the destruction on the side. Suddenly I was out, well can't believe it is just, taking it back to this place and I walked around the beach and I looked at it and I just looked around and I was like, I almost could take myself back to this place, like in my mind, like to how it how that place was and how sad it was that it was not being utilised by anybody. You know, obviously very aware of what happened in Cyprus, you know, in the last 70 years. But this was a unique situation because it was a very beautiful place that Cyprus should really be using and gaining from for economic and tourism reasons. Plus it should be somewhere people should be living, but yet no ethnic side gain from it. You know, there was no population exchange, there was no resettlement, it is just wasted and it was like having a pile of money in the corner and just watching it deteriorate until it blew away to nothing. That's how I saw it, so I just thought to myself this this can't be right. We've got to understand why this has happened and how can we fix this problem because I can imagine I've got quite a creative imagination and I could imagine being someone that lived there and thinking, I imagine being able to see your house through the fence but you can't go there. That's your school over there, you know, that's your the bank years, you can't draw your money out, that sort of thing. It's so much I look a poem about it as if I was that a teenager. It's on my Facebook group. At the time this happened and what I'm seeing and with my eyes and how it's affecting my family and

things like that. And that's what led me to create this Facebook group because; The one reason is that outside of Cyprus is relatively unknown because, with all due respect, because this is nearly half a century ago, it's yesterday's news to a lot of the other countries of the world, you know, they're like, Oh yeah, this happened and then and that's it, you know? That because it hasn't been resolved for so long. Where is to the Cypriot people it's very very important, not to all but but to many and I wanted to highlight that but I also wanted to highlight it in English because that particular part of Cyprus was predominantly Greek Cypriot residents, the groups that had been created in Facebook were in Greek. And it meant that Turkish Cypriots in English and UN soldiers of different nations couldn't really contribute because they couldn't understand Greek. And Google Translate, sure you've used it? It's not perfect. Before I created my group, I did try and talk to people in those groups and people misinterpreted me because I was English. They couldn't understand a) why I was interested and b) they thought I was some sort of Turkish spy or something because I knew lots about it, but then they were like, why you in here? You know, you didn't go to this gymnasium, you didn't go to that school. Who are you? And so I had to build the trust of of the people. And over the years I have met people on both sides of Cyprus that are connected to the city, and in England as well, I've organised visits to see people and understand their situation. And thankfully, although it's not perfect, we can go in bits of it now and so I've been back and I met people and also gone round and brought it more to life, because I can touch the walls, I see the buildings.

- That's really interesting because you never lived or visited Varosha until recently and it's really interesting you being this interested and feeling connected to Varosha So you said why you created the Facebook group. How did you come across the Greek ones?
- Well, I noticed on the Internet that is known as Ammochostos in Greek and I noticed some in Greek letters, some with English letters, and I notice these things and started looking for those. Also there was a guy on one of these groups that was English like me, Michael O'gorman. I noticed he was very passionate about it, like he was talking like I was about things, you know, going in quite detail and I thought that's a bit strange. And so I contacted him. And he's older than me, he is approaching 60, but he went on holiday there in 1973, so he has actually got memories of the place when it was alive. I think he was only about 11 years old, I think it was a child. I said to him we got talking

on the phone and everything else and I said to him, we seem to share a passion about this for different reasons, and then I said let's start this group up and you can come on it and help me with it and it grew from there. Initially it was was English people that I knew and then as promoting it and getting it out there and then more and more people started joining because it's quite a big population of Cypriots in London that moved here, so it started from there really and then it became more mainland people and then Ireland and so on and then UN soldiers started joining. Because there's been so many nations at the time, it was a Swedish in 74 and it's been Canadian. So many different nations involved. It's actually touched people from all around the world because either they've served there or they went on holiday there. because it was such a popular holiday destination back in the day. that's another sad thing, other areas have developed but when you go to Famagusta in the north side, it's still very much underdeveloped and held back because of what's happened, like the port and the area in general is not like there's loads of high rise hotels like. It's completely different because of that situation there.

- How long have you had this group?
- I think I started it about 7-8 years ago.
- And would you say before the opening, there was memories that would come up?
- In the group, yes. So, a lot of residents, who are in their 70s now, would put on their things like; oh we used to go to the nightclub. This is the bars we used to go to and they come up, let's talk about memories of walking on the golden sands with their girlfriends and boyfriends. But there's particular key buildings would come up, like Cafe Edelweiss, which you can see today, that was apparently very, very popular bar in its day and there was Edelweiss 2 as well, which is down another road which you can't walk down at moment. The Edelweiss was a very popular one. Peroquet nightclub in Democracy St. these are places because these people were predominantly teenagers or in their early 20s at the time obviously that's what you do, you're out and about having fun. And that's another sad thing, you know, obviously, the parents of these people, many of them, are no longer around because they were older and passed away and so have not seen what's happened and it's still not resolved obviously.
- Yeah, it's it's really sad to consider that they are the last generation that's actually lived or visited there.

- I mean, another thing that fascinated me about that is the, the architecture and the designs are very, impressive even to this day. I know obviously this the lot delectation. But I actually think some of those buildings have lasted as long as they have had without maintenance because they were so well built. You can clearly see a lot of effort has been put into them and some of them still look very modern. To this day. If they could have been saved, you wouldn't look at them go wow, its really old place, it just looks good still. That's what always impressed me. They had air conditioning either a five star hotels along the front and other modern places.

- Then that's brings me to next question so what does the name ghost town mean to you?

- Well. I'll explain what it means and I'll explain how people feel about that. To me, Ghost Town is like a land of emptiness, the land where no one rose except the ghosts like just the memories, the spirits and no humans are there anymore and no one visits anymore. But to the people that live there, they don't like it being called a ghost town. Because it suggests it was abandoned. And they would say we didn't abandon it, we were forced to leave it. We didn't want to leave it. It's not like we didn't like it. It is not like it was no good and out of use. We had to leave. I get that, I understand all the differen views on this and it's an extremely emotive subject to everybody. And unfortunately, you see this on my Facebook group, the whole idea of doing that was to have open debate between both sides. Now some people can be level headed and compassionate and controlled and others will get quite angry quite quickly. Because it's still very raw. But what I say to those people is get round the table, sort this out. I shouldn't have gone on for so long. It just the issue is compromised, that is the key word. We can never have back 1974 ever again, so we have to have a new idea, new concept. And there have been suggestions and I think they're really good like eco cities and things, to convert it which in today's world of climate change and recycling, regeneration, being green, this be the perfect footprint because you would literally start from scratch and you could make that almost a self energy creating city that could generate its own electricity from wind or or solar or whatever. So, it's full of opportunities, Because I thought that former president Akinci was the closest person to potentially do a deal and that almost happened in Crans Montana talks in 2017. And

it's a shame that I really thought in 2017 something good was going to happen and we slowly improving on things. But unfortunately, it didn't come off in year. It's something that if it had to be really resolved in the first ten years of this happening, if they have sorted it out then you could have even moved back into the buildings and carried on. But I think too much time is elapsed now and people have moved on got new lives, their kids go to school, they live in a different place. The world is moved on quite a bit, unfortunately.

- Do you really think that's the people of Varosha moved on? From your observations in the groups, do you really think that they moved on?
- No, that statement I said was more generalisation about Cyprus in general. If you lived in Paphos all your life then you didn't just stay in Paphos. You wouldn't be worried. But if you meet Famagustians they say my heart and my soul is in that city and they would have got a letter for the the post box tomorrow that said come on, move back tomorrow they would. And I would say 90% of them would move even under Turkish administration as well because they want to get back to that place. But I think it's such a sobering thing for them when they go in there. Because in their mind they're thinking of oh remember when we did this, remember when we did that. And then they go in and see the devastation of their home. It can be very upsetting for a lot of people. But if they are strong enough willed people, they want to get that back. Thats great I'm all for it.
- Just because we were talking about the future of Varosha, do you see a future for Varosha? Not just the ECO projects, but do you see a future for Varosha?
- I do and I see Varosha and Nicosia airport as two ekey things to solving this problem. For example, I've thought that Nicosia airport that could become an industrial park. That could be because it's wide open space, you could put businesses there. But what I want to do is use that as an experiment and say right, on this side of the road we put Greek businesses, on that side the Turkish businesses, there's no border, this is a free area. And if you need to borrow things, you go across the road there, like Pyla, the Village Pyla, but on a much larger scale. And I think in the case of Varosha, they could

say let's Cypriots, not great, not Turkish, Cypriots. Let's rebuild this city together. And you can bid for this work. So if you're Turkish Cypriot builders, Greek Cypriot builders, roofers, tilers, it doesn't matter who what where you from in Cyprus. We need people to put in the new plumbing, the new water mains, the electrics, the broadband, the telecoms, but that is open for all. Everyone can bid for the work. And then the best bid wins. So the city could be rebuilt by Cypriot people, both sides getting the benefit both financially and then economically from that. As a joint venture. Even if you couldn't solve the other Cyprus problems, well let's just do this as a major experiment, like a 10 year experiment. This is the, bicommunal collaboration project sort of thing. We rebuild Cyprus together. We get it up and running, we run it together and we bring it back to its former glory. If that was done, everyone would benefit and then the rest of Cyprus and rest of world, if it was successful, which I hope and I'm sure it would be; they would look at that and go, well, there's your blueprint for expansion on that, maybe we could do something somewhere else in Cyprus together.

- Did any of the things that are happening right now regards to the fenced off area of Varosha, changed any of your thoughts about future like this 2020 opening?
- Any news and improvement is good news in my book, even if it's just a small bit of snail movement, because it's one step closer. My concern is that, this first piece of opening happened in October 2020, which is, one and a half years ago now, and not a lot have happened since. There was some work to clear an area where the Venus nightclub is, which is on the other side of the entrance is, but that's stopped. Nothing's happened there. But my concern is that at the moment it's just being created as almost a tourist attraction. It is free, which is good. But it's mainly people; when you walk round there no disrespect to, I know you're young, but you see lots of young people with no connection to it, doing wheelies and like doing selfies. Doing all these things like outside peoples houses and putting it up like that on the Internet and people who own those houses getting offended. They're like, they are taking the mickey, I don't want to use swear word. It's good that people are getting in, they are seeing it, understanding it. People are asking questions. You look on the Internet and there's lots of tourists asking questions, they are like wow, I never knew about this. I can't believe this. And tourism is expanding in that regard. Things have been muted and

said, but nothing's happening and some buildings have collapsed as well. I think the great side, you want to hear what can I do to get my property back. How do I go about it? And it's not clear. The way it was mentioned, it sounds like unlike the population exchange, where people have applied to the Immovable Property Commission and said I'd like compensation cause I can't live there. It's implied here that you could live there, you could have your property back, which is different. Well, how do we go about it? How do we get that or what do we need to do and can we start building, can we start changing. The issue is it still got the Turkish military in there. So it's still considered a military area, particularly further up along Kennedy Avenue. So, it is still not an open area. I think really if the Turkish military left and said right, this is turned over to the Council and the police to maintain it and control it, that would be better. Because it's not like you can roam freely there, but also for health and safety and there's a lot of unsafe buildings and stuff there.

- And that still didn't stop people going in.
- And I completely understand it. I don't hold that against them at all. If I was walking along and I could see my house like 100 yards away, I would run towards it. It's natural, I get it. In fact, I know some people that have been caught by the police as well and questioned. But I think even the police get it, they're like, you know you shouldn't be doing that, but we can understand that it's your house. Let me take your details. Don't do it again. They're not getting prosecuted. They're not going to court or anything like that and really what they should do is they should say fill out this waiver form and it says if you want to go into your property into an area that's not open, fine. But you are taking a risk. If you sign this that says, that holds on you and kills, you're injured you, that's it, your risk. You can't sue us, you can't do this, we can even supervise it, we stand at the bottom of the street and wait for you and if you haven't come back in half an hour, we come and check; they should do that, I think. And then people would be happier, I guess.
- Do you think any of the places in Varosha should be protected as the way they are right now?

- Yes, and probably the most obvious would be this three hotels used by the army and military which is; Sandy Beach Hotel, the Golden Plage Hotel and the Lordos Etoiler Court Hotel. The three hotels right near each other along Kennedy Ave. And the military been using them for maybe 40 years. I know for a fact they're not perfect. I believe they don't even have a water supply, the water is pumped in from outside from lorries, things like that. It's a place I always wanted to go but not having any connection to the army, I couldn't go there. Because they've got a level of preservation and not even some of the things inside have been kept the same. They would have been maintained, I think, to a sufficient level with minor restoration works carried out, they could be retained and look the same. Even if they were renovated inside. I don't know if there's a similar thing in Cyprus, I'm sure there is, but in the UK there's a thing called listing status. Where it's of historic importance, so this is applied to this building, so you can't change the outside look, you can't put new PVC windows in things cause it's changing the looking appearance of building, its 300 years old something. I think certainly those three. But I know that an audit was done on all of the buildings, so they know how many buildings there are and I think some basic checks have been made on them. And if you look closely at the buildings, a lot of them have got like a code, like a letter sprayed on them, it will say something like CK152. So someone got a database somewhere, that says yes, that's a bank at this location, so they know. They certainly know how many buildings are. But I think, there's a minimum they should do. Another couple I could suggest is the where the UN post is, next to the Edelweiss that was another hotel, can't remember the name but that is a hotel. Which has been relatively maintained and the office is what was Caesars Cafe bar, Swedish bar. So that level, those buildings that have been maintained to a certain degree. In fact, the family, the owners of the UN area, I asked, I know the lady and I asked, I put her in contact with the UN to see if she could access. Because it is quite unique in the sense that it's a UN building not a Turkish military building, but unfortunately said no. Also there's another UN hotel on Kennedy Avenue. I think it's called Riviera Court. That's another one and that could potentially be kept. But they are, there's some really amazing architectural buildings which would be probably more significant. Unfortunately, these ones as I just said are hotels, they're not ornate looking schools or things like that with pillars and things that look lovely. But who knows what's out there? Cause we've not been able to go everywhere, that is the other thing. One significant thing is, in the first few years of this happening, everything was looted.

Anything of monetary value was removed. But to this day, there are still photos being found in some of these places. And to me they are the new currency. They are priceless. They are worth more than, a photo album in those houses in good condition is worth more than what was in those houses now. More worth than the cookers and the TV's.

- You said how the UK is using listed buildings and talked how the high school architecture is amazing. So do you see a possible future for them being protected as they are?
- Yeah. So if you if you turn right into Democracy Avenue and you go down the road, you've got the Municipal gardens on the right, the building at the back of the municipal gardens, it's got the Turkish flags and that's a building that looks like you could potentially keep how it was and also this cool looking girls school on the left. But there's some strange things have been done there I don't understand. Like that school on the left when in October 2020, when that first opened, the signage above that school was present. The sign is still there, but for some reason they put a piece of white wood over that sign, blanked it off. I don't know why? Is it to annoy people? I don't get it. It's still there. People taking pictures of it. And similarly like in the municipal gardens, the massive flags hanging down, the people are like, do we need the flag really?
- I'm going to go back again, you said when you first went to Cyprus, you visited the wires of Varosha and what struck you? You said Salamina Tower Hotel, what else did you see? What did you recognise the most and how did it make you feel?
- Well if I talk about the Salamina, what I couldn't believe is that normally, when wars happen, things get rebuilt. You know, in World War Two, London was heavily bombed but within 10 years, it was hard to find somewhere that looked like it was bond damaged. It was covered up and fixed or knocked down and they started again. And because Salamina is kind of almost like an iconic thing because it was part of this air attack and people were killed, that's the bottom line, people were killed there. And because if you look at any picture of Salamina, it was longer and wider than that. So there's a complete section that was dropped down, where the lifts are. And I was like,

I can't believe that is still there. When I first visited 35 years ago, 35 years since it happened. Now with 47 years Aand I thought 35 years and I can't believe that is just left there, not done anything. And then I walked along and saw the Florida Hotel, all the shutters were open, the birds flying in and then its Twiga tower, and then it comes to an end Aspelia and then when we get to the end but you can't get past. It almost where the fence jetted out into the sea, it was almost taunting you cause you could look down the curve of the beach. When I looked at pictures, there was a playground there in the past there was a swing and there was a roundabout there and it was all sunken into the sand and now it's not even there, it's gone. This is the thing that gets me; when you see the signs, the signage, that's when it really makes it real. So when I went there, I was very intricately looking for any signs, any stickers. I'm jumping ahead, sorry from 2009 here a second, but just so like in 2021 I was there. There's a couple of shops and one of them says manager and it says his name that Peri perides or something, it says his name and you think wow what happened to that man, is he alive now? Where is he? Where is his family? Where did they go? One day he was locking the door thinking I've gotta do a stock take tomorrow or something. And then he never comes back. And there is Pavlos something Bookshop, I forget the name. When you see that, that brings the human element into it, because people can just look at it, to an empty building, that's a shell. Unless you're the person that lived there, you know you know what it was. To me, the sign, just having a sign there is amazing. Cause that thing links that to the past, you know what's there, who was there. But yeah going back to 2009, I drove down the Dherynia Road before, in the days before the crossing existed. And looking at all these houses thinking I can't believe it. And then see people living 10 metres away, there to the right; looking into these buildings I just thought this is crazy. Why would you even want to look at that? Just couldn't get it. And there is another checkpoint again, army crossing, you can't go. So I've seen a lot of changes even in 12 years. There's about 5-6 years ago, they opened up, did a very strange thing which I still don't understand to this day. You know there is a beach that you can only go to if you got a Turkish ID and which is I think it's very sad. Well its affectively racist really, because it's controlling an area and you have to be of a certain nationality to go there, which I think is wrong. That's what I say to people that has neever been to Cyprus, I say, I'm fascinated about it because there's nowhere else like it. I actually think it's the most crazy bonkers, place ever. Because it's so strange. When I see my partner's relations in Cyprus and see on Facebook, checking into

places that just thinking you're so limited you can't go very far. Like I can go 600 miles today if I want. But you, unless show a passport or ID or something, you can't go there and same to the people in South. To have a situation a few years ago, when they changed the time zone, so the time zone in one side was an hour different, so you could walk down Ledra Street it's 4:00 o'clock and then 5:00 o'clock. has there ever been such craziness in anywhere? Two currencies too as well. It is just really. Unusual.

- So when you visited, because I'm guessing at the point in 2019 when you visited, you were already looking for the Facebook groups and photographs. Did you expect to see any particular buildings?
- I wanted to see, more inside the town. Because you could only see the outer areas, you couldn't see the shops and I wanted to see that what was available to the people inside. And I could only do that at that time, through photographs and memories, things and people. When I started the Facebook group people sent me, cinefilm, which I converted. So I could see what it was like and also I went on eBay and I bought some 1970s hotel holiday brochures. So I've actually got them like 50 year old ones showing, the prices and Salamina Tower, brand new, perfect, all these things. To understand that. I also then bought, old Cyprus maps from that time so I can see the roads that have been renamed in northern Famagusta. Obviously they got Turkish names now, but there were different names, so I can understand that. And I've spent a lot of time. I've been to the British Library in London, looking at maps and things, and also the National Archives in London too. I've read all of the 1974 documents; what happened, the actions taken by the military on both British and Greek and Turkish side and just try to fully understand what's happened. I also then found documents relating to compensation people, right early on in 1974/75 of British people that had property there. And I spent hours and hours and hours scanning in all these documents and then I compiled them into a database and I presented them on my Facebook group. So identified flat 29, Mr/Mrs Wilson. What the name of it was, Cypriana Court or something. And then I've had people on my Facebook group, who are the children of those people identified; that was my apartment.

- After the opening, did you have any memories coming to you that you read and seen in the Facebook groups?

- Yeah, I had. When I was walking down the street down the, like the Edelweiss cafe, around there. I could started to remember things, people had said and like people sitting on the chairs and tables outside in the sun. Unfortunately some of the areas we can't get to yet, but like the Municipal market, lots of people talk about municipal market and I've seen lots of film and pictures but we can't quite get to that yet. One key thing that came to me was there is a guy called Patsalides, he spoke to me a long time ago and said my dad owned this travel agent with his name on and it's in the street and said i have to go there. And then when I walk down the street and I suddenly saw it, because it's got this big name and still on the side and inside through the window you can see pictures of aircraft and destinations and things. And I said oh God, this is his actual dads' shop that he told me all about. It's relatively ok, we can actually see it and you wouldn't mistake it for anything else and that was actually really nice thing for me. People used to talk about parking, because I think I've noticed in in north Cyprus is, to me it's a good thing, but it is actually a bad thing in some ways. They don't really charge for parking. You can pretty much leave your car anywhere. You can pretty much drive up to the border and just get out and leave it. So the fact that they had parking metres and they were charging for parking there very proactive. There's one parking metre left with the mils prices on it and things ironically, that parking meter is made in England by the way. It was certain key shops, the travel store was probably the key one for me and also Lion House. Because I heard loads about Lion House because it was a British military housing office and I know someone actually worked there and told me lots of stories and he was actually in that building when the attack first occured and just giving me all these notes and what happened. He watched the Salamina tower get bombed, he was there, that from his office. And I could see his office in front me.

- So I know that you feel connected to Varosha and after these visits, do you have any place in particular that you feel connected inside of Varosha?

- Interesting. Hard to say, to be honest with you, I can't wait to go back there again. Even so this crazy thing. I went there twice and the first time I went, I spent five and a half hours there. Most people in and out within an hour. I was there for five and a half hours. Second time I was there for three and half hours and I still couldn't take it all in. And there's only two main streets open. Everywhere I walked, I just felt like I was in somewhere special, I felt I can feel that history. I can't put one specific building in question. I love all of it.

- Would you say there is any place that carries a value for you?

- Yeah, I think a place that kind of, it's silly really, that gravitate towards is there's a Barclays Bank on the corner. Because Barclays, there's millions of Barclays Bank here and we use those banks. The interesting thing about that bank is, it was British bank in a foreign country, the font and everything, the writing is how I remember when I was a kid, those banks look like that. And it kind of is like a mystical thing, is there anything in there, is there any treasure? Probably not, but what is interesting about that building; and again, I only notice this from observations, spending a lot of time in there is, the shutters on the front entrance are intact. All the windows are intact, which is very unusual as well, but even more unusual is on the upper office floors, the blue curtains are still intact pulled back like they are. So, it's like that office is still there, upstairs you could go and see the bank manager. And it's a silly thing, but to me that building is the closest looking to how it was when they left. So, I kind of like that place.

E04 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yes. Always have as it was my first of many homes but feels special because of its idyllic setting.
- What is your relation to Varosha?
- My first home as a baby for the first 3-4 years of my life. Lived in a rented property amongst Cypriots.
- Do you remember living/visiting Varosha?
- No to living there, but I have my parents' memories and our family photo album and cinefilms are very familiar to me.
- Do you have a vivid memory of Varosha?
- No. As above.
- What is the memory? Could you describe it? Why is it the most vivid memory?
- Photographs/cinefilm of me and my parents at our home, particularly in the back yard playing or relaxing in the Sunshine and on the beach or in the gardens. Along with these visuals, my parents talked of spending time on the beach and living amongst the Greek Cypriots. A very different life to what they were used to in the UK.
- What does the name ghost town mean to you?
- Uninhabited, deserted, unattainable, desolate, sad.

- Were you visiting Varosha when it was closed?

- When living back in Cyprus 1977-1980 it was not possible to visit the north of the island. As a British military family we were granted a day's visa to visit the occupied North just before we left. We visited Kyrenia and Salamis and were able to view Varosha from the barricades. My parents recognised the street we could see as the one where night entertainment/clubs were located. Aged 13 I don't recall my thoughts at this visit, was not as nostalgic as I am now about my childhood of course and was just accepting of the situation I guess. Having resisted returning to Cyprus for many years as had felt I wanted to keep my happy childhood memories as just that, with age I decided to return for a trip down memory lane. Returning with my father in 2017 we included a private tour to the old walled city and Varosha. Accompanied by a Famagustarian whose family had had to flee and leave their home in 1974 we were able to share our love/experience with him. Being able to walk on the beach I could recreate photos from our time there in the late 60s. It felt very surreal and quite emotional. I made the same trip in 2019 with my family, now wishing for them to see where I 'came from' and see for themselves the sad sight of the ghost town to try to understand my emotions. I felt extremely thoughtful about the futility of the situation and a little guilty at being on a tourist trip to look at a place inaccessible to its original inhabitants.

- Have you visited Varosha after the October 2020 opening?

- Not yet, but intending to in October 2022 with my father. Initially I was shocked by the 'opening', believing that it was against international convention. Despite my emotional connection to Varosha I certainly don't feel it is my place to enter into any discussion about the rights and wrongs of the past, Nations etc; but initially felt it wouldn't be right for me to visit the opened parts. I cannot help but be curious about what is being seen however, and since displaced Cypriots have been visiting their old homes; I now wish to do so.

- Did you have any memories coming back to you?

- Though I have not yet personally visited Varosha, I have seen photos of my old home. I was able to identify it by comparing it with a photo from the 60s that I have always treasured. I was overwhelmed to see it as a tangible part of my early childhood as, even though I had lived in a number of houses in Cyprus, they have all been demolished. And the fact that I have a physical connection still intact in Varosha.
- What were your impressions? How did you feel?
- From photos and videos only, a real mix – expected decay and dilapidation, but a sense of the desire to reincarnate the area by different groups of people. Sad, reflective, guilty: the past and present politics of UK etc and own curiosity – is it wrong to want to visit when so many lost so much?
- What in particular did you expect to see when you visited Varosha?
- I would expect to see nature having taken over buildings and streets and the inevitable signs of conflict/looting.
- Is there a place in Varosha where you feel connected? What is this place? How do you feel about this place after the opening?
- From my photos/film only: the house we lived in, particularly the back yard as I'm shown to be playing and with my parents; the beach and the orange sculptures in the gardens. Again, without having visited yet, seeing photos of these areas stir warm feelings in me of at least a part of my past still existing; despite the dilapidation. On the flip side, of course it makes me sad that they are in ruins and have not been enjoyed by others for many years.
- Is there a place that carries a value for you?
- My old house, as it was my first ever home, is still actually standing, albeit derelict; whereas the other 3 homes I had in Cyprus have been demolished.

- What does Varosha mean to you? What does it represent?
- For me, what a fabulous place to have lived as a young child by the beach and amongst Cypriots rather than on the British army camp. In general terms having gone from ‘the playground of the rich and famous’ to a ghost town; a really sad reflection on what can happen between peoples/in politics.
- Do you see a future for Varosha? What kind of future do you see?
- The romantic in me says yes; knowing of groups who are trying to come to an agreement about how to reignite the area (environmentally sustainable new city etc). But the realist sees the continuing arguments that rumble on. A fractured, unsettled re-establishment of the area at best. At worst, the area remaining as a ‘dark tourism attraction’
- Did the October 2020 opening change your thoughts about the future of Varosha? How and why did it change?
- Yes, initially was shocked as apparently against international agreement and I thought this would just worsen relations. But of course there has been a mixed reaction from those who have returned to see their old homes, whilst others do not wish to return. I also know of someone who was able to enter their home that is now occupied by someone else (just on the outskirts of Varosha). They had mixed feelings of course – gratitude for being welcomed, understanding of the reasons why those people are now occupants; but aggrieved at the situation. I always thought I would not return out of respect of all displaced peoples (North and South), but as Cypriots themselves are visiting I am allowing myself this indulgence.
- Do you think some places in Varosha should be protected as they are? What needs to be protected?
- As much as possible of the cultural, religious and educational buildings and public spaces. Despite the obvious need to replace unsafe buildings and create a new

environment for today; reference to its history will perhaps be desired. However, the new generations may see this as harbouring old wounds. Regeneration, rather than protection, particularly of the beach front, having learnt from past mistakes of building high rise hotels. A reinvention rather than reincarnation.

E05 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Yeah I do. Because I said just now, there aren't many people now alive though that new Famagusta in 1954, before all the trouble started. I am in like a unique position because, I just remember it as a lovely town, it wasn't really a city but it was a large town and I remember the good times. Like being a soldier we obviously got used to get a fair bit of time off and then we used to go down to Famagusta and go to the cinema, the big open air cinema, it is that in the pictures in my book, and closed in cinema in the winter time and we used to go to not restaurants, I mean we didn't have a lot of money so we used to go to the cafes, in my book there is a photograph of, they used to have a sort of a Abara, a stall and food on it and we used to buy food off of there. But it was a lovely, lovely time. I have often said that if I had to pick one year of my life is that would be the happiest year of my life, it would been living at, even I was in the army and a lot of the men when they were 18 to 19, they used to hate it, but I used to love it. But mainly because of the position I was in, the situation I was in. In a way, it was like a holiday and the other thing is, I had a twin brother, unfortunately he has died, but we were in the army together and we used to go, it was like having your family down there, that was really lovely.

- Can you tell me about how it all started? When did you come to Famagusta as a soldier?

- I remember all the dates and everything. It was the 28th of May 1954, and we flew out and in those days the aeroplanes were propeller type not jet. They had to stop at Malta and refuel and then go on from Malta to Cyprus. And we landed at Nicosia. That was the airport then. Obviously got off the plane and it was may the 28th, so it was fairly warm. We all got into an army lorry and then drove off to Famagusta and we were kitted out in there. I don't know whether the photograph is in the book, I don't think there is. I've got a photograph of the camp, but I don't think it's in the book. I was a what they call a special wireless operator and we used to sit at a big radio station, like a big radio, and I used to take morse code, you know the, you go, do, do,

do, do, do, do, do, do, and we was all trying to recognise the dots and dashes and used to take down the messages and then the intelligence people come round and see what the messages said because; it is funny enough, we were intercepting the Russians, then and now it's all topical again, with the Russians invading the, other country.

- Sorry if I'm wrong, were you a British soldier at the time or the UN?
- No British soldier.
- And you said you were living in the camps, so you weren't situated in any of the buildings in Famagusta?
- No, no, no, no. The camp it was a big wireless operating camp. It was four miles outside Famagusta, it is called four mile point and it was quite a well-known camp. I mean there was hundreds of soldiers there but they weren't all wireless wireless operators. Some of them, you had to have your drivers and the cooks and all the what they call the general duties men and we were in the camp as well, and it looked after everyone.
- It's really interesting that you came to Famagusta in 1954 because that was in my research I found out that was literally the times that Varosha started to develop with the huge investments, the hotels and so. Do you want to talk about how it changed from when you came and to 1974?
- Yes, Right. I mean, I've been back, I went back when they opened up. There were one or two places that I could recognise but I mean it was obviously unrecognisable. I mean you take it over 65, I think it's 65 years Since 1954 or 55 up till to 2020, I mean everywhere is changed so much. While I was in England and everything you know.
- How many years did you spend in Famagusta?

- Only a year. 28th of May 1954, and then I left in the same day, 28th of May 1955, because in those days we used to do two years National Service and not my two years was up, I just spent a year there.
- How were the relations between the Old Town and the Varosha?
- You talking about the Old Town of Famagusta?
- Yes.
- The Walled city, yeah, it was alright. The thing is, obviously you got Turkish and Greek over there. Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. To be honest, they all got on all right. There wasn't any problem at all. I was really surprised when in April the 1st 1955, the bomb started going off and there was trouble. Only being a young soldier, young man, I didn't understand what was going and why everything was going wrong.
- Was there any Greek Cypriots living in the Old Town, or were they totally isolated in Varosha and Old Town?
- Yeah, mostly the Greek Cypriots lived in the Newtown Famagusta, and mostly the Old Town was Turkish Cypriot.
- And would you say during the 1954 and 55 there was big developments going on inside Varosha?
- No, there wasn't. There wasn't any development at all. It was all built as just alright. No the town as it was when I arrived in Famagusta was already built, built up. But it wasn't it was lovely shops and buildings and that, not like it was developed in like skyscrapers and so altered.
- So do you have a vivid memory from those years that's relates to the Newtown of Famagusta?

- You know that was all shut off for years, 45 years and recently cause you know that there's a lot of trouble between the Greeks and the Turks. I mean they're not fighting now but round about 1963, they were killing each other and This is why the Turkish army came in because the Greeks, you got EOKA and ENOSIS, have you heard about those things? The Greek Cypriots wanted the Turks and they wanted the British out. ENOSIS was the union with Greece, and EOKA wanted to get rid of the Turkish Cypriots and EOKA had a quite a Connection with Greece and they got a lot of Greeks Cypriots to kill a lot of Turkish Cypriots. I got this book here and it says step by step to genocide, 1955 to 1974 and I've read this book and it is terrible. Reports on men who was used to go out and to work or something and they never came back, it was terrible. This is why the Turkish came in, there's so much bad propaganda from the Greek Cypriots saying that it's all Turkish and Turkish Cypriot fault and it all started with the Greek Cypriots and the Greece and that. I'm English and in a way, I'm independent, but I can see the situation of how things happened right?
- So going back to Varosha, Do you remember visiting the Newtown? You said you went to the cinemas and cafes inside the Newtown, right?
- Yeah.
- Do you have a memory that you remember the most to this day from those visits?
- There weren't many. Because they were, they would be in the Old city, Old Town, but most of the. Churches or anything like that in the Famagusta, the Newtown were like Greek, Christian churches. I'm not religious, so I didn't use to go to church. No, when we used to go to the Famagusta, we used to catch a, either hitchhike a lift from the camp, just stand outside the camp or there was, after a while, it wasn't at first, but after a while they set up buses. And I think that, Turkish Cypriot, Azumah Nadir, I think he was one of the first, he was Turkish Cypriot, he was one of the first people to get a bus and take the men down from our camp to Famagusta. We obviously, we were young men and we used to go in the bars and have good drink and that. And there were night clubs there and like strip clubs and things like that because I mean young bloods, used to go in there and see the girls. We used to get into trouble by

the military place if we were caught. There was a one famous, it is in my book, the Spitfire nightclub. The blokes used to go in there and meet all the girls and that. But if the military police came down and raided it and you all got into trouble.

- Is this Spitfire nightclub inside of Varosha?
- Yeah, and there's a photograph in my book Spitfire in.
- I saw the photo, but where is it on the map? Like on the street, where is it?
- It is in democracy street, the main Street, right through the centre.
- So would you say that your most vivid memory is these night clubs?
- Yeah, that's right. I mean young men, even now, they go out drinking and that's all. And the beer was cheap and we used to have a drink and sometimes you get drunk.
- You said there was buses to take you to Famagusta. Was it specifically for the inside of Varosha or was it to Old Town?
- No, it was the Newtown, Varosha. And the thing was. Nazim Nadir, he's still alive and or no he's father, it would need have been his father who set the buses up. And cause the Great Cypriots, he was Turkish Cypriot and because he had this bus going, they could see it was a good business, getting the soldiers so they set up a bus as well and it used to be funny because they used to race, these buses, the Turkish Cypriot bus arrive our camp and all the blokes would get on it and then the Greek Cypriot bus would turn up and take anymore and then he'd be tearing up the road, they used to race up the road to sort of try and catch the customers. the fair people, the fairs. Used to be funny.
- So how many times did you go to the Newtown? Like, do you remember or?

- Oh yeah, I mean. Like we were there five or six times a week. The thing was, you was on your own in the camp and there wasn't much to do in the camp. I don't know whether you know the NAFI, the naffi was an army sort of café and shop and that. There wasn't much to do in the army camp. We all use to, the slightest opportunity, go down to Famagusta. It wasn't only the town, I mean you've seen the photographs of the beach and that, it was like paradise, the beach and the sunshine and the water and all that. After I left, I know there was the trouble and that, but the place developed a lot and it became one of the most popular holiday places almost in the world.
- Like that's when you were there, was it?
- Oh, no, no, no. I mean, it was only the soldiers and hardly any holiday makers came. It wasn't well known like that.
- So at the time I'm guessing the Kennedy Avenue wasn't that developed at all, right?
- Kennedy Avenue, I've seen the name but I didn't know it. I'd only mainly new the High Street, Democracy.
- At the time, what buildings or what cafes were still there on Democracy Ave? Do you remember any buildings or cafe names or anything?
- Not in regards to cafes or that, but in my book, I've taken a picture outside the Spitfire. And across the road I took another photo of a photography shop, I remember that well. Because I used to buy my film from there, I did on me own developing and printing and I used to have to buy the. I don't know whether you know much about in those days of photography, it's not like digital now, but you still have film and you used to develop it and actually and the Photographers was quite well known for all the soldiers used to go in there and buy their photography stuff.
- Do you remember the name of the photographer by any chance? The name of the shop?

- Yes, I do. The photographer was Andreas SOTERIOU. Now the thing is, when the Turkish army came in, a lot of the Greek Cypriots fled Famagusta and this photographer, he fled as well, and he left most of his negatives because they thought they were coming back. He left most of his negatives and all his photographic equipment. This is the photo of the old, taken about 1949. (Time Stamp: 27.43)
- Is this the Newtown, Varosha?
- Yeah, it is underdeveloped, isn't it? This book is photos of Andreas SOTERIOU. Now this is a better picture, some of the places were developed a bit. This is the Democracy Avenue. This is, this is a lovely book and as I said, this Andreas, fled the Famagusta, left all his negatives and everything behind thinking he was coming back. Well of course he didn't come back. Evidently, there was a bank, Marvin Laiki Bank, agreed with this Soteriou to publish this book. His photos, he used to do a lot of postcards, the troops used to buy the postcards and send them back to the family. Like he had a good business of printing postcards and because they didn't have the negatives or he might have had a few, he had the postcards, and the bank got all the postcards together and published this book. Now that is another picture here. (Timestamp: 30.50). You see this one here? (Timestamp: 31.10) That's where the Spitfire was on the right I think it was. Because a lot of these pictures were taken only 45 to 49 and so even then, it was different from when I got there. Is there anyway? I can get you some of these photos.
- I was going to ask can I buy this book from anywhere?
- I don't know if it's called, Andreas Soteriou Famagusta 1940 to 1950 Photographic memories. I was lucky enough to get this book and it's lovely, there some more pictures there (Timestamp: 32.39).
- So anyway, what I was saying about, is Andreas, most of the soldiers knew his shop. Anyway they put this book together, all these photos, and it's a real gem, this book. That's the sort of council buildings and that. I think there's some more there. Well, anyway we're getting off the subject in a minute. If you could get this book. I've got

my book here now and there's the photographers (timestamp: 34.39). And there is (Timestamp: 34.51), taken at night the Spitfire and the corner of Democracy Street where the taxis were. And there is the Spitfire Nightclub (Timestamp: 35.02). Spitfire aeroplane on the pole outside, not a real one is a model, but that's where we used to frequent and it was just lovely round there, it's such a lovely place. When I went back into Varosha, funny enough that this was about the only place (Timestamp: 35.44) I could recognise there's that corner there, It was like a nice ice cream place there and the Spitfire. I haven't got the photographs now, but I have photographed it all. And then there's pictures of the democracy Street. Well that oxi (Timestamp: 36.21), I don't know whether you know, but it means out in Greek, and it was, sort of a celebration day. That they celebrating years before when they got told the, it had something to do with the Italians and they didn't want the Italians there. Well, when I got there, it was May the 28th and the Queens birthday was, I think, on June the 6th. Oh theres (Timestamp: 37.36) the sort of places we used to eat at, the stalls and funny enough nowadays you got health and safety and I mean there was a large pork legs hanging out in full flies on it and all that and then he used to carve off some of the meat and put it in a role and we used to eat it and we would never was deal with it. but nowadays it wouldn't be allowed would it. There's another picture there of (timestamp: 38.20) an old tramp, outside the Spitfire. All this is in my my book, you still got the book?

- I do. I saw all of this photos. I was actually going to ask you about. Any personalities inside of Varosha like him and what do you remember?
- Well I mean, I remember this old boy. I mean even the Tramp and it was a shame. if you get the book and look at it closely, these photos he had a sack tied around his feet because he had no shoes. Now I'm older and I mean a bit more sensible, If I have realised I would have give him some money. Old tramp, I just sort of didn't take much notice of him, really. It's a shame, really.
- So going back to you, you said that's the that photographing place was someplace that you used to go a lot. Was there any places that you used to go a lot apart from Spitfire and that photography place?

- Yeah, there were other, what they used to call a cabaret night clubs and that. There were others and we used to go in there, but there was one place there it was a Ambassador, if you look in the book (Timestamp: 40.27), this place on the right here was a nightclub and is called the Ambassador and we used to go in there a bit but it was sort of just general of going into anywhere where they serve beer or drinks and you see the girls. Young blokes and they used to sort of be interested in girls. Funny enough.
- So another question I have for you is what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- Well, when the Turkish army came in. They advanced up too Famagusta. And for some reason or other, I don't know why, they fenced it all off. And they called it, I mean, after a while, people sort of coined the name Ghost Town. A lot of people don't like the name, but that's what some people call it goes down because no one was allowed in there. Only the Turkish army is allowed in there. I tried years ago to get in there to take photos because this book, this other book I've got, I went back years later and tried to photograph the places that I'd been to, again, to see what the changes were. Being as I'd taken a lot of my photographs in Famagusta and I wasn't allowed in there. Obviously a lot of the pictures, I couldn't get again, I had to take pictures of where I could get to again.
- Did you visit to next to the wires of Varosha before the opening, like the Palm Beach?
- Oh yeah. We went on holidays to the Palm Beach Hotel, it was called Constantia in those days but the Cypriots took it over or Turkish or Cypriot and then they changed it to the Palm Beach Hotel and that was, as that was quite popular then. When after 1974 when people started going back from holidays, that was with the one place next to Varosha that you could get to.
- After the 1974, when did you come back to Cyprus?
- I think of it about 10 years later. It did you want to see Famagusta?

- I went to try and see it because that's when it was all fenced off and you weren't allowed in there. You weren't even allowed to take photo.
- Were you surprised to see the big hotels next to the sea and everything?
- Oh well, yes. I mean, some of them had been damaged by the shell fire and that sort of thing, but it was a shame really. I was really surprised to see how it was.
- What could you see when you visited?
- I'll just show you in a minute. This this is quite interesting (timestamp 45.29), you see the black line on the beach at the fence. that was the part where you weren't allowed at, you could go up to the fence. Even then there was a man sitting on the rooftop there with a gun and he would say if you got a camera, he's call out, no and you were told not to photograph. But I mean, I took these photographs with a telephoto lens from the Palm Beach Hotel.
- (Timestamp: 46.30) This is in 1954, there's two soldiers there just on the beach. I took these photos and I never realised the importance of it really. Because I was only 18 or 19 and I had a camera and I just sort of photographed everything I saw.
- What strike you the most, when you went back after 10 years?
- It struck me most that Famagutsa how it changed and like it being fenced off. It was such a shamed. It was unrecognisable from the way I used to know.
- After you left Cyprus, were you still following what was happening in Famagusta. Did you know that it became this touristic centre?
- No. I got home and I just got on with my life. I was apprentice in the printed and I used to just sort of get on with my life and I never thought much more about Cyprus. And cause all the negatives of from my camera, the old camera (Timestamp: 48.24)

I got a picture of the old camera there and all the negatives. I just put it away and I never thought about it. Until, I had a brother, an elder brother Jimmy. He one day sorted through the cupboards and he said to me, I think I've found all your negatives of Cyprus. I was really excited and I went out to see him and there was all my negatives I'd taken of this book. So, it all sort of brought it all back to me and that's when I decided to put the stuff altogether and publish this book about Cyprus.

- And when you published it, did you know that Varosha was this touristic centre and then it's closed off?
- Yeah, I knew it was all closed off and it was closed off for 45 years, and I felt different then to how I feel now. Yeah, I'm so much more interested in it all. The place the Famagusta and the old city and the Greek and Turks not getting on and that sort of thing. I'm sort of a little bit of an expert about it all now.
- How did you find the groups about Varosha on Facebook?
- Well, I'm not all that good on the computer. I think on the phone I've got Frozen Cypriots and the people keep on publishing photographs and little stories and that sort of thing and. I do find them very interesting, but cause most of them are after I left, I mean, I left in 1955 and that's when the trouble started and I was dead lucky really to leave then because there was so many young soldiers got killed. It was over 370 British people got killed in the in the troubles, it is terrible, really. I think it's not recognised enough by the British people of how many people, I bet there's not many people know that there was 370 young people. when you think about it, they were 18 and 19 year old, young men, just joined up in the national service and they were sent out there and and a lot of them were shot in the back and that sort of thing, it was a terrible situation.
- Going back to the question were you searching to find a group Facebook group that was dedicated to Varosha or you just came across like you said, in the frozen Cypriots group?

- Yeah, I did come across it, never not searching for anything really. I'm not good enough for that.
- So when you entered those groups, did any of the photos that were being shared brought any memories?
- Oh yeah, it brought memories back. There again you know you got, young soldiers. See the thing is when a young, those young people had cameras and they took pictures. They for some reason or other they never took the pictures as I used to take pictures of general way of life. But they nearly always took pictures of themselves standing outside the barracks and that sort of thing and there's not many actual photographs of Cyprus and Famagusta like I took. I'm not being big headed, but for some reason or other I had the camera and everything I saw that was interesting I took photographs of. Almost the first two or three days I got there, I went down to Famagusta and I saw these camels (Timestamp. 54.32) and I got my camera out and took pictures of them. Well, cause where I used to live in Essex, we never used to see many camels, cause it was a bit of surprise and something new.
- Was there any schools inside of Varosha at the time?
- I don't know whether it was there or not. probably was, but I probably wasn't that interested. But there was it called the gymnasium or something. I think that was must have been there, but I wasn't really interested in education.
- So you said that you visited the opening of the streets. When you went there, did you have any memories coming back to you?
- Oh, yeah, yeah. I mean, when you think about it, the 65 years later, say 20 when I was there and I was 85 when I went back 65 years later and to walk down Democracy Street, all those years later. Was an amazing experience. Obviously, I didn't recognise much of it, but I did recognise some. It was a surreal moment really, going down there and I've walked down this street 65 years ago, when I was 20, and it was an amazing experience really.

- What you did you had any like particular things that you were expecting to see when you went there?
- Well, when they opened it up I went in and obviously I was hoping that would see some places that I would recognise, but it nearly all changed and the only place I said that I recognised was that (Timestamp. 57.18) place there, that's the corner of democracy street. I am not really sure about the name of the other one, I could probably find it. And in there, there was an ice cream place on the right. And this is obviously taken at night and there was the Spitfire nightclub. The building is still there and, the thing is along the cop there, it's sort of a bit distinctive the top of that roof there and I could recognise it again. I had my book with me and I was looking at that in the building than that and I did recognise one or two places.
- What else did you recognise other than that building?
- Not much, it was nearly all altered.
- What did you expect to see though? And what about the photography shop of Andreas? Is it not there anymore?
- No, it's all altered and I think it might, there were photography shops that were ruined. Everything was ruined as well, it sort of said photographic shop and that sort of thing. I can't imagine cause that man, Andreas, he died soon after this book was published.
- Another question I have for you is, is there a place in Varosha where you feel connected?
- Only the Spitfire haha. No and the cinema, the outdoor cinema, we used to go in there and see the films and that sort of thing. Of course the beaches, we spend a lot of time on the beach and that place there (Timestamp. 1:00), that photograph was taken, there was an army house there, like a big house and it was taken over by the British Army and it was used by the troops to go and change for the swimming and

also for the to get a drink or just an ordinary, beer or soft drink. I think those two palm trees there are still there. Cause palm trees, they last a long while and I think that looking from that fence that I told you about. Looking across, I think those two palm trees are still outside the army house where it was.

- You said open cinema. Which one is it? Because there is two, if I'm not wrong, inside of Varosha.
- Yeah, there was a close in one and there was an open one. There it is (Timestamp. 01.01), there's the open air cinema. That we used to go to cause obviously the weather was very hot. There was only one and that was in Democracy Street. And there was only one open air cinema and that was it. we used to spend a lot of time going there and seeing the films and that.
- Was Hadjihambi Cinema around in 1955 or not?
- The indoor cinema, yes, was there in 1955 and it's still there now. But I don't think it's used as cinema. But the building is still there., I think I've got a picture of it here. This picture is is of a good one of democracy Street (Timestamp. 01.03) and on the side there is it that the indoor cinema.
- Is it the one that is close to us or is it the one that we can see at the back? It's that one there and the building is still there. It's sort of, one place that I recognised.
- And when you were showing me the beach photos, I just, it just came to my mind. Obviously the big hotels weren't there, but was there any buildings that are there now and was there at in 1950s?
- I think there was something called the King George, I think it's called King George Hotel. I think that was , just about collapsed into the sea, I think, but it was there, when we were there.
- Any buildings?

- But most of the places that were along the seaside were only like small. See (Timestamp: 01:05), most of the places were just small bungalows and small town houses. You can imagine when it was all developed into hotels, those people who perhaps own those places, Sold them, I expect they got a good price from the builders and the developers and they were all demolished and then the hotels were built.
- Were you going to any of those buildings?
- In the photo, no, no, they were mainly, we went to the army house. And I think there was a couple of cafes along there or drinking bars and we used to go in there but most of those places were private houses. you gotta realise that in 1955 or 54, the people, they didn't have a lot of money and they probably just had a bungalow or something along the beach.
- What does Varosha represents for you?
- First of all, we knew it as Famagusta. We didn't know the word Varosha or Maras. I only know that since I've come back, six or seven years ago. But I knew it as Famagusta and I knew it as a lovely town, where we used to enjoy ourselves and just sort of being so young, you got to realize that, when we were 18 or 19 and we lived in England, it was such a difference. Nowadays 18- and 19-year-old people, a young people, a lot of them have been abroad and they've been all over the place already. But we hadn't, we were a pretty poor family. And then we couldn't go anywhere other than where we were. At that stage I lived in a place called Ilford, Essex. And we hadn't been anywhere. So when we were transported to Cyprus went to Famagusta or Varosha, it was so different. I often describe it as like paradise. Even now some people describe Northern Cyprus as paradise, but they don't realise what it was like, it was such a beautiful, lovely place. It's all right now, but it's not as good as it was then. I was lucky to live when I did and leave when I did, because I might have been shot, I mean all those soldiers that died. I could have easily been one of them. And it was peaceful while I was there. as far as I know, the Greeks and Cypriots

and the Turkish got on alright together, but it was stirred up by the outside EOKA and ENOSIS, and stirred up and likely they were all killing each other.

- Do you see a future for Varosha? Famagusta?
- Well, now they've opened it. They've done quite a lot of work. They've tarmac the roads. And they've put piles in and they had one or two, like cafes, like portable caravan things that they open up as cafes and you can get a coffee and something to eat. They are trying to gradually develop it, but cause the Greeks are against it all. And because a lot of, mainly the place was Greek Cypriot, they were driven out and now the Turkish are in there and the Greeks have got upset about it and they want all their places back. it's sort of gradual thing and I don't know whether it's going to happen or not.
- What would you want to happen for Varosha What kind of future do you see?
- I see over the next say, few years like three or four years, they gonna gradually open up more cause it's not all open yet. It's only certain areas and they're going to open up more places and going to develop it more and all the beach is open now and you can go all the way down the beach. I should think if I had to guess, I should think in the three or four years time they will start repairing and knocking down some of the buildings and rebuilding them and perhaps The Greek Cypriot, some of them will get their places back and go back. Perhaps do something with them. Over the next three or four years, I should say. Cause quite a lot is happened in the last two years.
- So would you say the things that happened in the last years changed, what you think was going to happen for the future of Varosha?
- Yeah, it has. It was all a surprise to me anyway. I expect those in the know, knew that it was going to be opened up. But when they said it's going to be opened up, me and a lot of other people were very surprised and there was a big crowd of people. I went down there on the day it was to be open. And there was a big crowd of people, they're all swarming in. It was a sort of a big occasion. It was opened up and people were

allowed in there after all those years, 45 years. And a lot of people were wanting to see what it was like now.

- Do you think any of the places inside of Famagusta should be protected as they are now?
- I should think. After all those years, most of the places were, either in disrepair or weak. I mean the buildings, if they're not looked after they are weak. I think a lot of the places wouldn't be suitable to be lived in or used as hotels again. I think a lot of them will have to be pulled down and rebuilt. It is a massive job, to redo the place. I don't think, it will never be the same as it was when I were there, but, it'll be alright, it could be redeveloped to something nice.
- If you consider the places that carries a value for the people that has memories like you do, do you think any places or any buildings should be protected?
- Only a few. Spitfire Cabaret. It should be protected and now that school is still there, and if it's still in reasonable condition, I think that should be protected. But a lot of the other places, I think they're so unrecognisable that it's not worth protecting them I think.
- OK, just a quick question. You said that Spitfire building is still there, but, was it still in nightclub?
- No it's something else now I don't know what it was, but it's only the building that I can recognise because of the roof and that, it's exactly the same as it was in my photo.
- So that was all that I had questions to ask, yeah. Is there anything that you would like to add, or do you think that I should have asked something that I didn't?
- Now I think you hopefully you've got a good idea of what it was like and what it is now. I hope I've been able to sort of tell you how lovely it was and what a shame it is that it's been allowed to sort of fall down, go into disrepair like that. It is a tragedy, it

was such a lovely, lovely place. And even when it was developed after I left, it was still a lovely place. And when you think of what was there? I mean, take that photography shop, there must have been a lot of cameras and photographic equipment in there. And they've taken it all ,the furniture, the beds of the hotels, there's nothing left in there and I think that is really a let down to me that the place all those left is the shell of the buildings. And a lot of them are falling down. It is no good there anyone saying, oh well this just been left cause it hasn't just been left, if you got a building and you leave it, nobody would smash the windows. A lot of the windows were all smashed and the doors were smashed and a lot of things are destroyed. It hasn't happened just by leaving the building for 45 years, it's happened because people have gone in there and done it.

E06 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Of course I do. my heart, my soul, is there.
- And I know you said it's at the beginning, but can you say what is your relation to Varsoha?
- The relation to Varosha is my hometown is where I was born, is where I spent my youth, is where I laughed for the first time, I had my dates, even though they have nothing to do like today. But for us, that's what we had, just go to a cafe, have a cup of coffee. Our memories, our classmates, our beach which is fantastic. in Varosha, I think it's one of the best sea and the golden sand that we have, I have been to many places, I haven't seen something like this really. I mean it's really, really fantastic. The water is shallow, It's crystal clear. You can walk in the beach inside the sea and slowly, slowly, it gets deeper. It's something you cannot find it everywhere. I wake up, I think about Varosha, I go to bed, I think about Varosha. And now that they they opened it and they allow us to go up to a point, I saw my house, I saw my fathers' shop. We have a hotel there, it is called Tulip Hotel. It was finished in May 1974. My poor father didn't even have time to enjoy it. Only a couple of months. He just finished the hotel and he was so happy and he had so many dreams. If you want to know, I just got married in 1974. If you're interested in hearing it.
- I am interested in all your life in Varosha.
- Well, we got married on the 23rd of June 1974 in the church, that we can now they allow us to go is called Agia Triada, it is just by the seaside. And they allow us to go, of course, outside you cannot enter it. We slept in the flat, my father had for me, I think three nights. I'm not so sure. The first night for sure, on our wedding. I think the second as well. And then we left for honeymoon in Germany. We came back after a month because my sister was there, we came back. My husband actually is from Limassol, but he was in famagusta for seven years . because he was sent there by the army and he was a very good football player. Anorthosis, which is a team that I adore, football team and they liked him, so he stayed there and that's how we met and we got married. We came back to see my inlaws and then when we we went back it was all the troubles. And my father wanted us from the first occupations to stay altogether in the hotel, so he felt more safe having us with him, so we never slept again in our house in our flat and. I left there my wedding dress, hanging. I didn't even have time to take it to the dry cleaners, my husbands costumes, the wedding presents they are unopened or didn't have time. We just open a few the next day over

marriage, but just a few. Because you know in Cyprus when you get married you have more than 1000 people. It's not like they do in Europe. They have 100 or maybe 200, in Cyprus you invite almost everybody you know. That's painful and now that I went back. In our hotel is the United Nations. They were supposed to take care of it because our hotel was rendered to a Swedish company, the Fridges Resort, and they brought everything from Sweden and they used our, they had their own restaurant, let's say they made it a cafe, it was called Caesars Cafe. And there they were making breakfast, lunch and dinner for all the Swedish people, of the Swedish people of fridges resort. They brought the equipment for the restaurant and everything, and then because of them, the United Nations went inside to save their property. But actually I was able to go inside our hotel, because in the beginning they didn't allow us, not even the United Nations. And then I got a special permission from the United Nations and I went inside but there's nothing in. I don't know who took everything and I was so surprised because I told them, you are the United Nations, you were supposed to, to guard this place, where did everything go? Of course, they had no idea because so many people change, you know, every now and then change, so they have no idea who was there in 1974. But at least I was able to walk inside and I brought with me my parents photos that were sitting in the reception when it was ready and it was like a memorial Day for them. I said, I brought your photo in the hotel that you built. He was working since he was almost 12 years old, my father, with his two bare hands, he did whatever he did. This is not nice because you walk in your own hometown and then you pass by your house. There are people that actually they pass by their houses, but we're not allowed to go inside and see if there's something that we can still or there's nothing there, they took everything. You hope that if you go in, maybe you find, one photo or something, something that even that was broken to bring it with you. Frankly, I went inside my house without permission, so don't use my name and I found something from my mother's kitchen, which I have it now and I guard it like my eyes. It doesn't have a value, but it is a sentimental value for us and this is cruel. You see your house, but they do not allow you to go inside. It's very, very cruel. Because for so many years, we were not allowed to go inside Famagusta. Now they allow you to go to a certain places, not all of it, but you're not allowed to go in your own house. Where they have taken everything, completely everything. You are lucky some people that got inside secretly or they dare to go inside and they found some, copy books from their elementary school. I have a friend she found the head of her doll. It's not nice, but at least I walked in in the place that I was born. But not not all of us, The famagustian people, because not all Famagusta is open. Still only a few streets. This is very bad. It's very difficult and you see other people walking, people from the Turkish side and the Greek, the Turkish Cypriots, they are like us. You can hardly say this is a Greek Cypriot or the Turkish Cypriot because we grew up in the same place. But the people that they brought from Turkey, you can understand even the way they get dressed and everything and you see them walking there. And you wonder what are you looking at? You have no memories. Nothing connects you with this place, so you came to see ruins? For them it is like going to a picnic. This also hurts to be honest because let's say I pass by your house. I don't have any memories.

I have nothing to connect me with that place and why should I go just to spend my time looking at the other people's houses, they don't have feelings. They don't think that in this house there was a family, there was a father and mother, the children. I don't know, I cannot explain it. Unfortunately, politicians, I don't have anything against the people. Honestly, it's not the people's fault, but the politicians are unfortunately very, very bad people all over the world.

- Sadly, this kind of places always find itself in the propagandas of politicians. I will ask more questions about the opening, but before we come to nowadays, I will go back again. And you used to live in Varosha until you were 20, right?
- Yeah, Yes.
- Do you remember everything? Living, growing up, going to school, going on day?
- I remember, I remember a lot. A lot of things.
- What would you say is the most vivid and recognisable memory from those times for you?
- Where can I begin? If I go back when I was going to the elementary school and I had my friends. Then I didn't continue in a school in Famagusta. My father wanted me to learn better English, so I was able to go to American Academy Larnaca. There was no American Academy school in famagusta only in Nicosia and Larnaca. So, I went there for seven years and I don't have a lot of life after I was 12 because I was studying so much. And two and a half years I stayed in Larnaca, but Larnaca was like a village. It wasn't like Varosha. Varosha was very, very far ahead. Honestly, not because I say so. I mean everybody will tell you that, even the buildings, the people, the mentality, everything was different. So for two and a half years I was crying and then I got bold and I said to my father, if you don't allow me to go back and forth, I will not finish American Academy, I will go to school in Famagusta, so he said OK, so I had to wake up everyday at 5:00 o'clock and come back around 3/3:30. We had a lot of studying. So actually I had Saturday that I had no school and Sunday. I remember when I became 18 and I had my driving driving test, and my brother told me if you pass from the first time, he had a BMW it was 2000 model, in those days it was something that was very very nice. He said, I will give you the keys and you can drive it. And I told him I will pass from the first time, so give the keys to our mom, so she will give it to me. I did pass and I got the keys and then I went, i had my friends that were leaving in Famagusta, going to school in famagusta. So I went there before the bell rang and I made BiBi, BiBi and everybody came out of the class. They were shouting at me and they were happy and I was waiting for them. And then I drove

them back home. That's something I will always remember. It was one of the happiest days because I managed to pass the first time and then because as I told you, I was schooling in Larnaca, when we had some events I stayed in some of my friends houses. Each time to one friend, and the other time in another friendly if i had to sleepover. So the only chance I had for me to give back to them for their hospitality was when we had Thanksgiving and we had no school for three days. So they all came to Famagusta and then we had a fantastic time. Before I got the licence, we had this bicycle's that you could see three and four people together. I think it was only in Famagusta we had those. With them, we went all through the streets of Famagusta and I had my cousins that we're living in Kato Varosha, it was the other side and they had orange Groves, tangerines, lovely fruits and we went there and we cut them ourselves and we had a really, really nice time. That was also some of my best memories. Memories with my mom on the beach when we were children. I mean our house is only 5 minutes from where the beach is and then we played fantastic with our friends our neighbours. We had the swings, there were a lot. We had also a very big round thing that we went around. And I remember night time we went to the beach and we played there and it was so safe, my parents didn't worry that something will happen to us. No Fear. Nobody was going to steal you or hurt you or it was other times, you know, safer times. And of course, my wedding. Which it was very, very nice experience and happyness and we had everybody came to congratulate us in our hotel. So my father was so happy, you know he achieved something. Actually his job was, he had a shoe shop. And he also imported a lot of shoes, tennis shoes, boots for men, women, some other kind of shoes, we call them galoshas, maybe in Turkish the same word. People in the villages, they used to put their shoes in those galoshas. It was another pair of shoes, let's say, to protect their shoes from the dirt, from the when the fields were wet. And he had a good business and he was a very, very good man. And then he built the hotel. He was happy, he said to my mom, you will never cook anymore, you will be served in the hotel. We knew that we wouldn't even enjoy it. That's some of what I can remember, it's a lot of things, but.

- Thank you so much. I I have like small questions for each of the things you said. You said your dad had shoe shop. Where was it in Varosha, the location?
- The location was Hermes Street 82. I can see it, but they don't allow us to go inside. But I went secretly at the bac and from the wooden doors, there are holes and I took photos but there's nothing inside. I risked a bit my life there because they don't allow you. They have this redline in rebon, they don't allow you but I just wanted to see.
- I totally understand. And you said your house was 5 minutes from the beach, where was this house?

- Our house was Kennedy Street. There was a famous doctor, very, very good man, Hadjidakou. His clinic was in the front of the beach, just there. They could see the beach and we were at the back.
- So the Tulip Hotel is on that street as well, right?
- It's also very near Tulip Hotel, it's Democracy Street, but it's actually from there also 5 minutes walking, you are at the beach.
- And you said you were going to the beach with the swings and the playground? Is it the one in front of the Faliro?
- Yes. Exactly. But you know they teared Faliro down, you know that?
- I know I it's it's really heart breaking.
- How you been to Varosha?
- I did, yes.
- So you know, Tulip Hotel?
- I do. And to be fair, before starting interviews, I am also doing digital ethnography, which is going through the comments on Facebook groups. So I familiarised myself with the memories of all of you. And I went Varosha and even though I didn't live there, I can feel all of your pain.
- Can you feel what I feel when I go? Because every time I have a chance I go. Even 30th of January we went again and I go outside, I walk in democracy street just opposite Tulip Hotel and I'm not allowed to go in. How do I feel?
- I can only imagine. I am I am really sorry.
- Yeah. It's not your fault. My son, you saw he is 45. This is what I keep telling him. It's not the people. It's not, like I told you, I have my classmate. His name is Halit and he came to American Academy when we were already five years in American Academy. He came only for the two last years and as soon as he came, we didn't have another

Turkish Cypriot classmate in our class, he was the only one. And I reached to him and then I gave him my, we call it autograph, it's like a book and everybody writes something for you to remember your classmates. So when I gave it to him. I will never forget what he wrote for me and he said that when you asked me to write in your autograph, I realised that friendship does not depend on nationality. That's the only thing I remember from all my classmates. If you ask me about my other classmates, I don't have a clue. I don't remember but with Halit I remember and he was very good in mathematics and I was not good in mathematics so he was really helping me and we were very good connected. And he was in London and I saw him I think four or five years ago. He came with his wife and it was like, seeing really a friend. I never said to myself he is a Turkish Cypriot, he's my classmate, he's my friend. And if you want to know about a month ago we went in Famagusta. The shopping mall they made in Famagusta. Have you been there?

- I did, yes.
- Do you know who the whole of the land there belongs to?
- No.
- To my family. Can you imagine how I feel when I go in and I see that. Can you imagine? I mean, they took our land. They build a mall, without asking us. One day I was so angry and sad and I went there myself and I went to the information office, they have the desk the information and I said can I see the owner. So they were polite and they said yes, of course. And then a very, very nice young man came. I told him, are you the owner of the mall? And he said yes. I told him all of it. he said yes. I said OK, what about the land on which you have built the mall? And he turned white. Really. And he said to me, is it yours? And I said, yes, it is mine. It's my family, my cousins, my brother, sisters. And he said one minute, one minute I will call my father. So his father came, he spoke Greek and he said I am from Paphos and I have a lot of property and I said okay, you are from Paphos. Why didn't you try to find us? We could have exchange properties and this would have been really yours. Now it's not yours, you know that is not yours. He said, I bought it. I said you bought it from whom. He said I paid. I said I don't care who did you pay? You bought from somebody that didn't belong to him. And he said, what is your business? And I said we have shoe shops. Because this is what we do. We continue my father's work. And he said I will give you one shop. And I told him, oh mr, you are so very generous, you got the whole of my land and you are giving me one shop. And then he got angry and he asked me to leave. I said I will leave. But I want you to remember that nothing remains the same. Everything is a circle. There will be a time. That I will come back and this belongs to me. I can turn down your mall. I will still have my land. And I told him I want you to remember this day because I came in a very friendly way to find a solution and you

are throwing me out. So just remember it. And I said to myself, let him have some sleepless nights because I have this for so many years, you know? And how should I feel when I go there?

- There is no description. I'm sorry about that as well.
- It's not your fault. I told you it's it has nothing to do with you or other people or young people. It's not their fault. I am blaming a lot of Greek people. I mean politicians. Why didn't they find the solution or an answer before? And the Turkish Cypriots, they can do nothing. They are trying to help us. We have a lot of friends, but it's from Turkey. I mean, whatever Turkey says, it is not whatever they want. We have friends, they help us and we love them and they love us but.
- Actually in summer I there was some gathering for Varosha, with all of you, in August. There was a circle?
- Yes, I was there as well. I told you, whenever we have something like this, I always go. That place, we used to call it our public garden. And there we had a lot, we have the orange feast, and everything was decorated with oranges everything. It was very nice for our kids to go there. We also in our elementary school we made. How do we say, let's say you draw a house, but everything was decorated with the orange leaves, so we made a lot of scenes, anything that you can imagine, a lot of things, horses or animals, all with pieces of oranges. And the best one got the reward, a prize.
- Which elementary school did you go?
- The one you see there, Agios Ioannis. The one you just pass by to go. Just there.
- Is it the one that's turned into high school now?
- I don't know if it is a highschool. It's just where they allow you to go inside Famagusta on the left hand side.
- That used to be my high school I went to.
- That was my elementary school. And then you know the where is the the football field? And you know, we have anorthosis. And this is our love is. well my my son is so

very fond and so proud of anorthosis and I am and it's like the only thing we could bring with us from Famagusta. And to give to our children an if you say you're a Anorthosis, it means you have roots from Famagusta, you know, from Varosha.

- So I move to my next question, what does the word ghost town mean to you?
- This is what they call famagusta because nobody is living in there and it hurts. Because they made it a ghost town, but it was a city full of life. It was the best city in the whole of Cyprus, really, and the tourist, everything I told you, the mentality there. If you go, you have been there, you can see the buildings and you can see the buildings and you can see the paint of the buildings that it's still OK. In Limassol we paint our houses and after a few months you see it's destroyed and you need to do it again or something that you should notice next time you go, the side pavement, you can see they are white and nothing happened to them. Also the swedge, it was finished. It was finished, completed in a Famagusta in 1974, and Archbishop Makarios was going to make the inauguration in August, but he never got the chance because of the occupation. And in here in Limassol, they're still doing it. I'm telling you to see how how far I had was famagusta and we had in the Salamina the ancient theatre, so many plays. A lot of memories. It's so sad. But then, on the other hand, we were lucky to live in such a place, even until my 20s. But my hope, my dream is to die there. I don't want to die in Limassol, but only God knows.
- When in 2003 when the checkpoints opened, did you try to go to the next to the wires to see Varosha?
- I went yes, we waited for I think about six or seven hours to go in, in 2003. You had to wait in such a long queue and you could only go until where our school is both our school and Constantia Hotel, we used to call it Constantia. We could go until there. Then we went also to Apostolos Andreas. Because my father's village is Risokarpaso, Dipkarpaz. This is my father's village. That's where we spend all our summers. So I know every place there too. I have so, so many memories. It's such a lovely place. You have been there since you live in Triкомо? Especially this time of the year. It's so green the place and the flowers and it's so lovely.
- so when you went to next to Constantia what could you see and how did it make you feel?
- We went to Constantia and until Faliro, in between Faliro and the Aspelia hotel I could see the flag of the United Nations on our hotel, on the roof of our hotel and I told everybody this is our hotel. Because you can see the flag of the United Nations. We cried. We cried a lot the first time because you wanted to go further, you know,

from Faliro, the hotel, its maybe less than 5 minutes walking and also my house, my parents house, where I grew up. But still I was happy to be able to walk again on that place, you know. And then every time you had something, I even took my granddaughter when she was now she's 12, she was four and a half and I took her and she was four and she said that it's amazing that you have this golden sand in Famagusta. And she was telling everybody in the school, it's amazing, but I wanted them to see it because if you don't see, you won't believe. In Limassol the sea is not like this. They don't have this golden sand or this crystal clear water. They don't.

- And you said that you visited after the opening of the streets too?
- Yes, before two years that they allow us. Of course I went, as soon as they allowed us poof, I was among the first to go. Again, we cried because you walk in the streets that you were walking until you were 20 years old, and then you see everything ruined. You see, some places are OK, but some places are not. Like the hadjihambi Cinema, it was such a lovely building. And now they are ruined down. You see the gymnasium, you see the Likeon Ellinidion. And now they even have placed something and they have hidden the names. Why they do this, I don't know. It's not nice. It hurts. They don't even allow people to see the Greek letters. My father's shop, Democracy Street, at the very end where you cannot turn right, on the right is my father's shop. And you can also go behind and there is a Turkish sort of church there. Maybe you saw it, I don't know. Behind Ermou Street.
- Is that the only mosque in Varosha?
- Yeah, Yeah. Yeah. It's the only one in Varosha. Because inside the walls, there is. Yeah, it was the only one.
- When you walked on Demockracy Ave or Kennedy Ave, did you had any memories coming back to you?
- Of course many, many memories. I grew up there. There the democracy street, I used to do it almost everyday. I mean when we had no school I was helping my father in the shoe shop. And I was going walking from my house from Kennedy to Democracy and then Ermou, everyday. Every day, maybe two or three times a day, Kennedy, we had such a long walks with my best friend. We went from one side to the other. It was a more than one hour walking and we enjoyed it and we used to go there also with our parents. There had at the end of Kennedy at Agios Memnonas, they had this ice cream, Heraklis, Hercules. It was a small place and you could only buy this ice cream

there and people were waiting for queue to buy this ice cream and you miss those moments and you miss the days that all the in Agios Memnonas and where the, our mall is, you know, the oranges and grapefruit, everything and the smell of it when they had over blooming. It's something that you can never forget. So many, many memories.

- When you were going there, apart from your dad's shop or the hotel or your house, was there particular space or a place that you wanted to see?
- We wanted to see everything actually, because the people who had the shops, they were our friends. Especially in democracy, I knew every owner until going to my father's shop and his neighbours there and I remembered every, people that were using those shops, and a lot of memories with each person you have other memories, like next to my father was a jewellery shop Gallopedis and that where I got my wedding ring and next to them there was a guy Yiannis Avgoridis, and he was selling, pieces of cloth and you could buy by meter to make a dress or something. Next to my father on the other side, it was a very nice supermarket Paralimnidis. You could find whatever you wanted. I remember they had some Cadbury chocolate but they were thin and long. Now I never see this, I don't know if they make them in England but in Cyprus I haven't seen them. But my God, they were so nice. And the fingers, the Cadbury fingers, but they were really, really much tastier than the of what they are now. And he had the chocolate, the crunch and. Oh, I used to love going to my father and then I can go next door to buy some chocolates. So it's, it's a lot of memories. The cinemas, we had many cinemas and we had Heraion. Opposite the Heraion, we had, there was a small pond with water but with colour water and like in the garden in front of gymnasium.
- And where is this pond?
- You cannot see it because they don't allow us to go, but it's just opposite Heration Cinema. And there they had, they all made kebabs. And when you went to that place, you had to have kebabs because the smell was so nice. You know Cyprus kebabs, I mean, the smell. Also in the outside the walls, opposite the hospital, it was the Turkish Cypriots who were making kebabs but with lamb. And also we loved to go there with my father because they were tastier, the lamb kebabs. And my father had so many friends from other villages. I remember him, my father's friends, they came to shop from my father. Because they had shops and they got shoes from us, but they came with those big baskets. You are young, maybe you don't remember the baskets. They were the big ones, they came filled with bread they made with the dry bread, with Halloumi, sausages, anything they made. He had a lot of friends, my father even spoke Turkish.

- So if I asked you to choose one place that is connected to you in a personal level. But what would it be?
- Of course Varosha.
- Inside of Varosha?
- My parents house where I grew up.
- And if I asked you to say a place that you think that holds the really important place for all of the varoshians?
- I think our seaside. Because when you went there, you were in paradise.
- When they opened the two streets and when you went back, I know that you wanted to see your house on democracy avenue and you said most of the shops are owned by your friends or people that you knew, what about the Kennedy Ave where the big hotels are?
- Kennedy Avenue, yes it's the big hotels. I am not so close to that. I mean because we passed with the car or we walked, but the tourists were in the hotels. It's not the same like I walk from my house to go to my father and I know everybody in the street. It's different. Alongside the hotels, the beach, it was fantastic. And at the very, very end. This we should maybe talk another day that there was a house called Monastiraki, I can send you photos. This Monastiraki, belonged to a very famous Greek Cypriot painter SantosHadjitoroiu. This house was like a palace, but palace, not in a very, very large area, it wasn't just a small thing. But a small palace in the sense of very, very nice house. Amazing. And the these people his wife was French. They met in London. It's we have to talk about this some other day and I came to get to know her when I built, when our house, where we are staying now was finished and my brother told me, I said I need some paintings, so he said I will take you to Mrs Sicilia because her husband had died and she has paintings of Mr Santos and you buy from her. And she was such a lovely lady. They had so much money and their house was fantastic. I will send you photos if you want. And then she spent the rest of her life in a very small apartment here in Limassol. We lost her two years ago and it so unfair. And she was such a lovely lady. I mean, even though they had so much money, she was a very simple lady. She taught me so many things, how to cook certain things. And she always said never. Her husband always told me, she said that you

must be happy with whatever you have. Never want what the neighbour has. This way you will always be happy and she's right. This is something that stayed inside me. Now if you see somebody and they have a Mercedes so I want the BMW I want mercedeeds. No, if you are happy with what you have, you will always be happy. And I went to their place years ago. Well, this is a another story. Ah, I don't know what you believe, but I believe a lot in God. And I had a dream, that we talk about some other day, I had this dream and I didn't know I saw somebody, somebody spoke to me. He was in our hotel and whatever he told me then came true and I found out later that he is a saint. Because of him. I was one of the very few that went inside famagusta, but only with the car, no walking and not allowed to get down or anything. But that was because really it was a miracle and before that some friends that we met, they were allowed before the the Turkish cypriots were allowed to go in at the very end of Kennedy. And one of them risked and took me and my brother said don't talk and I will take you. We went in this House of Mrs Cecilia and it was completely destroyed. They even took out tiles from the bathroom everything. And we found small pieces of the tile that were broken and we brought her some pieces, I will send you a photo.

- Did this happen with you going inside? And did you started remembering new buildings because before you weren't actually able to see anything but the photographs? Did you? When you went inside, did you started remembering new buildings?
- The buildings I never forgot them. I do remember them, the ones I walked everyday I remember them. I can't remember everything but in my neighbourhood and in the surrounding area I do remember. But seeing them again of course it was, it brought back to you more and more memories and there is a house in Democracy and I am 68, she must be at least eighty, she is older than me. And her house is exactly in Decmocracy. And they went there with her husband and her family with the key. They put the key on the door. If you go there, you will see two doors green. It's the only two green doors in Democracy.They put their key, they turned it, as soon as they turned it, they saw them, the ones that are looking and they did not allow him to go in. Every time I pass from there, I cry because she deserves to let her go up the stair and going her house. This is cruel. This is very, very cruel.
- And do you see a future for Varosha?
- Yes, I think we have a future. I mean if I didn't believe that we have a future I don't think I would be able to continue living. I mean hope dies, in greek we say, hope dies at the very end. If they allow us to live together both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. We will live together, I am 100% sure, even people who came from the very, very end of

Turkey. I think their mentality changed. Because it's young people. The most difficult thing is that the people who got our houses, let's say in Kato Varosha and Agios Lucas, they have taken our houses from the people that belong and there they are parents or grandparents came from far away from Turkey, these people if they were born in 1974, they are already 48 years old, so they think that this is their house. And I, on the one hand side, cannot blame them, but the truth and the reality is that your parents, your grandparents, they came and they stayed in a house that they knew it didn't belong to them. Somebody else worked for that house. Somebody else built that house, somebody else has memory, somebody else made their family there. So it's not fair what I think if there is, there is a solution. There is a lot of land in Cyprus, why they cannot give a piece of land for those people build them houses and so the actual owners could take back their houses. This can be done. I mean, I don't think it's impossible. This is what I think I mean, because they think that it belongs to them, but actually it doesn't belong to you. You are not the legal owner. Am I right? So I believe in future, if they allow us, just give us the chance.

- What kind of future do you think for Varosha?
- First of all, to allow us to go back. Because we got our home there, we have every right. It's our hometown. And then? We can work together. We can have works together. Outside the famagusta, even with inside the walls. I mean now we go to Petek, we have coffee. Why not go when I go in Famagusta and have coffee there? Well, I mean, I can still go. I have nothing against the people. They are working, they need to work to for their children, their families I understand this. So why not to be able to go whenever I want and for them to come to my place whenever they want? What's bad about it? Why we cannot work together? How many nationalities are there? They don't work together?
- Is any of the things that happened since the opening changed your mind about the future of Varosha?
- I'm not sure if they change anything because they don't allow us to do anything. They don't even allow us to go into our houses. This is cruel. You have come to my country. You you made an occupation. You took everything. And you allow me to walk as if I am a tourist and as if I am going ghtseeing. This is not fair. I mean, you occupied my country, You threw me away from my house. You destroy the lives of so many people. Not to mention the people that died and there were killed in the war and now they're continuing the same thing. They saw me and they thought that I went into my house. They don't know which house, but these people, they are in cars and they're saying now it's ten people working. Where did the two went, if you then counted eight people after 5 or 6 minutes? So they were looking for me and my sister. And they

stopped us after and said have you been in any of these houses? And we said yes, I we just went to pee. Then when we left, they checked me if I had anything and I had one flip flop, what they wear when they go swimming in the sea. And there was in the yard a small flipper that belonged to my sister's son. Very, very small. I mean, he was so young. You are not allowed to take these, you know they were shouting at me as if I stole something or see if I did something wrong. I said, I cannot sell it, it was just there, in the yard, what's your problem? You're not allowed. This belongs to the Turkish army property. And these things hurt. They open it, but for their own sake. They have other plans. But I hope god will not allow them to do anything. I'm hoping that they will realise that the best solution is for us to let us go back and then we can all, then we will be work for everybody because we have to rebuild it so nobody will be without a job. And imagine how many people will come and everybody will benefit of it, both sides. But they still want to do their own. They keep saying that most of the property in Varosha belongs to Evkaf. What is this nonsense? How can you tell me? My grandparents? Their grandparents? Come on.

- Is that how you your dad started in Varosha? With your grandparents?
- My father, he was from the Rizo Karpazo and then he went to Famagusta to work. He worked with an uncle of my mum and he was a very good worker and he was able to open his own shop and then he helped also to a lot of people. And he bought the land where the mall is now and some other property as well and he was able to build the hotel. He raised up six children? And then he lost everything. Just in one day we lost everything. A lot of people ask us, why didn't you take anything with you? How could we have even thought of taking anything? We just left because they were bombing us and it was so scary because in the first occupation we were in the hotel with tourists. They were not able to leave and we were in the basement. And then the planes came and when you could feel that they were going lower, you were sure that they were going to throw a bomb. So you didn't know if it's if it was going to drop on you. And it was very, very scary. We passed that period. My mother, the only thing we had in the hotel was potatoes and she was boiling potatoes and she was giving one to each tourist because we had nothing else. And so when the next occupation took place we were afraid to stay. And we had no protection. I mean, we were women, so we left and we left until the planes go away. We never thought we are leaving, but we're never coming back. That's why we took nothing with us. No photos, no memories, no personal things. Not furniture, this you can buy, but you cannot find the things you have for yourself. I mean my, the photos, we were young. I managed to save my wedding albums because it happened so soon and I was holding it and my father was telling me, what are you doing? Wherever you go you are taking your wedding albums. I said I don't know, this is what I feel and I saved that. I don't know, by accident or, but nothing else. And no money, nothing. We left without even any shoes we were

wearing flip flops. And my father had so many stores filled up of shoes. It's not good memories.

- Famagusta represents bad but also happy memories for you. So if it must be a mix of feelings for you.
- Yeah, I think of the good memories everyday, but when I see what they do, it makes you angry. Because they are in my hometown and they have the cameras and they are watching. Don't go there, Come on, what am I going to steal from a house that you emptied completely? It's not fair.
- Do you think some places in Varosha should be protected as they are now?
- They should be protected like the schools, like Lykeon Ellinikion. Like the Hadjihambi cinema. They were like monuments. I mean in the way they were built. They should have, but they don't. Instead of taking care of them, they're destroying them. They took Faliro down. Who gave them the right to take it down.
- You used the word monuments? What would you define as monuments?
- The gymnasium, the lykeion ellinikion, this is history. you don't have the right to erase history.
- What else would you say? The monuments of Varosha, the history of Varosha?
- What else? Our churches, Apostolos Barnabas, they turned into a museum. At least they saved it. But is not nice. You go and you have to pay to go inside the Apostolos Barnabas. What about Salamina ancient theatre? The whole place there it's a gift of God. I mean, it's such a lovely place. Apostolos Andreas is because it's not only Varosha, the whole place. And all the buildings in front of Faliro, you see the sea came up to the buildings. King George is destroyed. It's ready to fold down. The clinic of Hadjikakou, he was such a very very good person. I think if he had ten, not ten let's say 20 patients a day maybe he got money from the three. He was such a man for everybody, not just the Greek Cypriots, everybody. He was a great man, a great doctor and he had a lovely heart. And you, you see his clinic there and it's ready to fall down. The house I told you, Manastiraki, they should have protected it.
- Is this the house that's that everyone is mistaken with Sophia Lauren's house?

- No. That house is also very very nice and it was a library belonged to somebody Marangous I think and they're saying that it was Sophia's Lauren but it's not. That's also very, very nice house. There are a lot of nice houses and opposite Tulip there's a very nice house.
- Do you know who did it belong to?
- Yeah, it belong to before a classmate of ours in the family of Hajisotiriu. But then they sold it. But until we were in elementary, they used to live there.
- There was one house right in front of Vienna Cafe as well.
- Yeah, that house also, it's very nice. And Vienna Cafe was fantastic. He made the best cheese pies, the best and the best sandwich with melted cheese. But they were amazing. I've never tasted anything better since we left Famagusta. And that house opposite Vienna, belongs to the relative, he died our ex mayor, Galanos family. That's a very nice house. Have you seen the details of the house? The Windows? Yeah.
- Would you say is there any other cafes that was important for you?
- For me it was Edelweiss, because that's where I met my husband. I mean, we used to go there to see each other. There was Mirabel Cafe, Mirabel Cafe is after Agia Triada. Oh, on the left hand side towards the Hippocrates street, but you are not allowed to go there. And there was another very nice., cafe by the Sea, also on hippocrates street. It was a very nice cafe. And you were sitting there and you were looking at the se. Alasia also was very famous. Alasia, it was restaurant and it was on the beach. You were there and your feet, were soaking in the sea.
- Thank you so much. It's in. It's been so amazing. Seriously. And this means a lot that you said all of this with me. Um, do you have any questions to ask me? Or do you think that I should have asked you something but I forgot?
- Frankly, I don't know because you know, I maybe after I will say I should have told you this and that, but right now this is all I can say because you have a lot of memories but you can't remember everything just by talking. But when you come back to Cyprus, you'll give us you give me a call and you maybe you come with Nafia or yourself. I don't know. Or maybe I will come to three, I want to see holidays. Well, I haven't seen him. He promised to come but he didn't come. And that's something I want to tell you. When we went about a month and a half ago in from Augusta, we

went to the mall. I wanted to show it to my cousins and when we left. My name is Lenny and Pad. Actually at school I was Ellen. It's a you know the name of my ID cell and its and when we left. Outside I heard somebody shouting at me with happiness. You know Elenitsa and I said who recognise me here, you know, and calling me Elaine. It's a an it was pallets wife whom I just met once in London before a few years just once an she hugged me and she was crying and she was. Kissing me and then. Yeah. At that moment I said why God, did you allow this thing to happen in in Cyprus? I mean, we're good people, most of us, and we are paying for that for other people's mistakes.

E07 Transcription

–Do you feel connected to Varosha?

–Yes, very much.

–And what is your relation to Varosha?

–My family has come from Varosha before going back as many generations as we can. We are born and bred Famagustians.

–You said many generations. How many generations are we speaking about?

–Well, as far back as I have gone, as I have traced, I think I can trace it back to 18, probably 1802, somewhere there. That's as far as I've ever gone.

–Was it your dad or your mom that's from Varosha?

–My mother.

–So I'm guessing that she was talking to you about Varosha and the life and everything?

–My mother, not so much. My mother was born in 1971. She was only three years old when we had to go, when we had to leave with my family. But my grandmother says as much as she can. It's of course a painful topic. And she doesn't go into excruciating detail about the events of 1974, but she does talk from time to time about what life was like in Varosha.

–And what's in particular does she talk about?

–I think this is classic of most famagustians, that we believe that, Varosha was the jewel of not only Cyprus but the Mediterranean, that we were ahead 20 years. We invented skyscrapers. No, just in general life was beautiful and it was calm. Everyone

was neighbours and also in keeping, of course, at the time and there was also, she also likes to talk about how there was segregation in school between men and women, how she would learn. She used to tell me that in school the boys would learn plugs and electric things and how to fix things, and girls would learn how to be housewives. I There's also a lot of stories about, of course Cyprus is in general difficult to say who we are, because Cypriots don't know we Cypriots don't know who we are. But famagustians, we always know who we are, we are always very proud of our history. Because we were of course aware that, famagustians whether you are Greek Cypriot or Turkish Cypriot, it didn't matter you are a famagustian. And we all came from the Kingdom of Salamina who was the model for Aristotle's philosopher king that the only true great leader would be a philosophy so we have we have this rich history, that we are so proud of it, we hang onto it and we have the lion of famagusta and the stories that we tell about that how the lion protects us and all. It's almost nice because even if Cyprus falls apart, Limassol fighting with Larnaca and Larnaca fighting with nicosia, Famagustians at the end of the day, we say famagusta a was the best.

–And so after the 1974 events, where did your grandma and your mom move to?

–After 1974, we settled in Limassol.

–And what's in particular was your family doing in Varosha?

–My family were involved in real estate. We were hotel owners.

–And do you wanna open that more?

–I come from the Lordos family. We built apartment buildings and houses and I think that we had 55 hotels, all on the famagusta Beach. The centre of this was my great grandfather's George the Lordos, who was a farmer from Agiorou, from the outskirts of famagusta. And with very little education, he travelled on his own to the UK to learn as much as he could about business. He came back to Cyprus and he just started using his head. He started to see how he could make more money and he built, to

some extent he was part of the building of Famagusta. And he made himself one of the most popular men, not only in famagusta but in Cyprus. And this is of course a very important to me, not because of the property or because of the money or because of any of that, but because of one thing that my great grandfather's said all throughout his life and has become the family model. It's roughly in Greek, in all things we must be honourable. That was his look towards life, that was his look towards business. My grandfather wasn't involved in politics. My grandmother was. She was always involved in politics. But my great grandfather, he didn't really, he didn't care that much. He cared more about being honest and I like to believe, though of course it's not a universal truth, that as famagustians, that it's in our blood to be honest towards one another. Of course it isn't true. But it's a hopeful dream. Yeah, That's as much as I can say.

–Thank you. So if I ask you, what does the word ghost town mean to you? What would you say?

–Interesting. For me, it's home. It's where my mother was born. It's where my grandmother was born. It's where my family is lived for, like I said, many generations. But at the same time it's distant. I was once having a conversation with somebody, they asked me about the Cyprus issue, how how it feels to live in a divided country, and especially as refugees. I asked them describe to me your home. If you close your eyes and you see your home, what do you see? And they explained to me, you know, they see the couch in their family and the TV and the lights, whatever. And I told them I can't do that. Because I've never seen it. But again, hopeful that one day we're all going to go back home.

–When you say home. Like I'm guessing like you grow up hearing about Varosha and famagusta and how it was to be there. Is there any particular thing that your family did to like make you feel connected?

–Well, like I said my family was very invested in famagusta not only through how many generations have lived there, but also business wise, Famagusta was our center, was our strength. But more than that, it's our ties to the land, to the home. Even

after so many my family, you know, we've lived for three generations in Limassol, but we're not from Limassol. We don't say I'm from Limassol. People ask me if I meet a Cypriot, which is rare because there's only 857,000 plus worldwide. They ask me, where are you from? I will always say from famagusta, they will say yeah but, I said no, I am from famagusta For me, there is no question about Famagusta is my home i am tied to it. I've lived hearing about it. And one day I will live it.

–Were you visiting Varosha like before the opening of the streets when the checkpoints opened in 2003?

–Yes I was.

–And what could you see? How did you feel?

–Well I was very young before when we would go we usually go to the to the beach because I think this is also very classical of famagustians, we can't stand the beaches in the South and we always like to say that the most beautiful sea, the most beautiful beaches are in famagusta. So my grandmother made a point of it that we had to go, not everyday but maybe once a summer, often enough to visit CR from a distance our homes and to just experiencing this as much as we could even under the circumstances. Now growing up and even before they opened the streets, I walk in famagusta and I see our rich history as famagustians, I see the castle of othello, i see the line of St Mark. I see the the Venetian Cathedral that has been a mosque since, I believe, 1571. I study politics and I study economics, but I also study history. And the one history I studied the most is Cypriot history. So you know, I see that there's the proof is here that we have a history, that we are somebody, there's something tying us all together. So his is what I see.

–When you went to the beach was there any particular building or space that's strike you the most?

–Yeah. It was the buildings that my great grandfather built the. Seeing the work of a lifetime.

–How did you feel when you first saw them? I know you were young but so busy after you grow up, did you go?

–Yeah, I went. This is before the streets opened. It was hard. I see them but it's hard to, of course, there's an emotional connection. Of course, but it was hard to get that connected because it was I was at a distance I didn't see them up close. I couldn't see inside. I could just see, for example, Golden Mariana on the top. So it was connected, but not. If i had to compare it not as strongly as when the streets opened.

–So I'm guessing you visited after the opening, right?

–I did yes.

–Did you have any memories coming back to you from the stories that you heard from your family?

–Yes I managed to find my way on Kennedy on John Kennedy Avenue. I found the building where my mother was born. And I could see the staircase that my grandmother said she was hiding under with her two kids, while the bombing was happening. And it was painful because in that it was, it's very quiet there. But I could hear the crying of my mother, who was three years old. I could hear that it was, just, it brought me to my knees. It was what it was.

–Have you visited there with your family?

–I went with a cousin of mine, my grandmother can't go, not because she's unable to, but I honestly believe it would be the end of her. Already when the streets were closed, going there was very painful for her because she doesn't only relive the war, she relives what life was like there. And as I said, life to her there was beautiful was peacefull, was friendly it was the time in Cyprus where you didn't need to know someone to invite them into your house for dinner. I think we all grew up with this, stories of there was a time that if you were walking home, a neighbour or someone

in the street would see that come join me for dinner, would go sit with them and would make friends. This was what life was like back then, and it's not like this now.

–So apart from the buildings in JFK Avenue, did any of the buildings inside the opened parts, did you recognise them from their memories or stories?

–I mostly recognised the buildings of my family.

–What in particular did you expect to see when you went inside?

–I don't know. I don't think I had any expectation. I didn't have an expectation. I couldn't expect anything.

–If I ask you if there is any place in Varosha that you feel connected or that has a value for you, which one would you say or if there is?

–You know where Kantara hills are?

–Yes.

–The hills just above the city and you can see all of famagusta. My great grandfather built a house on that hill. It was his home, he built a tennis court and everything. It was, it was a beautiful, I visited it once when I was a kid. Think that one is the most value to me because it's my mother, when we visited she told me stories how her and her cousins would visit their grandfather and they would measure their height against the wall. How my great grandfather planted an olive tree that by then had sprouted. But also because there's a story that comes out of that house. My great grandfather was a peculiar man. He was the kind of man who, he knew where to direct his focus. He knew that if something was out of his control, he couldn't do anything. And he believed in making the best out of life. And there's a story that he had to abandon the city, he ran up to the Hills to his house. Where one of his friends had also run to and the bombardment had finished. So they made coffee and they played tavla, classic Cypriots. And as they were waiting, my Grandfather, Dr Giorgio

ioinnides, he who was on the frontline of famagusta my as a medic, he runs in and he's dirty and his hair is a mess and he is sweaty and he asks where his family is and my great grandfather told him that they were taken to refugee camps just outside the city and he asked them what happened, my Grandfather told him, the line is broken, the turks are coming. To me, its the point that I associate with the beginning of the division, of the official separation of the island.

–Thank you. OK, I'm gonna go back to your visit to inside of Varosha, and you said that you grew up with like the stories that your grandma was telling you about the education, how they were trying to grow the woman to be housewives and men in other so. Is there any any public spaces inside of Varosha that they were telling you stories about?

–The cinema, the theatre. I don't remember which one. I think it was somewhere in the centre. But whenever we talk about it, they always talk about how, because it was the beginning of the movies essentially to come to Cyprus. So they would always say was incredible. We would go and it was mind blowing to them. Keep in mind that Cyprus is always 20 or 30 years behind of the rest of the world. And it was a place where people would gather to talk to watch movies to. It sounds silly but it's not.

–What else? Is there anything else other than cinema?

–Famagustians are very proud of Othello castle, I believe. They're very proud of the fact that there's a Shakespeare play that involves them. They're very proud of the lion of famagusta. Because for me, growing up, my grandmother always told me the story of the lion of famagusta as he stands guard at the castle of Othello, he stands guard of famagusta. He stands guard for all famagustians, so wherever you are, the lion of famagusta always protects you. Which is a nice story.

–Did when I asked you about famagusta, you always talk about the places outside of the Newtown as well like the Othello castle and the lion which are all in Old Town and from my research, I saw that at the time they weren't really, because there was this isolation between the Turkish speaking Cypriots and Greek speaking Cypriots. So

it's really interesting that your grandma was talking about the places inside of Old Town to you. So this shows that even though there was a huge isolation. She was still connected.

–Keep in mind that my grandmother and most Famagustians, we were, at least they were raised in the 40s or 50s, Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots were neighbours. There was no problem. They worked together. They lived together. They had deals together. So it wasn't so much like, oh you're a Greek Cypriot or oh you're a Turkish Cypriot. Its only happened later with the British, in I think 1958 when they, from what I remember, they separated the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots in famagusta and they put the Turkish Cypriots inside the castle and told them stay here or else the Greek Cypriots would kill you. While at the same time also putting them in police squadrons and having them go after Greek Cypriots. In reality, all the troubles in Cyprus stem from the British.

–So does your grandma talks about this change from the Old Town to the Newtown?

–What do you mean change?

–Were they in Old Town and then they had to move into the Newtown? Or were they always in the Newtown?

–No, from what I know, I don't think that my family was ever displaced until 1974.

–So does she ever talk see about the huge developments inside Varosha? Because it's in 1955, it was totally different and then all of a sudden the changes started. Did she talk about this at all?

–Constantly. She said that life changed almost from one day to another. Because it was the beginning of the ENOSIS movement. And she, my grandmother, always said never trust the British. And she had good reason because, like me, she blames the British for the division in Cyprus, for the division between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. And like I said, often times she says that we were neighbours, there was

no problem. My great grandmother, God rest her soul, she died in October, 103 years old. She was from Agios Sergios, so also from Famagusta region and she said that in Agios Sergios there were Turkish Cypriots with Greek Cypriots and she remembers that Turkish cypriots will come to the house and they would play or they would do something. They worked together when they got older, whatever. So, she talks about this sudden shift.

–So, inside of Varosha, your grandma had neighbours, the Turkish Cypriots?

–Neighbours not like living in the apartment next door, but you know in the neighbourhoods around. Like I said, Famagusta was not like, oh my neighbours are just those who live in my building or those who live across the hall. It was everyone.

–And I don't know if you are aware, but there is lots of Facebook groups regarding Varosha, both in Greek and in English. Did you come across them?

–I'm part of them.

–How did you find them?

–One of them is Ammochostos Ipalimas. It's my uncle, my uncle Phanos Ioinnides. He's one of the admin. But I stay in touch. I told you I feel very much famagustian, even if I've never lived it. I'm still a famagustian. No Republic, no army, no border will tell me differently. So I stay in touch with what's happening in famagusta, the politics around famagusta, both in the north and in the South. And with the community in general, wherever we are.

–How do you think those groups are affecting the remembrance of the sites? Because before the opening there was still a circulation of photographs of the places and.

–Yeah, I think it's good in a sense. It's good that they're keeping the memory alive. The problem is that in my view, they're not targeting the right audience. There are very few young people who join these groups and who see what is written and they

look at the pictures and will stay in touch with their Famagusta roots. And most of the time, the people who is there are people who lived famagusta. So they are, right at this point, old. And you know they speak about it, but the only people who can actually understand it are the people who were also there. And they don't set the narrative in a sense like to teach people how it was, but more oh do you remember? Although this is also not universally true, there are of course people who put it in the sense like this is how it was, remembrance and teaching all that. Everything is very important to start, changing the target audience to younger people, especially people who have famagustians roots. I don't know how, it's not something I can tell you, but, that should be the goal, but I think it's important it keeps the memory alive.

–It's really good that you talked about how they talk about do you remember instead of setting the telling the narrative in the right way. So in that sense from the do you remembers, is there anything common that was popping up in those groups and what you have been told growing up?

–Yeah, it's always about how life was. It's always about the cafe NE or the cinema or the tailors, or the cobbler's or the garage or something like this. You know, it's always about placing things in famagusta and remembering what life was like and remembering the people who made-up famagusta. Because famagusta, it wasn't just the shops, it wasn't just the the buildings, and it wasn't just the history, it was the people. It was Famagustians, who made famagusta what it was.

–It's really interesting that you you told us about Cafe NE.

–Where is it?

–It's not one specific one, there's multiple.

–So if I asked you what do you expect the Varosha's future to be like? Do you think that there is a future for Varosha?

–You know, my friends make fun of me about this because I'm one of the few who believes that we still have a chance. Because they say, of course, with their own right, with these politicians, with the way of thinking of some Greek Cypriots, of some Turkish Cypriots issue will never be solved. But in my mind it doesn't work like this. As I said, I study politics and I study economics. So what I do everyday, all day is I think about political systems, I think about governance and I think about economic systems and economic organisations. And to whoever I speak, I try to make it clear that if we do not solve the Cyprus issue, it will be a failure both in politics and economics. So we have to solve it and then it's also the form the solution will take. But I do believe that, one day, not only will Famagusta to be, not only we will go back to Famagusta, but Cyprus will be reunited.

–So did any of the things that happened in the last two years regarding Famagusta changed any of your thinking about what the future of Varosha is gonna be like?

–No, it hasn't, but it has made me change the way I approach the problem. Well, in the last two years, the problem, we've always known that the problem is the politicians. But now it's not just the politicians. Politicians will do what politicians do. They will look out for their own interests to stay in power, and they're going to take care of themselves and their families. That's fine. And that means making promises here, but doing something else here all the time. And we've seen this with Anastasiadis constantly. But it's not so simple. For example, one of the things that I've changed as an approach to is journalism and the telling of the news in Cyprus, because one thing that in Cyprus is very common and it's wrong, is that, it's considered rude to ask the difficult questions, that questions that put someone in a corner. And journalists don't do that, in my opinion, in Cyprus. Especially with politicians, because it is considered an honour to have a politician on your show on the news at 8:00 o'clock, so you're not going to put them in a corner. It's usually going to be questions that you've already given to the politicians so that they have their remarks ready. So you're not putting them on the spot and you don't bring up a lot of facts like, OK, you say this, but then why did you do this? You see? You always just go with the routine. That's wrong. This is wrong. The point of journalists and the point of the news is to inform the people, to put those responsible of the economy

and of the government on the spot. Because a lot of the times in Cyprus we forget that the position of a president, position of a parliamentarian is not so that the people can serve you. It's not so that you can collect a paycheck or so that you can enjoy the power. You are an employee. Your job is to serve the Cypriot people, whether it be Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot, Maronite Cypriot, Armenian Cypriot, Latin Cypriot, it doesn't matter. This is your job. It's the journalists job to put these people on the spot, ask the difficult questions, ask them why they don't do this. Ask them have you discussed it? Does it sound like a good idea? Then why don't you do it? This is just one example of the things that have to change in Cyprus. Another thing that has to change in Cyprus is the question of secularism. The role of the of the Church in the state is archaic. It's archaic. It's something that should have been banished years ago because in Cyprus we are not just Greek Orthodox, we are also Muslim, we are also Catholic. So there can't be the predominance of one religion. And of course, religion should have no affair in any form of governance, whether it be the economy, whether it be foreign politics or whether it be education. And this one is very important. I'm actually writing my master thesis at the moment about the education system in Cyprus and its role in ethnic divisions. So we have to change our point of view towards this as well. Yeah. And then there's also the question of corruption and bribery. And in Cyprus we don't have any real clear laws on lobbying. Anyone can go and lobby government. And they can give a gift, which is actually a bribe. And it's very hard to distinguish whether its lobbying or whether it's bribing cause we don't have a clear definition and this is one thing that has to change. A lot of people say lobbying should be illegal. The opposite, lobbying should be carefully defined and regulated. Making lobbying illegal is going to make the line between lobbying and bribing very blurry and will only lead to more corruption. So these are a few of the things that we have to look out for. And these are only a few of the things that I've thought about in the past two years, in the past five years, since 2017, when the oil crisis in Cyprus began. And the talks, Cras Montana collapsed.

–Do you still believe that we have a chance?

–Yes. It sounds foolish, it does. But I guess you could say I'm a nationalist and I'm not a Greek nationalists or Greek Cypriot, I'm a Cypriot nationalist. For me, it's the

Republic and no one else. And I believe in us as Cypriots, we are stubborn where we're at times rude. And we're tough around the edges. But that's the things that should be uniting us. It's the similarities. It's the few things in our character. It doesn't matter whether you're Turkish Cypriots to Greek Cypriot, the few things you can always count on. Cypriots arguing with each other over politics while drinking coffee and playing Tavla. Cypriots arguing in a restaurant who's going to pay for the bill even though none of them want to pay it. It's these things that make up our character and it's a pity that Cypriots don't see it. It's a pity that most Cypriots want to say, oh, we're more Turkish or oh we are more Greek, which is not true because you look at Turks and you look at Greeks and then you look at us and say, okay, we have similarities, of course. But at the end of the day, and there's also certain things that make us purely Cypriot. So I believe in that.

–I have one last question for you. Do you think Varosha should be protected as it is now?

–Protected in what sense?

–Like preserved buildings or any place in there.

–Are you talking about like if we go back, should we leave it as it is? No. What I do believe is that it's important to remember. Of course. Things like the events in 1963 or the events in 1974 not easily forgotten, nor should they be. However, I also believe in looking forward. I also believe in the future. It's one of the reasons why I believe we will eventually reunite. As a country and as a people. But in order to do that, we have to move on. And one of those things is rebuilding. Now, I'm not saying that we should throw down the buildings, reconstruct them and continue new life. I would say reconstruct, but also leave a hint of what happened, how it was for so many years. An example would be you know build one long street like a commercial street, but take pictures of what the buildings were like in that street and then set up glass panels going through the middle of that street so that people and tourists can walk and see the pictures and then compare it to now and see that we are in fact forward moving

people. But that we don't forget our past we are also very optimistic and very positive towards the future.

–No, thank you so much for saying that. So if I asked you what should be the hint of how it was Varosha, what would that hint be?

–I actually quite like my idea of the street with the glass panels and the pictures and the descriptions. But, what else? I don't know. This is up to more creative people than us. Unfortunately, my creativity only goes as far as politics.

–Considering what is said in Facebook groups. What's your grandma was telling you? Was there something that was repetitive in those memories? That you think that could be a hint of that should be protected. This could be anything.

–I think we should protect our way of life. And our way of life, I mean, not as it is now, but as it was then. Before 1955, we have to start moving back to the days when you could invite someone off the street to eat with you and your family. When we would make the big tables and the big meals. Another thing, very predominantly Cypriot, that we make a meal for five people and it's as if we're feeding an army. We have to preserve this.

–Thank you so much. That was my last question to you. So do you have anything that you think I should have asked you but forgot to ask you and or you think that you should have said that when I asked you that question but you didn't?

–No, I think. I think you you hit all the spots and I said everything I had to say.

–OK, then I'm gonna stop the recording.

E08 Transcription

–Do you feel connected to Varosha?

–Of course I do.

–And can you tell me about your relation to Varosha? I know you said your father and your brothers lived there.

–My relationship to Varosha is comprised of my childhood memories on the one hand. It is comprised of the collective memories that were passed upon me for years, by everybody in my environment. And the opening of Varosha had the affect that it brought together all of these in a tangible manner. Varosha for me has been a personal endeavour since the age of 12. Apparently this is what a person walked up to me and said, she said that Andreas, I remember you since you were a child, this is what you have been doing. Part of the reason may be explained because my family, and in particular my father, has been very active in leading the famagusta cause and understanding the deeper natures of, facets of the problems which had to do with the relations between the two communities or what we call to be the two communities because there are many more than two. And in the process I have seen him reach out across the what was the divide and he was instrumental person to take the Famagusta case to world capitals for years. Connect the telephony between the north and the South, which was his initiative. Fund from personal expenses, the first home of cooperation and in the process of that, he was also an MP and I was interested in following his career, to listen to him speak and I have spent a lot of time doing that and some time in Parliament as basically a teenager. So I think that all of these, memories and the need for a future and the experiences of not only what is possible, but what I have seen happen in my own house is, I think this is the framework of and what I'm driven forward by it, so I think a natural need for justice. And combined with the sensitivity towards the play of other people. Which is very disturbing.

–And going back to what you said, you had collective memories passed on upon you and I will ask along that. But before that you said you have your childhood memories, so do you remember vividly any particular memory from those childhood?

–Well, I think that's where sometimes our memories reach their singularity point. So what comes out of that singularity point for me is a bright light happiness, laughter.

–And going to collective memories, I can imagine after the 1974 you growing up with your dad's and mom's memories. So from those memories is there a vivid thing that was being repeated to you over the years?

–I can give you a vivid memory, which was the days of the bombings. And which is what is happening now in the Ukraine and I had just put the phone down with a friend who I have in Ukraine, with whom we speak daily. And I am by his side and I know exactly what this man is going through. So we were at the basement of our block of flats and with some windows there being taped. There were planes and bombs. I remember everybody being calm about it, I had a gun, it was a plastic gun. And then I wanted to help in every way. I think that overall it was appreciated and there were like smiles. It's like, OK, alright, yeah, it's good to smile, but I wanted to help. And a time came when we had to leave. My father was serving in the military and we were not aware of the events unfolding around us, but we ended up in a car with very little things. Like what you would ordinarily pack for a weekend. And my younger brother was one year old. My elder brother was a year older. And we were going on Derynia avenue and it was greener at the time. There were more trees it's apparent now. And at that strip of land, she was saying if a fighter jet comes I will stop the car you will get out. I will shake him off and I will come back and pick you. And you say these to a six year old and the seven-year old who have to take care of the one year old and it's alright, you know, whatever. And it didn't happen. But I don't remember being afraid, I was peaceful about it. And I would do what my mother had told me. And that night we ended up in a village that I did not know for years, where I was, and I actually found out a few months ago where we ended up for the first night, the house in a village, like ordinary small village house with the two big rooms and that's all and you eat in the one part and sleep in the other. I think there was an additional room and then the rest of it was the vines on the

outside and it was 50 refugees in the garden of one house and we were sleeping on the floor. I met by accident the owner of the house in Varosha, two months ago and we were talking and he said, do you know you came to my house when you were a kid and I, immediately it's like I'm coming over to see you. So I did go, I organised it as soon as I could. The house is still there. The dirt is not there, the ubiquitous concrete has taken hold. And the people were there with big smiles and their amazing hearts. So from there on we ended up settling in Limassol, in a three bedroom apartment which was shared by various families, like my father's family, his three kids, his brother's family, two kids, his sister's family. So there in the house, we were like 8 adults, 10 kids, one grandmother with the males always away. With the women also trying to do things with my grandmother, offering charity, doing charity work for people who were in different problems, imagine being a refugee for not for a long time at all, and going around offering charity and you're in a city where you go to a primary school and you join up over there and you're stigmatised cause they're bringing food for the refugees and then the Mamas eat your food otherwise refugee will eat it and then some playing with the kids, but like, you're attacked. Uh, some nightmares. It was not so much for us, we were kids, so everyday is a happy day. And growing up, I've learned that everyday should be happy day regardless of what is happening. And I plan to continue living my memories of waking up and finishing at any happy way.

–So just to follow up on the few things that you said. You said when you were going to Derynia on your way, it's it was greener at the time. This is because of the orchards, orange orchards, is it?

–Yes, yes. But I think that there was some, I don't know what it was about it. I think that Famagusta area has an aquifer and the aquifer is common with the South part of the Coquina, Korea, the potato villages. And over the last years this water reservoir has been pumped dry. So the in the South, having talked to people like the relevant mayor, so you know we will pump it because if we don't pump it, the other guys will and let us starve them and let them have no water. This was a Greek Cypriot male speaking to me. And I told him what I thought, about this kind of thinking but I think overall there is less water to go around and definitely you have to take care of these trees and replanting cause trees have a lifetime, they are not eternal creatures. They are ground

to die like we do. To the extent that trees have feelings, it must not have been happy days.

–But when you look at now, it looks like the trees are hiding the buildings inside. Which gets me to the next question what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?

–I have found myself wondering about what ghost town mean. You think that ghost town is a word that mostly used when speaking to outsiders. In the form of, like a quick summary of the situation. So between us Varosha people do not talk about the Ghost town, we talk about the recipient of lives within it.

–You said you remember when the bombing started hiding in the basement of your building. Where was your building?

–It was in Kennedy Avenue number 125. It was an apartment building with the name of, it's in French, Les Sirenes (The Sirenes). It was a nine storey building facing the sea and we were on the 4th floor facing the sea on a decently sized but not excessive in anyway 3 bedroom apartment.

–And going back to the collective memories, you also said your dad was the leading builder of the famagusta Do you want to talk about how that happened and how it's begun?

–Yes, definitely. I think that it's an interesting story and everyone can learn something from it. My fathers' father George Lordos was born at the village of of Avogorou, one of the Potato villages, previously mentioned. And these people were farmers and grocers. They had a propensity to trade and George moved in Varosha at Hermes Street, which is a commercial street in a very central location, and he set up a grocery store. My father's mother, Andriani Puero, related to the ex mayor of famagusta Andreas Boleros, he was from Agios Sergio. Her background was upper middle class, educated, family in civic activities and it was not the same thing as George, but both were decent, hard working people with strong family values and they were both forward-looking enough. George at the young age of 16, decided to leave Cyprus to

go to the UK. Practically on his own and with money next to nothing. And he worked through being a waiter and various jobs that bought him enough time to look at, then understand what an economy looks like. Varosha was a city that was evidently being urbanised at the time, and there was this pool with people coming over and George would see it. So when his kids came to be, George had already moved from the grocery into investing his surplus money into lands which he was subdividing and he was selling plots. The natural development of that was to begin building some apartment units. And there was a lot of pressure due to urbanisation and if you're bold and if you can do simple mathematics, if you have a good team of people around you, you can make things happen. This team was his children, Constantinos, my father, his brother Akis, the two sisters were also in the picture and supporting the operations, which were mainly the works of my father, who became an architect, having studied in England with the money that George managed to make and Akis Lordos, who became a civil engineer. So these two people came back and they knew how to put buildings together and not many people did. So they started doing that and at that time Famagusta did not have a city plan, so the mayor did not have an actual plan of what should happen and how the city should develop. There was something like a city plan, which the British were doing and managing, what the British were doing is they were making population projections and from there on there where blocking certain areas and saying this little area here can fit the people for the next five years. So they were developing their jigsaw and very orderly way. The Greek Cypriots, lack of experience in such governments and possibly the hostility with the British may have led, I'm not sure, to the, let's say, cancellation of his plans and these practises to a certain extent. So there was this trip development happening. And that is not necessarily one of the nicest parts of the city, but it's part of the history of the city and one has to take it for what it is. And the purchasers were Cypriots, but tourism was coming into the picture with the owners, some of them being non Cypriot wanting to rent their apartments, so the guys would buy and then they would say could you help us rent it out? So the logical move was to create a rental, property rental company. Which was called, Lordos Flat management at the time, and this was, let's say, the seeds of the foundation of what was going to, like a command centre for the tourist business. The family with having made money being in a game that not many people were and catering for such a big thing like the urbanisation of a city, they had money to do their experiments and the banks were there as well and it was a growing economy and so

there were no crashes, banks felt secure. It was favourable winds everywhere you would see. The idea came to them to make one block of flats, but call it a hotel. Creating the necessary public spaces below, having a place for a reception and the guy who would be the barman and then doing some basic kitchen facilities, which is not really too demanding. It's some square metres of space and you put some kitchenware over there. And they did that in the first hotel that my father did which actually pioneered the, this was the hotel that started the other hotels. It was called the Golden Marianna. Marianna is the name of my mother, whom we had later on lost when I was 20 years old. The Golden Marianna was followed by similar such activities. At the same time around Famagusta, where the resources were tourism because some people thought of putting chairs into military aircraft, so tourism industry wholege and money was landing on the island, so that is the source of money and legitimate. And then what you have around, you had potato villages and we were a potato family and we knew what these guys were working on and what they needed, what their problems were. And one of the problems was that when you were taking the potato, the package that you had to use to sack it and pack it, had to be the number of parameters, it should not allow for things like mould, it should not tear apart, it should be breathable. And the previous types of bags they were doing and they were like cloth, with lots of problems on them. So what these guys did is, they went to Austria. They found the company which was called the Starlinger. And the Starlinger Company told them and showed them how to execute a process by you buy polypropylene pellets, which are the size of like not even a centimetre diameter and you pour this into a device that melts them. A plastic sheet is created a polypropylene sheet with the thickness of the parts of a centimetre, this sheet was going through blades that were cutting it up into individual strands and these transfer rolled and you had these reels of line like a flat line. These reels were fed into machines that were swing all of these things together in the form of a plastic bag. And the plastic bag was then flat and with machines, with people holding like a hot knife, metal bar and putting it down, cutting it. And then there was another lady that would saw it, and then another lady would pass it through a place where it was stamped and it would come out ready. And then so we built an industry around that and we had couple of factories. I was working in one of them at the age of 15. And I have work hands on into everything that my family has been doing, that I could get my hands on, but that's most of it, pretty much. So, what was left behind also was a small company which started in 1971. When the hotels

were put together, there was a need to feed the guests. So you need certain products. And then you look around you and you say, OK, where is this product going to come from? There was nothing. It was a village. But if you strip away from Varosha, all of the developments that came later, we're talking about a village with mud brick houses and who's going to bring these quantities, so these guys started a company which was called George the Lordos and Sons Trading. So that got our family into the food import and distribution business. And general trading exists today and it is one of the bigger companies in the same field or industry and having gone through its own adventures with the occupation.

–It's all like interesting to hear you talking about all these steps and because I was doing my research I looked at the urbanisation, how it's happened and everything you saying step by step of how your family was involved in this is like so big. I'm just guessing from, going to the beginning, you said George Lordos, he was a Farmer, then he got a grocery shop on Hermes Street, I'm guessing this was 1955?

–He was there at that period. Because I remember stories about the curfews of the British and you couldn't sell, I think cement, there were certain things. I think that he must have been there before that as well. I think he may have been there since World War Two. These were fast people. These were people getting into life and working.

–Then when did the getting the plots started?

–I have no idea, but if I could hazard a guess I would say that 60s.

–Like the way you spoke about how creating public spaces on the hotels these are all old urbanists trends of the time. I had moments that's very happening at the time around the world that's why when people look at the le corbusier and compare it to varosha, it now makes sense.

–Yes, actually the house that I was born in was a building that looked very much like one of Corbusier's works. Its the villa which is on the upper story with nothing on the ground floor. I don't remember the name right now. But you can see that influence in

Varosha with the brutalist architecture of the Church of Agia Triada. Which is a concrete monolith and like Corbusier's own Sham.

–I went inside Varosha as well and every building has Lordos name on it and I was thinking especially on Democracy Avenue, I couldn't understand why that's building was saying Lordos. Now after you explaining the management and all the companies that were built to, it makes sense.

–The one that you saw on Democracy avenue going up to the left hand side, was Mihalīs, the brothers were paraskevas lordos, he was the elder, he was a lovely man by all accounts from what I hear, because we were split after 1974 and it's only what you get to hear. And apparently he was very decent and kind man. Paraskevas build the Sandy Beach Hotel which is now the centre of the Turkish Army base. That is where they are. And the most of the buildings inside the part which is Army base belong to us, to our family or the brother family. George was the second child and there were, it was a larger family, so one of the brothers was Michalis and Michalis was clothes merchant, and he was happy with his life and with his clothing business without feeling the need to enter property development.

–So you said about how non cypriots started to come to rent the flats. How did they find out about varosha at the time?

–That was the age of video camera, the aeroplane was a new thing but the VCR existed, so if you look you will find all the videos of pre 1974 varosha, that's it I guess. The technology was there. I think these Scandinavian people were wealthy. I think that, they were amongst the wealthier nations and it was easier for them to travel. They also had the incentives because they were living in a frozen land. Most of the time, if it was not frozen, it was raining. I think they started it. I think that England is pretty close by, the England already had a presence on the island and it was really a cool place to be as far as urbanisation movements rather than the Corbusier one, there was a Co-housing movement which started in Scandinavia which may not be unrelated as our early history of tourism brought these guys. My grandfather was mayor at the time of the war, actually. If you look at the housing development, or we call it the apartments

of Stavros District. This was designed so that people who were coming into the city to get a job, they would have a place to stay with subsidised rents. Because many of these people were working in the newly found building industry and they were sleeping in shacks, it was like a favela in the taking part of the town. And the municipality responded to it by making these public housing, putting a technical school right next to it and athletic centre. And this was a mixture between Scandinavian Co Housing and Soviet Master planning, Community Planning. And that area has created a special group of people within Varosha who have their own memories and who are one of the most vibrant groups today.

–I didn't come across the people that you're talking. But this technical school that you are talking about, this is by the end of Kennedy Ave and closer to Derynia road right?

–You know Agios Memnonon, the village centre, take a distance of let's say 1/3 between Varosha village and Agios Memnon, closer to Agios Memnon, it is a high point like a hill and you will find that there is like a mass development, it is not on the beach, it's roughly in the middle. That's the one. It was amazing. These were happy people. This is communism at work, in practise. And based on that case study and seeing what has happened to the people of Varosha who are living a different life then these guys, these guys are still brothers. What they were doing, they were sharing jobs. So one of the fundamental principles of Co housing is that if you have 10 mothers, one of them can cook and the other nine ones can do something else and they can share chores and the retired people can do gardening or mind the kids and it's amazing. I'm not sure, they have written a book. I'm close to that community I attend, whatever it is that they do. I don't think that it was planned that, you know all of the attention was given to it because of 1974. I think that had these guys continued that naturally with better communications and news travelling from the world and friction, it could have been an amazing thing today and it still can. I would say that the spirit of that place is that it's a Co housing society and that it should have its own little set of rules for people who want to live like this. And the municipality should be very happy to continue supporting it, because if you have, let's say, one mama cooking and 9 Mamas being free and everybody employed. What else do you want? It's a beautiful thing and I hope it happens.

–Okay, going back to the next question, in 2003 when the checkpoints opened, have you visited next to the wires or the beach in front of Constantia Hotel?

–Yeah, I did. Of course I did.

–And what could you see? What stroke you the most when you visited?

–Well, it's the Salaminia building which is half bombed and it's there. It's a very big marker that you can hardly ignore. And it took me a number of visits to understand that was half the building because the other half of it had collapsed along the expansion joint. I knew what it was, and it meant nothing to me. It's like watching hands play under a little amount. And what they're doing is pretty important to them, but you look at it from above and I try and look at things from above. Not to get hurt.

–And I know that you visited after the opening in 2020. Did you had any memories coming back to you?

–Very little and they were restricted to the beach in front of the house. Because we were not interested in enjoying the virtues of a three bedroom apartment at the young age of trying to run around and explore everything you can. So we were mostly down there with our cousins and other kids of our age. And then, you know, going back to house was an order. That could not be taken lightly. But they could see us from the balconies, we were down playing. Birthday parties. When I went there and I saw the actual building and stood in front of it and tried to reconnect to it, I couldn't. When I went up Democracy Avenue I could remember very vaguely it was like ghosts of buildings. Like the feel of the road. But I'm not blessed with these kind of memory which some people have. So yeah, it was a little, it was fascinating but it took me some time to begin identifying objects. For the first few visits, I was just, I think absorbing and I started putting names to things. And I would say that my memories have now improving with time. You have to continue with it.

–And apart from your own childhood memories, was there any places that you were remembering from the memories that you are parents were telling you?

–No. It was my house. And that I remember, the beach. And it was the Dherinya street, running away.

–Have you come across the, I'm sure you did the Facebook groups regarding Varosha?

–Yes all of them.

–And how, when was the first time you found them?

–I've been on Facebook since 2009 I think, or something like that. I was an early adopter, so as all of these groups being created. And I didn't find any one of them. These are activities of civilians at civic members of society, and they were friends in many ways. So you know, Facebook is let's say, part of the relationship.

–And how did it make you feel that's there was certain photographs that get popping up on those Facebook groups over the years? How did it make you feel and how this affected your remembrance of Varosha?

–It has not affected my remembrance of Varosha. It has affected my perception of Varosha. And it has brought the life of the city and its people. And strangely, these people are continuing their lives. And so we basically, mostly me then live in these virtual territory which is called Facebook and which is very interesting, but I think Metaverse would be a better thing for Varosha people. There will be more that we can do. Maybe we can live our dreams in there. I think that Varosha is an amazing, it has amazing potential. I mean you know the Turkey is looking at Varosha, I would say in a crude way or Turkish leadership is looking at Varosha in a crude way. You like 18th century terms and they can look at version 22nd century. This was the richest city in the world. There was a very good reason about it being that and the people that have gravitated around Varosha over hundreds of years have their capabilities and they constitute the largest assets of the city. And yet to the extend that we're ready to come

and live in peace. I think that dumping such an opportunity because Evkaf would like to have the freehold, besides, ridiculous as it gets. And you can buy and sell real estate. You can do the metaverse. You can do virtual universities. You can do electronic voting. You can create a city, part of a complex involving tel Aviv and Beirut. Like a Phoenician triangle to a certain extent and equally capable. And Cyprus has managed to do lots of business in Eastern Europe and in finance and things. Beirut did the same thing in the Middle East. Israel did the same thing all over the world. Imagine linking these three up with Varosha or Famagusta being a territory, Famagusta actually. These people could come and get together in. The potential is infinite and basically the only one blocking it is Evkaf. That are saying we want the freehold. Your body, your grandpa was a closer, he bought freehold, sold freehold and that's been around for so long. I've never asked for it and I remember it. And now when I got paid for it and everybody knows it. I know it. We made a Statue of the Treaty of Guarantee 1960 and we were there in Diyanet is the biggest ministry. We have all of the money and the resources. We received the money and now we're coming up with excuses. Whatever. Sorry, I am a little bit frustrated about that, so I had to share it. It's actually part of memories.

–So I'm guessing when you went back when the streets opens, you expected to see only your house, right? Or what did you expect to see?

–No, I didn't even try to get to my house on the first day. And I've been standing up for Varosha and doing things like Famagusta Ecocity and running for mayor twice, street protests, and if you were to ask me which buildings belong to you, I would not be able to answer. And I felt bad for a number of years for not knowing because people would come in over 2 minutes like yeah, right. What are you talking about? And I couldn't. Varosha was never, it's all of it. It's Varosha. My neighbour's house is my house. My house is his house.

–So when you went there, was there anything in particular that you expected to see?

–No, I prefer to carry little expectations in general. I prefer to witness things like a child. I think that it's a good way of going about things in general. I think it makes every day

more interesting. I think your judgement can be better if you to the extent you have to exercise it. So I went in there and I was just marvelling and looking and trying to make sense of it and understand it, how to walk it. I could begin sensing it, the wind, the temperatures in the nice times of the day. You don't want to go out to Democracy avenue in the afternoon. The sun in your eyes. So patterns develop around the movement of the silent. I am an architect and I can understand these probably better than other people without having to go and stay there.

–Is there a certain place inside that you feel connected to?

–I cannot single out. It's like asking me to take one of my children and say that I love this one most or something like that. I have this tender spot for my family, my parents' bedroom, which on Sunday mornings we would be on their family beds, kids with our Mickey Mouse or with their home works. And it was the day that i was finally home. So they would be in bed, newspaper, coffee in bed, kids on the beds, nice fresh breeze. And plans about going to Turkey and 1972 with the family boat that we had at the time. Which was not very small. Let's say it could take like 15 people in good comfort. So know the Turkish coastline, we have known it before the war and. Once I got to know it after. And the starting point for the Turkish coastline was Varosha.

–If I change my question to. I don't want a single place, the more it's better for me. You can say as many as you want. What places would you say that are valuable for Varosha? It can be someplace personal or collectively.

–The number one valuable spaces are the public spaces belonging to the municipality of Varosha. These are the common spaces whereby we can mix and socialise. So that beaches and parks. The second space is our educational buildings and our buildings of culture. A very high up on my list is the building blocks of Stavros the Co Housing estate. I have a very soft spot for that area because it was caring for the underdog. And in the future it can also, take these beautiful philosophy that seems to be extinct, extinct from the world today. By enlarge, the core housing model was followed in California. There are people doing it and the benefits are there. So I think that the places that carry opportunity I think is what the municipality has. As far as the

management of the city in the future? And that's a different point. We're no longer talking about memories. So public spaces apart from their own. Private properties, private property I have equally sympathy for everybody's house. And I look at it really as if it's you know mine, not in a financial sense, of course.

–And do you see a future for Varosha?

–Well, of course there is a future for Varosha. Cities go around for hundreds of years and thousands. If there is a future for the people of Varosha, I am not sure, what kind of a future there will be. Because it is evident that even though we are being called to return. That the terms imposed upon us onerous and they fly in the face of international law and everything that civilised society stands for. If what is being asked of us is to give the freehold to our land, to return and live our lives there and then? Let's say 100 years down the road, it all comes back into the possession of somebody who never owned it. This is a crazy thing to ask for, but this is what they're asking for.

–Did anything that's happened in the last two years changed your opinions about the future?

–I was happy to see the opening of Varosha because Varosha primarily is a humanitarian matter. The Varosha people can't be at home because with every single possible outcome of the Cyprus problem, Varosha people will be there. And if you look at it from the UN resolutions part, the UN resolutions came after the proclamation of the so-called KKTC. And the resolutions are not saying that Varosha should go under Greek Cypriot territorial control. Basically what they are saying is that, by not saying it that it should go under Greek cypriot control, is that it's under Turkish Cypriot control right now. The Greek Cypriot people go back, UN will be here to administer. When you going to UN is there to administer, public administration has starts with community representation, 98% Greek Cypriot, we need the corresponding representative, which cannot be from a 2% minority, but anything like that. Administration is security. I have been arrested, and so has my wife, and so has my brother. From three separate incidents for going into our houses. I cannot trust the people that gives rules of this type for people to follow, to be policing me tomorrow. If you can cross this kind of line

and stop me from going home, as a policeman, you cannot be my policeman. So this should be UN police. United Nations police is established and working and it should have the mandate and from there on the people that execute the mandate can be Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot, i don't care if they are from Mars. And part of public administration is utilities making things happen, like the daily things, electricity, sewage, water. We are part of the metropolitan city of Famagusta. It is reasonable that we connect to the city of Famagusta. It's a practical thing. If I was in Paris, I would be paying garbage to the Paris municipality. I would like to help improve it and make the whole of the city an amazing paradigm and if we find ourselves there, I will be contributing in the best possible manner. If you if you take out these utilities and the technicals, whatever else is left is basically to the extent that Greek Cypriots Varosha people have their representation, from there on, they should be managing their little space which is like a Canton. I think the canton would address the fears of other people that Greek Cypriots are back to conquer the world, which is ridiculous. So the UN though, has not contributed in anyway towards this, even fundamental breakdown of what has to be done in that city. The policemen that are currently on Democratic Avenue, the United Nations policeman, they should get out and go to the gate. Just having a person there having coffee with you by him I think from Bendagomo, who is always at Varosha gate. The UN guy would get a bit more sunshine, it would be nice for us to go in and to speak to somebody, Scandinavian or Argentinian. And not only to my friend Ibrahim and it wouldn't change the world. And Turkey would be a country that would show some basic respect. And pardon the expression, but that's what's happening. I think they can set up a kiosk in the middle of the street. I go back, I need a place to be serviced. So I would like to go there and say here is my ID, please note it down, I live in Kennedy Avenue 125. If you would like to escort me, you can do it. So I get to see my house and then at the same place I should be able to drop off my title deed. And this can be a processing centre like they should have a back office behind it, giving the houses back to the people. The IPC should be reserved for cases where things are really complicated. And there are cases that are complicated. What do you do when you have two brothers or two sisters, each having 50% of their house and between themselves not agreeing, one of them wants to return and the other one doesn't because of whatever reason. Including a poisoned education and being scared. At the same time. When you take case studies, you will run into these things, and these things cannot be resolved by the Greek Cypriots alone. You begin entering

the domain of places where cooperation has to happen, and even though the 98% will have their community representation within the scopes of designing a whole city, metropolitan famagusta, there cannot be a complete autonomy in city planning matters by the Greek Cypriot community, like this is our city. It is part of a city. There are other parts of the city. There is nothing to lose when you listen to opinions by other people and from there on what it takes is willingness. If what is in visa actually is we harass Greek cypriots, who don't ask for their properties back, we confiscate them a few years down the road from excuse and we say that they never claimed them and then we can take their property and sell it, okay you can do that.

–What do you think about the Ecocity project or what they are proposing for Varosha?

–I think that the Ecocity project was successful to the extent that it brought 61 scientists over the city of Varosha. It generated relationships which are still running today, with professionals from both sides. And I think that taking a fresh look like, dissecting understanding Varosha is a key exercise to any form of problem solving. So there is a good work there, as far as trying to propose an interpretation or a particular set of outcomes. Some studios were done, these studios were pioneering. And they have been criticised, in certain ways, for not respecting the memories and not respecting the, what was there, the lives of people. I think that the people who proceed to criticise the Ecocity on this ground, I understand why somebody would criticize, but as a professional, I would just tell him to chill down, that nobody's there to do anything then care for you and embrace you in your lives. And what architects do is they put down a manifestation which is there to be critiqued. And we have gone through tough critics and we come out better and they should learn that this is a cycle.

–Do you think what it should be protected as the way it is now?

–Well, I think that. Let's do it the other way. I don't think that anybody should be forced to pull his building down. I think that there should be every incentive given to preserve the buildings that exist there to people who wish to do it for memories sake. I don't think that they should be artificially induced to pull them down by, for example, raising

density areas and then coming over with a short deadline that you have to fix your building in two years because it's a public danger, because we ransacked it because we're not going to pay for it, you're going to pay for it. So I think that if they are not dumb and something like that, we should work towards studies whereby Varosha itself, let's say the village core, should have a preservation status because the buildings there are more than a 100 years old. I think that's through certain periods of the cities's history. Some buildings are exemplary paradigms of set of periods, so that is a matter of research to identify these ones. From there on, you have enough space for experimentation and designing possibilities, closer to Agios Memnon area whereby you can put absolutely everything and then you can experiment without stepping on anybody's memories. So basically I would heirfor the people and I would heirtowards preserving buildings that are unique by every account. Because time frozen and many of these has densities increase would have come down. So if you need a density, you don't need to pull down the single storey residence. You can put a metallic exoskeleton, which is very light structure. Green walls above, have a very modern living inside, grandparents who were 20 at the time coming back on the ground floor that they left and living in the same house with a nice elevator and staircase within the 10 foot boundary which surrounds the plots in Cyprus. Given derogation there to allow for the stairs to be built and then you can create a denser city, family Moments, green from the first floor up, don't cut the trees that have been growing in the streets, make bigger blocks.

–And you said preserving buildings. What buildings would that be?

–Yeah, I think I've just described that. But if you would like me to name buildings. I think that one has to go through the, it's a scientific approach as far as I'm concerned. If its scientific and respectful towards the people heiring towards them, OK.

–And you are one of them. Which ones would you like to see preserved?

–Definitely the gymnasium, theGreek School, the women's Lyceum, the Greek Girls School across. These are two exemplary buildings in every sense. They should have that stupid piece of wood covering their names urgently removed if possible. the

cinema of Hadjihambis, is one of the 23 cinemas of the city. It is the most stately one. It is very centrally located and cannot imagine Democracy Avenue without it. On Kennedy Avenue, Kennedy Avenue is a strip development, so I don't see something there, as being of preservation value, myself. I think that these things are a matter of research and being delicate and not taking any rash decisions, specially after having to wait for 50 years. I mean might as well, good property.

–I think that was all of my questions. OK. Thank you so much. And you do felt like in in at any point that you should have said it, but you didn't and you want to say it now for any of the questions?

–No, I just like to say that I would not like to have, let's say, characterizations like dumb or stupid or these things that I have mentioned on Turkey occasions, publicly retransmitted and for the purposes of going through what I'm actually trying to say, I'm happy if it's within context if they studied as part of a sentence or a line of reasoning. Other than that, I think that we've, being properly introduced to certain extent and it's my pleasure.

–Do you feel like I should have asked you something but I didn't?

–Good question. I think you're pretty good. Yeah. Maybe I don't know enough about. You know the details of what you're trying to do, but I think that I understand the overall score.

E09 Transcription

- So, do you feel connected to Maraş?
- Yes.
- So where does this connection come from?
- I was born there, I was born in Marash. I've spent my whole life there, where the distance between the wire and the house is already 1 m. So in our childhood, we ran away from the ball, we jumped off the wire, we got the ball. In fact, when I was a kid, there was a road, it was open. Someone else had settled there, they had settled someone from Turkey. Then the soldiers came, evacuated them. I mean, it's always been on the border. That's why I feel connected and I'm in those buildings all the time, and then I went to England and came back. That became my home office. Again with the same view and I am now 44 years old. For 44 years, I have been living in the same view, watching the houses wear out, the flowers growing, the trees growing. So that's why I'm attached to it. Of course, let me make a footnote in the meantime. Since Maraş was opened, I have not visited the Maraş part that has been opened. And the reason is that, firstly, you already catch some things with your dreams, and secondly, a lot of people came from that border and cried looking at their homes. And I said, I can't and haven't visited these experiences as if I were visiting a museum, enjoying them like this, going on a picnic, taking a walk. Frankly, I didn't go because it was opened illegally.
- This was also among the questions. Thank you very much. Because that's how you started. And after '74, your family settled in a house next to the Maraş fence at that time?
- Yes, my father came from Paphos. My mother came from Limassol. They didn't have a home here either. My father's father, brother and grandfather were killed on the same day in 1963. As such, they gave this house to my father, since he was the child of a martyr, they had no property and no money. They didn't have anything, that's when

they came. And that's how it was given to them. It was half construction, they finished it and stayed.

- So how old were you?
- I was born in '78, 4 years later.
- So, is there a memory from your childhood that stays in your mind like this, when your ball ran away or something, but the most that you remember is what you remember?
- In fact, what I'm saying is that you can take out the families, the families, and go that way, for example, there's a road there. It was further down that road and they put people in. Then they hurriedly took those people out and widened the wire a little more, through the means of that peacekeeper. Half of our neighbor's house is in Maraş, on the wire side, that is, half on the Turkish side. And these people would go into the house through the back doors of their houses, they would live, and it would be very strange to me. The front balcony is on the wireless side, the rear balcony is inside the wires. So I always wondered, I always went to them. I would go up to those balconies and wonder. However, such a desire to stir was always an excuse on the ball. We always used to go and throw that ball to mix it up, but I don't know, you know, what happened in childhood, these are usually like this, you know, the Greeks who came to that neighborhood as the things that sought adventure grew up, especially after the doors were opened in 2003, after that time, there were a lot of people coming and going to the neighborhood. I opened the door to every Greek license plate. I said, go up and look at it from the roof, you can see it better and so on. Because they can't see fully through the wires. And how many of them, I mean, came down crying and whining, I still have goosebumps, I'll tell you right now. So these are traumas to me. So, I'm not a person who can make sense of the war anyway, I think again, for example, if something happens now, I will leave this house like this, like I will come back and I will not come back. I mean, the more I think about everything, the life of the children of the house, the life of the children, I mean, it's a huge trauma and the more trauma I go through.

- As a young child, I mean, witnessing these things, I'm sure, you grew up differently. I didn't grow up next to wires, for example. That's why it took me more time to understand the situation in Cyprus, but it probably created awareness for you.
- Yes, because there were always soldiers. Now there are fewer soldiers, but in those days there were soldiers who always rode around in a certain landrover until the clock, there were soldiers who controlled the wires. Denктаş used to come to that neighborhood all the time, there was a lady he knew there, who had a hotel. He used to take pictures. He took pictures of us at that time. I used to see him as guilty, I mean, when I was little, you know, he came and did it, I did it, I came and watched it like I was proud of my work. I used to get nervous when I was little.
- What would you see if you looked ahead through the wires?
- At first, everything was much more solid, there were windows and doors. Later, as the loot increased, nothing was left, and you see the wear and tear of those buildings continuously. That they are falling more and more, that they are being destroyed. Because, for example, when you look through the kitchen window in the back, there is a house in the back where a bomb has fallen, so that's your view. When you look at it from the front, there are many buildings that have been evacuated, their doors have been left open, and they are worn out, but in terms of the quality of the buildings, they are 10,000 times stronger than the buildings built now. More aesthetic. How can I say it that way, they say emotionally, that is, their appearance. In other words, those irons are more careful, the doors are more careful. Small details are much more elaborate houses. When you come across the structures that are being built now, those houses, how many years have passed, are still stronger than the ones that are being built now. I don't know, I mean, did you go and see it?
- So I definitely agree with you that it's more of an idea than me. But since my research is Maraş, I went purely for research purposes, here is mapping and so on, but I definitely agree with you to the end. So what does the ghost town mean to you?

- Actually, I don't think it's imagine. I mean, yes, they put it there like that, it's empty because people are gone. But I don't think it's a ghost. So they thought that everyone's soul stayed there? Yes, he stayed, of course, no one could break away from there. There are still people who say that they will come and see their house and open it today, I will buy it, that is, Greek. There are people who say they will come and move on the day they give it. I'm telling you this is from a few months ago, not too long ago. It's not a ghost, but I don't know. In other words, maybe they said it was a dream that people's souls were left there. So I don't feel ghostly, maybe because you're not far away at all. Maybe it's because I breathe it in constantly, every day. You know, it seems to me that the only difference between the house I live in now and the house on the other side of the wire is that it needs some maintenance.

- Have you ever questioned, for example, why the wire is there?

- Yes, we questioned a lot, or why it is on the border, why, for example, this house is not in it, according to what it was opened, and this has never ended. I still have more. When they say that we will open Maraş and they say that they will give it to the owners, I always question the thing at the moment, will they give only the ones in the closed part or will they give the ones in the open part? Because, I mean, are those who stay married in the open part unlucky? I question whether those who have a house in the closed part are lucky or unlucky. So I'm still questioning.

- So, for example, have you tried to find out what the buildings are when you look through the wire?

- Yes. Yes, I've always asked. I mean, it wasn't the bank, it was the church, it was the gallery, it was the gas station, there were bars, there were restaurants. Do you know exactly where our house is? He remains behind the district governor's office. There is that way of insurances and so on. Now they cleaned it up a little bit, there were bars and restaurants there. They are more of our homes, so what we see from our house is usually home. I researched the house where we were staying. In other words, the parents were left at the bottom, they built a house for their daughter, they had not finished it yet because they were going to get married. When it first opened, it was a

grocery store next door. It used to be a grocery store, because it used to have old cokes in it. After that, it changed, it changed hands and so on, yes, I question. Constantly questioned, that is, as you see this, be questioned, investigate.

- And who did you learn these things from?
- When I met my mother-in-law, it was '97, and she told me about the bars and restaurants. Because they always came and ate there when they were young, and he resented it. The remaining buildings were told by Famagusta, that is, those who had been in Famagusta for a long time. So those root famagustas. They always knew. It was from them that I learned who stayed where, what happened, what happened. I mean, it's a question, actually. On the way to Derinya, the piano-shaped house belonged to a music teacher. So he wasn't in my neighborhood but of course I would investigate as you saw it. For example, when I was swimming in Palm Beach, you know, let me go a little further and for example, it was closed at that time, or I should see more houses from the sea, at least I can see who this hotel is, etc. Here's what the windows were like, how it was for that.
- So, for example, when you look at that city silhouette from Palm beach, for example, when you look at it from that side, what catches your eye the most inside?
- I don't know the names of the buildings, but I don't know them. I mean, it always seems to me that the current time was backward, in fact, the future was before those bombs fell.
- And you said, there's a house next to your house where a bomb has fallen.
- The back of it has been the view of our kitchen balcony for years. So that happened.
- Well, you said that over the years, especially after the lady doors were opened, the old owners came to visit. Did they come to the house where you live?

- They came when I wasn't here. In other words, when I was in England, they came, traveled, cried and left, and those who stayed in that neighborhood came and cried. They usually go crying all the time. They try to see more, they stick their heads out, they look between the roads. That's why I'll call him to the roof or something, from our roof, because it's visible, all the way to Palm Beach. There was one Greek who begged, let me give him whatever money he had, and there were people who begged him to come into the house before my mother died, before these doors were opened. I mean, I've met him personally.
- And what were their thoughts, for example? When they look at the wires, of course, sadness, don't go backwards.
- In general, those who always come at this age also spend their childhood, that is, their childhood, that is, the woman who came to my house, my childhood has always been here, that is, my youth was spent here. They make you understand your good days. I have never met anyone who tells me about that day. In other words, I have never come across anyone who tells me about his departure on that day of the war and how they went. That is, none of them told or wanted to tell about that day. They always talked about such good days.
- And on good days, you say? Would you like to give an example? For example, what do they tell in general?
- Again, it's not a very specific thing, but that's where I spent my childhood, and that's where this flower was. There was this tree here. I don't know which neighbor was here. We used to play here and stuff like that. Yes. In general, it's not such a bad thing. I don't know, it's nothing specific, though. It's so generic.
- You said, well, they stick their heads out and try to see more and so on. Do they try to see their own homes?

- Their own houses, their own houses, you know, especially their own houses, and here's how the neighborhood is doing. I think there have even been people who have entered the idea of where I will stay and how it will be if I come.
- Well, you said that you never entered after the October 2020 opening.
- No, I never did.
- Is there anyone you know who has walked in and who you know has entered?
- There is. So, for example, I have a close friend who comes out of Kyrenia. Her markets are in her to ride bikes with her children. I don't usually want to talk to them too much about it. Because they treat me like a thing, it's like I'm not going in out of spite, but it's not my stubbornness. I don't know what keeps me there, maybe I mean, if this is opened legally, of course, I go and see it, I would be curious, I would be very curious. And then I say, what are you going to see? And you're going to put a premium on them, I'd say don't go at all. I would say what difference will be from the view of your house, maybe you will be more upset with the view of the different building you go and see now.
- Well, if you were to enter, is there a place you would like to see inside? Especially now, a lot of photos have been shared everywhere.
- I haven't been very interested in them, but I like churches. I'd definitely see them, or if there's an old car dealership or something, their cars.
- There are no cars left, though.
- You know, there was. You know, I remember when we were going to high school, they used to take us to the army house. I remember, I don't think there were cars in the gallery on the way to that army house. That is, who took them after that, to whom did they give them? Also, I would be annoyed by them, they didn't leave a single wire or a

sign. That's why I don't know, I guess if I go, my blood pressure will go up. If I get that angry, I say those people, I mean, they get even more angry.

- Well, for example, you said that you were born in 1978. For example, when you look at this year from that year, if there is a house with an open window inside, did you have a chance to see the inside of the house? Or on the streets when you were little.
- We visited, we saw the houses, as I said at the time, the windows were open or the door was ajar. Now there are no more windows and doors, those houses, you can already see the house directly. Yes, we traveled, after all, the house I live in, so it is no different from him.
- Was there anything in those houses that reminded us that there was life there before?
- There were clothes, there were kitchen utensils. They even said that there was a pot left on the gas stove like this, or there really was. There was everything, I mean, they cleaned it up for a while in the past, the soldiers came in and cleaned them all the time. Then they looted me, now there are many that I know, but there were clothes, there were many suitcases, there were books, there were pictures, there were religious symbols related to Christianity. There was, so there were a lot of things. A lot of them had bronze in the house. There were bronze ornaments.
- But of course, it was more comfortable back then, when you could go in and walk around.
- Of course, now the camera layout, at that time the time of the soldier's passage was already clear. After the soldier passed by the landrover, he would return 5 minutes later. After that, I was comfortable for 2 hours. There were few people walking around, after that they made it more and more frequent, in the nineties it already tightened, after the 95s it tightened military affairs. Now there are cameras everywhere.
- Well, I know I asked you, did you try to find out who owns the house or what the building is? But have you tried to find the owners?

- I mean, how can I find it anyway, you have to advertise. Facebook is something that came out later, so now people are already finding each other on Facebook or something. You have to advertise. I mean, you have to know what happened to your house at that time, and I think they actually made a lot of effort to get us to that information. I only know that Emre and Esra are dealing with this. Emre Akbil, Esra Akbil and Emre were my classmates at the college.
- Well, when you were growing up, your house was already at the bottom of the wires, and your high school was at the bottom of the wires again.
- Just think about it, we used to walk back and forth on the edge of the wires at that time.
- So how was it to grow up this way when you say that I know it was neat?
- It was different, because everyone is like, first of all, you're always in fear of war. Because breathe the air of such a truce every day. What will happen is unclear. It's not clear who is what, and then there's the emotional burden of those people. Constantly, the eyes of the unaccustomed person see this constantly, at least mine did not get used to it. I always do it every day on a whim, look how nice it is, we are in the office all day. In the meantime, the soldiers come and collect ayrelli cannons from Maraş continuously. You know, every day we see that this is what we are used to, that we cannot get used to it. I mean, it's not like it's customary and I don't see it. It has an emotional weight. I mean, there's always a sadness to it.
- And did the former owners come to the building of your office?
- The house where I was born is now the office. And they came, but I was in England at the time. And then they didn't come, others came, but they didn't.
- Do you see a future for Varosha?

- I swear I used to see it. Until they made this ridiculous expansion, but I'm very much like this right now, so this one is going to go. And I don't know what kind of building will replace it. I mean, I don't know, it seems ridiculous to me after this hour, I don't want to think too much. In other words, when I say the future, it seems like an empty field to me with this mentality. It always feels like everything is going to be demolished and rebuilt, because it's too late.
- Well, you said that your opinion changed after the opening in this business. What were you thinking about before the opening?
- Before I opened, I always had a dream, that people would come, landlords would come, fix their houses and stay. Even if they are always doing damage assessment, i.e. they are really more than one of the newly built buildings at the moment, they are solid. And we are very characteristic. I've been for years, of course I'm never going to have a torpedo because I'm sharp like that, but for years I've been saying that there are buildings there, if you know, big houses. I always want someone like that to belong to me. Should I pay for it, buy it, open a very nice Italian restaurant or say a Cypriot restaurant at work. Let such people come and sit on their balconies, but let it be opened in Maraş. I've always lived with such a dream for years. But it seems to me that it's always going to be demolished. I wish it would always stay like this so that it would be destroyed when I die. There will always be demolition and big wires will be erected. In other words, after the condition of the pier, I don't think much about it. And after the mentality of those who made this opening.
- You said something very interesting, you said, you know, you'd rather keep it as it is than replace it. You said that there is a load of emotion in sadness. But despite this, you think it would be better for you to stay as it is?
- Now, have you seen the buildings that Arkin built? I mean, when you look at it, how do they look among those other buildings? These will be done with care, but how does it stop? I don't know, think of such a beautiful rose as putting it in a plastic thing, in a pot. I mean, it's like spoiling the beauty of that rose, the pot, you saved my flower, no it didn't, that flower looks very ugly and so on. Even those buildings seem very fern to

me right now. How could it be like this, yes, it needs to be renovated, after all, those other buildings should be removed, but how do they do it in England, you know, the front part of the building remains, it is suspended, it is renovated from the inside. And the thing in front is that they do not touch the tissue. I mean, have you ever seen that in England, the front of buildings has changed, no, but the inside changes. In other words, if such a thing can be done, there are no tall buildings when the thing passes to the Greek side. Why not? Because it is not suitable for the island texture anyway, if we fully comply with our rules, that is, if the rules of what needs to be done are set and fully followed, maybe I will not have such fears, but we are demolishing the beautiful and planting something ridiculous in its place. However, I think it can be done, the project of this can be done, I think it can be done inside without disturbing the texture of the outside, so I don't know. Of course, you know these things better. It's not my branch, I'm an accountant, but as far as I can see, I think it can be done without spoiling it. Or new investments can be made by staying true to that texture.

- So, for example, did you say that the seasons change? Cemile opens, she fades, how did it feel to watch these seasonal changes?
- And I always try, I mean, we kill flowers at home. What a state the flowers have come to there alone, if you see how beautiful they are. I don't know, for example, all the people in the office are very afraid that the snake will come in the summer. When the grass turns yellow, everyone gets scared because there are a lot of snakes there. The winter is beautiful, green. In other words, there is no water left in those buildings even as a low infrastructure, there is no water in Maraş, we are sunk on this side. In other words, it is an uninhabited place, as they say, it is now dead, even there is such a system that we do not intervene and go on its own. But there is a system that we have broken because we intervened on this side. The subject of the infrastructure sidewalks is the disgrace of the sidewalk, so if I can't walk, how can a person in a wheelchair walk around? We see those work cars. So they came. They cleaned it up to our side. Panic at work, they will do something and what happens will also be disrupted, panic. I don't know, or it sounds like a thing, it's magnified, it's an intrusive occupation. So, for example, the occupation made without the permission of those landlords, maybe it will bother me too. It disturbs his thinking. We gave you these places, take your money,

but we didn't ask you, we didn't give you the right, take your money and do whatever you want. It may also be experienced traumas. Because there are traumas from my fathers and families. So after all, my parents had houses in Limassol, they had property. They, too, escaped overnight. My dad is the same way. Theirs, too, is now the university's, a university in England uses it. They also fled, maybe those traumas carried over to me, so it bothers me that someone took their property without permission. Maybe people will come and settle down, saying that it is my grandmother's house.

- Well, I asked you, did you try to find out what their buildings were, you said, Well, you heard it from your father-in-law or something. Have you tried to learn about the life of Maraş at that time? Here's how? Or have you ever talked to people who come and go to see their homes?
- So I know what I read. In other words, I have already seen a lot of old pictures there, from what I have read, here is how modern, touristy, rich, rich there is, when I say that people are cultured and money, money wealth and natural wealth, here is the beach, the tourists who come because of the way it is established. I tell you, we didn't actually go forward in time. If we take Maraş as a basis, we are going backwards and how long that process is, since that day, since 74, we go back every year for another year. Maybe that '74 was actually the breaking point, but we couldn't move forward.
- Well, I know, I asked you, but you said I don't know if you don't know the names, when you look at the buildings. Is this anything you remember from the photos that everyone has shared or something? What you can think is important for Varosha?
- I generalize churches. And which one was the one that didn't open? Has it ever been touched?
- Golden Sands Hotel.
- Yes, I'm curious about him. Of course, everyone wonders, because nothing has been touched in it. The room feels like we're going to be able to see time travel. When I was

working in a bank, I used to be curious about banks. So what's left? Also, if I find something old, that is, if I find it at home, what I find someone else will be the notes written, or if I find such a thing, I would definitely like to find them. So the written or pictures are old pictures.

- Have you ever found it? Wandering around as a child?
- There were, but they were always rumayists. I've brought it home a few times, well, there are some bronzes that I call it. I even have one of them in my house. So I have it with me right now.
- Were they buildings with writing on the walls?
- When you say writing on the walls, what is written on ours?
- For example, if a grocery store counted a sign on it?
- There were always signs. I mean, it wasn't very much handled until the '85s. We would just hear what they had, this guy went and bought the pressure cookers and sold them. He kept his whistles and so on, and then he turned around and sold them to people. Or this is what he went to, I don't know what he bought, or he goes to someone's house, for example, this thing is very beautiful, what is a sewing machine, it is a trophy from Maraş. He says that this lamp is very beautiful, it is a trophy from Marash. I mean, how many houses have been repaired from their homes. But I mean, the things that stayed in the business were things that didn't make money anymore, even if they did, they would happen. After that, and over time, they were always taken, collected, destroyed.
- So, do you think anything inside Varosha should be preserved as it is?
- When I say anything, it can be protected as I have described. In other words, the exteriors of the buildings are at least stronger than the iron. In other words, if they are cared for, they can be used very nicely. I mean, it's balcony railings and stuff. Also, the things of the buildings, the styles of the buildings are very beautiful. I don't say all of

them, but most of them have very characteristic features and I think they should be protected. So when you look at a lagoon, for example, it is a very simple structure. Yes, I mean, even if it is not protected, it is okay to erect the same one in its place, but there are buildings with very characteristic features and I think they should be protected.

- So what do you think will be the impact of this on the former owners?
- Repairing those places?
- Yes, it should be preserved as it is.
- I think it would be very nice. No, I think it would be much nicer if they were given their own rights. I don't know, I'll ask them about it when they come to their senses. It never occurred to me to ask that question.
- What do you usually ask when they come?
- I usually ask, which one is your home? The second question is, how old were you, how old were you? Some of them have their mothers at work and so on, their eyes are always open. Again, my hairs are up, so try not to get into that feeling so much that they understand, but I mean, it's bad. But the first thing I ask is, which one is your home, and the second time I ask, how old are you usually? I mean, how old were you at 74?
- Why, you ask?
- I don't know, involuntarily, I suppose. I mean, I wonder about the house, who would stay in which house? I'm very curious, I still like it more, let me find out. Also, I guess I think about how old he is and try to empathize with him.
- Has anyone ever come up with such interesting photographs, for example, or drawings?

- It didn't happen to me, I didn't see it.
- Okay, all my questions, these are any of your answers, have you ever said that you wish you had said this but didn't?
- Oh, I talked a lot, I'll send you a picture tomorrow in the office, thank you very much.
- Is there anything you should have been asked but I didn't ask?
- No.

E10 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- When Maraş was called a ghost city for me when I was young, I lived and grew up thinking and dreaming that such a ghost city was really a ghost city. I think that it is a part of Famagusta, that is, it is actually a part of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the TRNC, not Famagusta. I think that if I am a part of this island, I am also a part of Maraş.
- Well, I guess the answer because we go to the same school, but for example, have you traveled around Maraş outside of education? Or if so, what did you go for?
- Yes, I mean, because of our school, the Turkish Maarif College, because it is close, we did not have the opportunity to visit the interior until it opened. But no matter how much we can see from the outside, that is, by reaching out from the wires, this is such a dream, I actually tried to complete it by establishing the rest in my own dreamy world. In other words, we tried to see as much as we could from the main road, without entering the surrounding roads. Yes, curiosity.
- So do you have any moments? Around the wires of this maroch engraved in his mind like this?
- Yes, I was about 6 or 7 years old at the time, I remember saying to my parents when I was driving, please leave me here, Casper lives here or something. Because it's a ghost town, then Casper is fashionable, cartoony, that way.
- So what does a ghost town mean to you?
- In other words, they told us at a young age that there was a human being living in a while. From the outside, the buildings are in ruins and have a history. War and so on, there is already a great trauma and a great drama in it. So when it comes to a ghost town, it's a lot of people leaving their lives there. Maybe the fact that he left his life,

maybe he left his home, maybe it was engraved in my mind as a ghost town, after a while. You know, when I was younger, I thought that there was an environment there, thinking that such cartoon characters would be portrayed. However, this idea changed after I grew up.

- So, for example, what did it make you think or feel that Maraş was left like this after you grew up?
- In other words, the fact that our school is also there, in the same way every morning, is very close to the bus stops. It is very sad that the place where our bus stops and gets up and down from there, every time I look at it, Maraş is closed, not in a small area. In other words, I thought about why these areas were not evaluated in the first place during my high school student years. So now it's opened. Yes, it was opened to many people. Many people enter and see it curiously, but how correct and ethical this decision to open up is actually debatable.
- Well, the bus stop from high school was directly next to you. In fact, the bus was next to the door that was now opened. When you looked, for example, when you looked at Maraş from there or from the beach, what caught your eye the most, what happened?
- I don't remember a car brand now, but its building. There was also a hotel when viewed from the seaside. Painted in such blue, one part of it was already ruined and the other part was ruined. I used to be very curious about it. He was a Nissan baişi. Frankly, I was very curious about it.
- And where you work now, next to the maraş?
- Yes, it's very close to me, so it's about walking distance.
- For example, have you ever tried to find out what these buildings are?
- So some of it, yes, you know, out of curiosity, when you actually look at it, it's the bank. There are places with signs, and there are places with houses. In other words, it is

understood when you look at it. There are also hotels or small places where such people stay for the day. It's understandable when you look at them, but I haven't done any extra research.

- Where you work, did people who had lived there before come and try to see their homes?
- Well, it's not my current office, but in my previous office, a client from the Greek Cypriot side called us and asked us to apply for a place that belonged to him before. However, I don't know what was done after I left.
- Yes, but other than that, no one came and tried to see their house?
- So 1-2 people saw it. I mean, let's see. You know, our people who have migrated to Bafra, Paphos or Limassol, you know, go and organize tours to see how their homes have been experienced. There are also a few tours that the Greeks have done. But frankly, I have not witnessed it personally.
- Did you visit after the opening in October 2020?
- In other words, in the first place, I went to such an individual protest on my own because I thought it was unethical in terms of legal dimension. So me and a couple of my lawyer colleagues. But I mean, we saw that we didn't have any protests, and the curiosity outweighed it. I went on a visit last 2 months ago. 2-3, maybe more.
- So what were your first impressions?
- My first impressions, that is, it will not be possible to enter before. You know, the feeling of freely entering a forbidden area was very different. There are already guards at the entrance. After going through security. You know, the municipality has renovated it, and at the first entrance, they reserved a bicycle zone on the left so that the citizens can visit it more easily. Because it's a bit big, they put a little caravan-style thing after the bike. In order to meet the need for cafeteria, water, coke, etc., it was like turning it

into a commercial space. That part is a little sad. Okay, but economically, yes, it is a kind of pillar of development. Apart from that, in the buildings I visited, it is broken that there are bullet marks on the walls. So, as you said somewhere, the purpose of the ghost town in the first place, I really understood its meaning there and frankly, I was very moved.

- So, what was the place that impressed you the most like these places you saw? Building or any place.
- Continuing from the entrance, which impresses the most, there is a circle. The circle is so vulgar, cacti made after it, etc., planted, when you go to the right from it, it is close to the seaside, if I remember correctly, a house opposite a hotel is abandoned, ruined and as I said, it is bulleted, but the bullets are not 1-2, but a huge hole you know. I was very impressed by it. In other words, the trauma experienced by those people at that time, I am glad that I experienced it at that time. I mean, it went through me directly, that feeling went away. In that way, what impressed me the most was thinking about the life of the person behind that wall.
- Well, I'm going over what you said. Before the opening, for example, there was the Salamina tower Hotel in Palm Beach, and when it was bombed, we could see half of the building directly from the beach. How does that building make you feel?
- I mean, I didn't think about it before, but in the same way, I mean, people had a life there, and extinction, that is. I am someone who is against a piece of land or a property in a business. Everything has to be universal. In other words, people's lives should not be taken away from them.
- Well, you said you didn't want to go in the first place. Was there a place you expected to go into and see when you decided to do so? Because a lot of photos froze, was there a place you expected to see everywhere like this?
- Frankly, I was very curious about the seaside. It was a hotel by the sea and the hotel you just described that you called ruined. After that, I went for my brother's English

homework. It's a very emotional, very sad place. Also, the people who live there come here before, repeat what they have experienced there, etc., because we look at it with curious eyes from the outside. Also, the emotions of people who have a life outweigh it.

- Was there any place outside the house that caught your eye or that you wondered what this building was?
- No, it didn't. But I paid close attention to the thing. For example, when we look at the current period, the buildings were very, very beautiful and of high quality, and I mean, pharmacies, opticians, etc., compared to the period. I think there was a much better period and structure than the environment we are in now. In terms of structure, that is, when you compare it to those that were not destroyed, its architecture was very advanced at that time.
- So, have you paid attention to the reactions of the people around you at work while walking inside? Or was it crowded?
- When I went, we both went on Saturday morning. There was not much crowd there, in general, when that area was first opened, there was the majority of those who were curious and went, so when I went later, it was a walking track, you know, it was safer, Their current purpose is walking, that is, it remained as a walking area because it was a safer place except for the current participation, that is, those who did not go and see it.
- For example, have you tried to find out what the buildings or the street you see there are?
- I mean, not me, obviously, but my brother had investigated it in more detail. I mean, I didn't work.
- So where did your brother try to find it, or what was the reason?

- From Google or from the elderly. Because when you look at the research, it is not something that you can type into Google and find much. A piece of information in Cyprus is the result of research or reliable.
- You said the elderly, not the Turkish Cypriot elders?
- Yes, yes, grandpa, grandpa.
- So, did your grandparents really know about the buildings there?
- I mean, how can I say it, it was like this, there were already car dealerships, you can see it when you go, there are signs, there was this hotel in it, there was this hotel, but as I said, they don't remember it either.
- And did your grandparents visit Maraş at that time?
- So I didn't know at the time. Probably according to what they say, yes.
- And other than that, you tried to guess what the building you saw was just from the signs?
- Yes.
- Do you see a future for Varosha?
- In what sense is it a future? In other words, is it economically or as the revival of it and reintegrating it into society, or as being glued or as a settlement, is it repairing it and bringing people there as a population?
- Any future you think will be for Varosha in the future? Or maybe you think, maybe there is no future for Varosha?

- In other words, even if it is a small share in the Famagusta Municipality economically, it has a contribution, but I do not think that the purpose of bringing people there, that is, opening it, is clearly something like this. So I don't think the government has a plan for people who used to live there or who are going to come there now to buy a house or live there. I mean, I don't think it hurts with such a plan.
- So, what kind of future do you think Maraş will have?
- Believe me, I'm in wait-and-see mode. So I'm waiting in curiosity. We have a different state where we go to bed today and wake up tomorrow. I'm waiting, every moment, every day, everything can change. It can take a different size.
- So, after the opening in October 2020, did the fields change their minds about the future?
- How so?
- For example, it was forbidden to enter until 2020. Then they suddenly made a decision, 2 streets were opened, then they said that 3 and a half percent would be returned. As you said, the courts have started to clear the way there. Did such steps affect your thoughts about the future of Maraş?
- In other words, it was said that three percent of it would be given, but after his name, any step or legal application here. Do this. Or they can apply. No one was published in the circular because the following are the beneficiaries. So we're going to go out and do this in front of the announcers or in front of the public at work, we're going to do that. This is political propaganda for me. In other words, if it is officially announced, maybe the statement is okay, but there is no official statement anywhere. In the first place, I guess I should say to take the pulse of the people a little bit. I do not know. I mean, as I said, he doesn't have much credibility with people in the state to talk about their attitudes and so on. From my point of view. So I'm in the mode of waiting and seeing.

- Have they changed your mind, for example, about what Varosha will be in the future?
- There was a newly closed Maraş, a part of it was opened, but is the future of Maraş bright? I don't know, but I hope it happens, I hope it exists. While our future is not even bright at the moment, I don't know what the future of Maraş will be like.
- I go back to my earlier questions. When I asked you, did you visit the anthem, you said one time you went yourself, and the second time for your brother's homework. What was the homework?
- His homework is related to the English lesson about the introduction of any region in Cyprus, you know, my brother wanted to introduce the Maraş region. When we went there, we took photos in small videos, and Maraş was closed since then. There have been wars. And so on, as I said, there were so many car dealerships. There was something I didn't know about the brand in all this business. There were eyewear shops and a grocery store. That's how the seaside is. You know, we tried to complete something in 1-2 minutes in small slides.
- So where did you take photos and videos?
- We took the first entrance, the seaside, the hotel areas. There is also a park on the right, that is, a park that the municipality built later, we shot it, I remember that it is a national park. If I remember correctly.
- So what was the reason for you to be drawn there?
- To show a bird's eye view of the inside of Maraş, even if it is a small one.
- You didn't particularly shoot specific places?
- There is no special specifically. You know, we didn't shoot this or that.

- Well, for example, there is a park inside, there are 2 high schools or there is a cinema building. How did it make you feel to see such buildings or did you understand what they were?
- Frankly, we didn't get it. I'm hearing it from you right now. So I didn't take a careful look.
- So, if I ask you, do you think Varosha should be preserved as it is now, or any place in Varosha now?
- Already at the entrance, protective things lines were drawn, do not approach here, it can be demolished and so on. In our society, it is a little difficult to preserve old monuments, they either completely transform them or leave them as they are, they will soon be destroyed. I am against a complete change, but at least if a minor renovation is made, at least in certain places. But as I said, it is debatable, of course, will that structure be restored after taking a hand? That's also a question mark.
- So what do you think should be protected what's inside?
- In other words, every work inside should be preserved, some of it has already been demolished, some of it is about to be demolished, maybe or maybe it is very solid, but the view from the outside is like that. I don't know.
- Well, for example, when you went inside, you walked those streets, you talked about the architectural structure, how advanced it is, did you wish that these structures were preserved or left as they are?
- There was a lodger, a wooded area on the way to the seaside. For example, some of it was blue, the walls were blue, I think some of it is green, but the inside is quite colorful, so it is chirping, as if no time has passed, I think it would be nice if it was preserved.

- That's all my questions, is there anything you would like to add to the answers you gave?
- So according to what I have in mind right now, it doesn't.

E11 Transcription

–Do you feel connected to Varosha?

–Yeah, I'm feeling very connected, Yeah. Yeah, absolutely.

–And what is your relation to Varosha?

–Well my relation the is that is and was that I actually lived there for the whole of my life from when I was born, because I was born in the Dherinya, which, if you may know it, is next to Varosha. And I grew up at which is the checkpoints coming from Larnaca. The Akia, I think it's called in the Turkish Pyla checkpoint. And on the right hand side on the way going to Famagusta from that checkpoint is all my family there. That area belongs to Dherinya but nobody knows it because it's quite far away, but it's on the outskirts of Famagusta and Dherinya. So where I used to live before getting married and moved into Famagusta in 1973 or 1972. I did all my studies in England, starting with, well, my first degree in Guildford University as a graphic designer and then later on I did my master's degree in educational management at Nottingham University and then my doctorate with Middlesex University. A very long career, work career because I had to change career after I left Famagusta. So I didn't actually live in Famagusta for a long time as a family, but I went to schools in Famagusta. Actually my primary school was in Kato Varosha. Which is just below Varosha. And I also have my house there. That is my connection to Varosha.

–And then going to the beginning, because you went to primary school in Kato Varosha. From that time to since 1974, what is the most vivid memory that you have?

–From Varosha?

–Yes.

–I think the most vivid memory of Varosha is the day we left. That must have been on the 14th of August 1974. My wife and I used to work in the same place I was the account executive of an advertising agency. And she was the accounts, in the office

she used to run the account, I was the manager of the office of this advertising company. Which only operated for about one or two years. Because I was neglecting my studies. The day we left. It was, I think the before the 15th of August which is a holiday it's Virgin Mary's day. And my wife called me at the office and said that I think we have to leave because there was a neighbour. There's some soldier from the British bases knocking at the next door neighbor who were British and asking them to leave. So we got the message that we had to leave as well. I can't hear that nothing was going on but then she was correct. I mean, we had to live through, not through the official road, but from side street, and we went to Storiou, where my parents were. Which is a funny, funny place. Funny area because it's no man's land because, as you go into Varosha from the checkpoint Astria, where my family, my parental family is and the whole area is in the sovereign basis. But the houses themselves are not in the bases, but all the surrounding fields are in the bases. So that was considered a safe place to go to, so we went there. After having been conscripted to the Army for about two weeks or something like that. And then I said, well, I was demolished. We had our baby as well, 17 months old. I think that's one day I'll never forget.

–And where was this office?

–The office, have you been recently to Varosha?

–I did.

–You have so this office is at the most central point in Famagusta, that's at the crossroads between Democracy road, the main road which is open now and Evagoros Street, which is where market is. So that's a central point in Varosha and that's where my, our office was.

–You said your house was there as well in Famagusta right?

–Yeah, my house is in the first of city towards the end of Kennedy Avenue. At the very end and in the summer, I took my son there with my grandson to see it and my

daughter in law. And we found it. It is in a block of buildings and it's just next to the point that it has been opened in Kennedy Avenue.

–So I imagine that you went to high school in Famagusta as well.

–That's right. Yeah. Yeah.

–What do you remember most from those days when you were going to high school? What was life like then?

–I think that was the memorable times. It was when I used to take part in theatrical event and things like that because I used to sing. My teacher thought that I was a very good singer, so she used to use me in these events all the time. And that was what I was known for in in the school. And people now know me well. One of the things they know me by is that I was the singer of the school. Yeah, that's memorable.

–And at the time, it was only men school, right?

–No, no, no, no. Our school was a mixed school. But the other one, which was next to our school, was a boy school and the girls school was at another place.

–You said you were doing, singing and everything. Was there any particular place where these events would take place in?

–They were put up, one of these, where most of them were school events, so they were performed at school. Actually because our school was crowded. So some of the time we had to attend classes under the seats of the municipality playground. It is open now, it's near the Palm Beach Hotel, the stadium there. That's where we used to do everything. All our work, gymnastics and all our events used to take place there. I think one or two times we performed at the Heraon theatre. The big one, which is next to the market. And at another theatre which I can't remember the name of.

–And during that time, was there any particular place you as a young man would go and spend time with your friends?

–Well, the beach was one of the of the places. And then where we used to learn how to swim, you know we're very young. Old boys were trying to get to the camel. If you've heard of the Camel that is a rock in there, opposite. That was a very big thing for everyone, for anybody to go there, we're very proud. There weren't many things to do actually, at that time, apart from going to the cinema. But we were not allowed to go to the cinema as school boys. So we had to be attended by parents and things like that. But life was very different. Parents wouldn't go to cinema, so we couldn't go as well. If we did, then we would get punished either by parents or by school.

–Why was there a rule for that like that? Why were you not allowed to go?

–Yeah, because rules at school were very strict. We had the uniform and there was this prefect who would go around the town and see whether we were behaving or if we are not wearing our uniform, we would be reported.

–You said there wasn't many things to do. Which year are we talking about right now?

–Well, this must have been in the late 50s, early 60s.

–And you said there wasn't many places to go. What was the places that was there? You said cinema, was it Hadjihambis?

–Heraeon, Hadjihambis and Olympia, Ideal and Rio, it's all of them, I think. Three or four or five or something. And all had a summer one, summer cinema as well.

–And you then you said you left to study in England and you spend so many years doing your studying. What was the difference when you went back after your graduation? Was there any change?

- Not much. The change was very very slow, apart from having to run a business, which was very hard at the time, because setting up a new business, you have to plan clients and all that and advertising is a very competitive business. So I had to run all the time, all over the place. Thank God it got on very well. It got off very well but unfortunately didn't last much only lasted for one or two years.

- The location of it was very centre so I can imagine how successful it was. During those times, what was the what was the life for you in Varosha?

- I think that was one of the best periods in our life because my wife had been to England with me during my last year. We got married just before going there. So we didn't have many worries, well, apart from building a house and all that, buying a house, but you know it wasn't that difficult because you get a loan very easily and we had the means to do that. My parents were quite rich to help me as well. Our salaries were not bad either. So we were having quite relaxed time and good time. Just before then and we thought that everything would be okay.

- And what was the day-to-day life for you?

- Well a daily life, an ordinary day life would be to get up very early in the morning and I think we used to start work at about 7:30 or something and we worked through 2:30 with no afternoon work. And later on when we had our first baby we had to have a lady to look after him and do the house chores as well. Yeah, that's how, more or less was life.

- What was the main places that the locals were using at the time?

- I think the most prominent feature for Famagusta was the walking up and down democracy street on Sundays, which is very familiar. And this wasn't only the habit of Famagustians, but all Cyprus you could see it. But in Famagusta it was something else, it's just completely outstanding place. And then people with go to sweet shops like Zacroblastia, like Petek in Famagusta. Confectionery.

–Where was this sweet shop?

–Well, it there was one called Kypseli and another one was, can't remember the other one. It was about two or three. And for younger people there, there were this disco places and night clubs. One was Edelweiss and another was boccacio, I think, and another one which I can remember the name of.

–You as a person that remembers 1950s and 1960s. I know that during that time that Varosha was was totally different to what we see now.

–Actually,in terms of the environment, the architecture nothing much has changed, apart from the fact that most of the buildings need restoration. But whats striking is that, most of them are in good condition. Uh, well I haven't been there for many times after Erdogan's visit. I think I went there two or three times this year, the last summer. I didn't go during the first days of the opening because I was very sad. I couldn't bear it. And what happened with me was that I got through the grief and the pain of the opening up this time by Erdogan was overcome through seeing friends and other people going to Varosha on Facebook. So in a way, all my wrath, or my pain or my grief was calmed down by what I saw during that time. so when I visited the place I was very calm. I couldn't believe that I was so calm, when I visited the place. I thought I would get emotional, but I didn't. Perhaps it was this possibility of showing the place to my kids.

–Did you have any memories coming back to you as you walked down the streets of Varosha?

–I can't say that I had memories, because I wasn't on my own, I had to show other people. I had to show my son who has never lived there. When we left he was 17 months old so he could remember nothing. So was his wife and my grandson was with us, which is about 13 now, so he was very curious to know everything. So I didn't have much time to reminisce and I had to explain things. So my mind was kept busy now. But what was impressive was that some roads, some streets were blocked by palm trees, which got so big and so bushy. Trying to remember things, roads and streets

and things like that. No, there wasn't much to remember of. It was as if as if we had never left when we were there. Very alive. People were missing, crowds. but otherwise I feel that famagusta is still alive.

–This brings me to my next question. What does the name Ghost Town mean to you?

–What does it mean to me? Well what the name says. You know it's a place without people living in it. Our Turkish Cypriot friends say and I have quite a few Turkish Cypriot friends, they say that they live next to a dead body. I think that's what describes the situation. It is a dead body. Actually, we don't feel it like that because we are far away, but Turkish Cypriots who live next to it, that's how they feel. They feel that they live next to a cemetery.

–Obviously weren't able to get in, but did you at least go to the next the wires of Varosha after the 2003 checkpoints opening?

–Oh yeah, quite a few times, of course. But it took me a lot of time to get to the used to the idea of going there. I think it took me about two or three years. I didn't want to go but the reason I finally decided that I should go was that I had more or less given up hope that we would go back. I sort of went to see for the last time something like that, that's what I felt at that time. But then gradually things changed. Things got better. I got to know quite a few Turkish cypriot people and we became friends and all that. so, situation became better and the mentality also changed. When we were going there we used to go either to visit friends, Turkish Cypriots or take part in events, bicommunal events or visit monuments like Apostolos Andreas and all other places as well. In the mountains, the castles as well, Kyrenia.

–And when you were visiting after the 2003, what could you see through the wires? Were you looking for exactly one thing?

–Yeah, it's good that you asked me this question because I have to say something about my first visit to Famagusta. Of course we couldn't go in at that time. We could see it from far, from outside and on the beach near the Palm Beach, the hotel. That's as far

as we would go then we could go. What's funny is that again, I can't remember getting emotional about my first visit to Famagusta after 1974. I think that that happened because, I feel that Varosha is safe because it was fenced off, it was there, and I felt that there it is, it's waiting for us. That was a feeling but then when we went around to Kyrenia. The feeling was completely different, although I don't come from that place. I did get emotional. Because of the change.

–In Varosha, you didn't feel that change?

–No, it was all there but Kyrenia changed. It was this unplanned development which is chaotic. But then at the harbour, the things are the same, absolutely the same as they were 50 years ago. Every time we go there, that's where we like to go because it's very calm there. That's where you feel calm and part of the past. Where as the newer parts of Kyrenia, you get lost. Especially I felt very bad when an attendant of the parking place asked me to pay Turkish lira. I said we don't use Turkish lira. He said yes, but you've come into Turkish state now, so you have to pay me in Turkish lira. Yeah, that was a very painful experience, very traumatic.

–I'm sorry to hear that. And you said there was no change when you look behind the wires.

–At the time, yeah.

–What was the places that you were particularly looking for through the wires?

–We'll just houses and on the sea front, the hotels, on the beach, but nothing else. There was this feeling that we shouldn't go into the sea. We shouldn't swim, I felt very bad the first time I tried swimming. I got in for a few minutes and then I got out because I felt that I was swimming in blood, it was such a bad feeling. But then this summer, last summer because we usually spend about two months with my wife in Dherinya. Because we go to the beach and we went to Varosha, quite a few times. And we went swimming and I must confess, I enjoyed it very much. Absolutely. Because you see you have to compare Protaras, so crowded and it's a place we don't like going there

because people there in the Paralimni area, the Protaras area, very nationalistic, as opposed to Dherinya people. We rent a house in Dherinya and go to the beach in Protaras and Paralimni. But there is a sharp difference between the two because you go to Varosha and the place is empty now. And the beaches are so beautiful and empty and you go to Protaras you can't find a place to stay for a few minutes, to swim.

–And when you visited Varosha was there anything that you expected to see in particular?

–You mean this recently or in the past?

–After the opening.

–No, no, as I said I followed the situation on videos on my computer. I think I felt that I was just repeating something, which it was as though I had done it before because I followed up every other friend that had visited the place. You know their stories and the places. And apart from describing the situation to my relatives that I took with me. I think I felt that I had been there before.

–You said you were explaining to your son the places that you were seeing. So which places were you explaining and what were you explaining?

–Mainly the main, the main road, Democracy Avenue. Because that's where we could only go. That was the only place. And then we had to go another day because it's a long road and you have to walk up and down. My grand son hired a bicycle and he was going up and down by the time. But then we got there the next day I think and see we got on the bus, the bus which goes to along Kennedy Avenue. And we want to visit our house in the block of Buildings. Well, we went in the bus and the bus stops almost outside our house. It was a shock for us, when I saw it because I couldn't believe it. I thought it was still there, but where it was. And the most exciting thing is that the building is in an excellent condition, the block of flats. And this is attributed to the very good building materials they used to use at that time and the whole planning of building there the things.

–You said your whole life was on Democracy Avenue, but you were living on Kennedy Ave. In comparing both streets to each other. Was there any place that is important to you apart from your house on Kennedy Ave?

–I think my office, because it was at the crossroads of democracy Avenue and the Evagoras. And then I think that's the place I remember most. But perhaps because we spent most of our time there, apart from going for strides and that.

–And so is there a place in Varosha where you feel connected?

–I think the place I always remember when I go, my memories get me back is the little harbour, near the Palm Beach Hotel, where the houses, on the rocks. Because something I haven't told you is that I used to paint a lot. And have a few paintings from there, I saved them actually. And I used to paint there and take a transistor radio with me. Nice to see the harbour and into the harbour the main harbour as well, limani. I used to make pictures as well there. So I think that's the first thing I can remember about that area because that's where our school is next to the stadium aside to the municipal stadium, that is the area, which always come back to mind.

–And if I ask the same question but from a Varoshian perspective, like for all of you, which place would you say carries the value for public and local?

–I think it's connection with the mediaeval town. I think without it there couldn't be Varosha. You know VAROSHA means a suburb in Turkish, I think that's what it means. And I love the mediaeval town, the old town. Because that's where I got to know the art. When I was very little at primary school. Teachers took us to an exhibition there and that's where I got my interest in painting. Because it's all very impressive and still alive. And when I went home I started painting. And there was a jar, and behind it there was a background, was a traditional cloth, I think it was a tablecloth. And when I went home I tried finding something similar. And there was nothing similar, of course. And I took my mother's scissors and cut off the corner of a tablecloth. I don't know what happened. Nobody found out about this and that was my first painting.

–It's really interesting that you said they took you when you were in primary school to exhibition in Old Town.

–It is actually, because I remember that we didn't have much school events. But I remember at primary school as well, that I was put in a play, Christmas play as well. I don't know why. I think they found out that I had a good voice again. Yeah, that's where it all started.

–And if I asked you the places that carries value on democracy Avenue, which are these places?

–I can't pinpoint 1 building or place. But the first thing that comes to mind is the photography shop. Where I took some photos, I was taking some photos and I still have them in and I have them in the country house. And I think that's the first thing it reminds me of Famagusta. And next to it, it was a travel agency as well, where I got my tickets for when I left the Cyprus the first time to go to England for studies. Those are the two things that come to mind. And I think they are very precious to me. Those two places.

–And the same question, but for the public and locals on Democracy avenue that carries value for varosians? What are they?

–Probably, it was cinemas. The Hadjihambis and Heraion, which are next to the next market. Where there was a water fountain as well. I think that was the most memorable area. That's where we used to spend a lot of time there. The market, because around the market there were little shops among them, some kebab houses. Most of used to go there. And by nuts as well, things like that. And that's where the bus stops were as well. So it was set for point you could get the bus to Dherinya or all other places. Or I used to leave my bicycle there and go home by bus. And I used to have the bicycle travelling in the town and way before, because before going to England I worked at a factory as an advertising. As the man for advertising. Found this job because I was good at art at school and the art teacher suggested that I get this job. So before going

to England I worked for a couple of years in this factory, as an advertising manager, doing that.

–Where is this factory?

–That's in Kato Varosha at the very end of Kato Varosha, In the south end, in the orchards.

–So my next question is, do you see a future for Varosha?

–I don't know. I'm not optimistic actually, that there is going to be a solution. I think that our only hope now is the the IPC. You know your IPC?

–Not sure no.

–Well, it is the Immovable Property Committee. Because we feel that, we can at least guarantee that our property is not going to be given over to anybody else or people from Turkey, so we have applied to this committee. Hoping that we can guarantee the ownership of our property. We don't want any compensation. We don't want to sell it. We just want to make sure that it's going to be ours. You're going to safeguard their ownership of our property. Although I have transferred all my property to my kids, to my two kids. But then they have applied to this IPC.

–And what kind of future would you like to see for Varosha?

–It's very difficult to foresee or wish for a future. I think the best thing that can happen is that quite a few Greek Cypriots who will get back their properties and settled there. I would say that if there is a critical mass of people there about 400. At least 400 families, something could start off. It will be a critical mass for the future. Otherwise I can't see any future.

–Did the October 2020 opening changed your mind about the future of Varosha?

–Certainly, yeah. Yeah, of course, Yeah. Yeah.

–How and why did it change?

–Well, as I said before, while it was fenced off, you felt that it's there waiting for you. But then when it opened up to you and now it's opened up piece by piece, you feel that this is always going to be destroyed. Finally, that's the feeling.

–Do you think some places in Varosha should be protected as they are now?

–I think all the fenced of town should be protected, by the United Nations. I think the UN, shouldn't allow this to happen, this reopening. Because, according to the resolutions of the Security Council, it's two of them. The place should be returned to its legal owners, under the protection of the UN.

–In terms of preserving how it is now, what do you think it should happen? Should any of the buildings or streets should be preserved as how they look now.

–I think those who are in good condition should be preserved, but there are some which have to be taken down. If they are beyond the restoration, they should take him down, but talking about places to be reserved, I think some emblematic places Hadjihambis should be restored. Buildings like that is so central and it's so emblematic, should not be taken down.

–You said emblematic buildings should be preserved, and you said hadjihambis is one of them. What other buildings?

–Well, I think the Saint Nicholas Church, it's in the same street. The also municipality which was there was an art gallery as well museum, so all this should be preserved and the Heraion cinema, the market. The high school of course in the Main Street and Lyceum of girls as well which is opposite in the municipal park. I think these are the most remarkable buildings. We should preserve and of course on the way to Mediaeval town of famagusta. The government houses which have been destroyed by

bombarding, they're still like that should be restored as well because the architecture is very emblematic.

–The governmental buildings that bombed, where are they?

–You know the old Famagusta Hospital? Just opposite, going into Varosha on the left hand side. The Justice Houses.

–What about the places that I'm that weren't public, that weren't school but they were the places that were mostly visited by you or the locals, like you, said the Photography shop, the travel agency.

–Yeah, yeah, of course those buildings have nothing important. It's just a sentimental value for me but they're ordinary buildings.

–In terms of sentimental values, which buildings, what else would you say that carries sentimental values for you?

–Well, my school of course, which again didn't have any architectural value, which is behind the main gymnasium, you see it's behind that. It is an ordinary building and I don't know whether it's still there because we can't see it. The stadiums, of course, have very sentimental. But the main stadium was, it didn't have any value you know apart from sentimental value. No architecture value.

–Thank you so much. In terms of questions, that was all of my questions and it's it's been really great to hear all of your answers. Is there any question that you want to add to your answers? Or is there a question that you think I should have asked you but I didn't?

–I can't think of any other question. I think you've covered everything, of course in a very different way of what I expected, but anyway, I think you've covered what I wanted to say. I don't know whether you've taken out of me what you wanted to know.

E12 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Famagusta?
- Absolutely. I was born there. To be exact, I was born in Kato Varosha, which is Kato means, lower Varosha, it's a part of Famagusta. And my family come from the centre of Famagusta, my Grandfather was muhtar, you know muhtar in Turkish? He was muhtar of Varosha, initially, when Varosha was a small town and later he was muhtar of Agios Nicholas, which is the central parish of Famagusta. So I have added about 2000 people in gene, you know the genealogical trees. I have added about 2000 Famagustians, many of those, my family. So I go back several families, people back, dozens of years back they're all from Famagusta. So my connection with Famagusta is really very, very strong.
- That's really interesting that you said you go back too many generations in Famagusta.
- Several generations, although in one case, one of the great grandmothers, she came to marry my great grandfather in Famagusta, who was from Famagusta. She came from Kefalonia, next to Corfu in Greece. But her brother lived in Larnaca.
- So do you want to open more about, because you are said your connection goes back with generations and considering the changes of Varosha, do you want to open a bit more about your connection and how your family settled in Famagusta and how you moved to Kato Varosha?
- You are absolutely right before 1960 there were no big buildings and tourist developments and so on. Main time of the tourist, commercial development and so on was 1960 to 1974. As I said, my father's family was from the center famagusta. But, also, my other grandfather, my mother's grandfather, his family also came from the from the central Famagusta. They had an orchard. My great grandfather from my mother had an orchard in the center of Famagusta. Virtually center now not the center where Saint Nicholas is and so on but a little further down. Between not center and the coast, beach. But he offered this orchard, orange orchard to my grandfather, but

he said she didn't want to and he took some money. He spent it. Eventually he took more money and bought this land in Kato Varosha. He bought it from my other grandfather before they became Muhtar. He had a lot of land both in Kato varosha and mainly in Engomi, you know outside of Famagusta. My grandfather from my mother Mihalīs, bought this land. And at that time he got married and they started with my grandmother to plant oranges in that area to guard them. And so they built my family house there in about 1920s. My mother was born in that home, in that house in 1925 and I was born in the same house, the same room in 1944. So I lived most of my life, until we lost it, until the occupation of Varosha, I had most of my time in the orchard, in the family home next to the orchard.

- Thank you so much for telling me this. So do you remember living in Kato Varosha?
- Well, absolutely. As I said, most of my life. Well, I went to school in Kato Varosha, primary School, but from the age of 12, I used to go by bicycle to the center of Famagusta, which is where the gymnasium was. And I studied there for six years until I was 18 and from 18 to about 22-23 I was in England, I did one year in a school for GSCE then was accepted at Cambridge University and for three years I studied there economics and then I came back, I fell in love with my wife. And we went back to London so that she and I would finish law. But our son was born, she got pregnant. And our son was born in 1969, was born in in London. So we came back. My wife opened a law office in Famagusta. She was the first woman lawyer with a Law office in Famagusta. And I spend more time in visiting the courts and so I have to become a lawyer myself. But in 1972 one of my wife's customers, clients from Nicosia, offered me a job to be the manager of one of his firms in Nicosia. So we rented a house in Nicosia. We kept our house in Famagusta. Our house was given to me by my father, in Kennedy Avenue, just 100 meters away from the coast. And in the same plot of land my father started in about 1970, he started building a hotel, which was about to finish in the summer of 1974. It was about to start operating in September 1974. Anyway, we kept that home so that we can spend holidays and in the summer we came back from Nicosia so but in 1974, due to the occupation, we lost, both my wife closed the law office and I lost my job in Nicosia and we went to Limassol as refugees, where my father and my parents were there for a couple of months and then my

parents went to Athens. So that my father could work. So we stayed in Limassol for a couple of years and then I got the job in Nicosia, in a bank from 1975 onwards. And my wife also she worked in some Law Offices and then she became an ambassador. She became a diplomat. And later, for 12 years she was appointed an ambassador in Beijing from 1990 approximately. then she was ambassador in Rome and then in London, she finished her career as the ambassador of Cyprus High Commissioner in London. Myself due to, that we lost everything in Famagusta, our property, our moneys. As I said, I started a job in the bank and the bank sent me to London for six years. I was the manager of the bank, with branches of the bank in London for six years. So we lived, perhaps my wife and I, we lived apart from 12-15 years.

- That must have been hard. That must have been hard to be away.
- It was hard. Yes, of course. And then we had in 73, just just before the occupation, we had a daughter. And so we had to look after the two children as well and pay for their schools and so on.
- Thank you so much. You have told me so many things and I have lots of questions about them. You said I'm going to start with first, you said your wife was the first woman lawyer in Famagusta.
- Yes and later the first woman ambassador.
- That this is really amazing and you said she has a law office. Where was it?
- It was you, you know, where the police station? Right opposite that. Now the police station is occupied by Turkish people, and they have shops there and their offices rather. so and in fact in about 10-15 years ago I went to visit one of those shops, sorry offices and it was right opposite my wife's office. So I was really moved because I saw my my wife's Law office. Right opposite where I was visiting this Turkish gentleman for a job. So going to something else, apart from this, I didn't visit Famagusta or Varosha, except for some events. there was an event when Othello Tower in the Old Town, within the town was rebuilt and so on. So we went there with

my wife. And we went also to Salamis ancient theatre, the Roman theatre where actually in 1962, when I was in last gymnasium class, we played a classical Greek, an ancient Greek theatre. We played that in the ancient theater, when it was rebuilt, renovated, we played there. Anyway, we visited Salamis Theater again some years ago for watching a play. Now I didn't visit, apart from what I told you visiting the old police station and I didn't visit Varosha. first of all, before 1920, you couldn't visit the enclaved, the enclosed part of the town. But when the three or four times that we went there in Famagusta generally, my wife persuaded me, I couldn't go to our family home in Kato Varosha. Because, I didn't. But I knew it was inhabited by Turks from Turkey, by settlers from Turkey. So I didn't have the strength to go there, but my wife persuaded me and young lady who was there were very polite, Turkish young lady. When she learned that I was born there, she took me by hand and took me to the room I was born, in my room. What was really shocking when I went out of the house to see the orchard and so on. And I saw that there was not a single tree. All the orchards, miles of orchards in Kato Varosha. There was not a single tree. Everything was like Mesaoria, where the land is for corn, anyway. And it was the shock of my life. So I cannot go again now. Why the orchards were destroyed? I don't know. There are two or three main versions. One version is that the water became salty and they died.

- Where is your house in Kato Varosha?
- If you start from the center where the shops and the coffee shops and everything. Then you take Kama source Ave. Which brings towards the church of Saint George of Fahrenheit. Now, after about 500 meters, there was a school. Where I was schooled from age 6 to 12. and then another 100 meters was our house, and there were a few houses there, but most houses, for each orange orchards there was one house. There were very few other houses. In our neighborhood, there were five or six houses next to the school, there were about 8 or 10 houses and also not very far from there, facing the school 200 meters was the Church of Trissosfiliodis. Filia means cave. My grandmother used to take me to church there when I was four or five or six and it was really amazing. When the bells, the bell tower was on top, but the church was underground. You had to go. And in fact, in the 14th and 15th and

16th centuries, visitors, there, they say that we went to the village of Stillodisa. They were amazed because there was a bell tower, but we had to go under, one writer says that 36 steps to go down. Another one said that there were 26 steps. So the head of our school, our gymnasium, the famous writer, Kyriakos Adriano comments this and said maybe one of the two didn't count properly. But it was amazing. Around 1960s, in the 60s, the biggest church in Famagusta that was built next to the underground, the cave. It was the biggest in the whole Famagusta, Famagusta District. And now, after 74 it became a mosque.

- You you are giving me so much information.
- What I forgot to tell you I wrote two books about Famagusta in 2015. I wrote the history of Famagusta, the title is Famagusta, the unfinished story, 700 pages. And it was very successful, the editor is pressing me to go for a second edition anyway, and the other book was a shorter one. The other book is a shorter one. It about ten people of Famagusta from 1900 to 1974. Ten people, most of whom are relatives, one or two were also not famous but important people. One was the mayor of Famagusta, the other one was member of the Parliament during the British occupation.
- Is it possible for me to get those books where can I get them?
- I don't think the first one doesn't, it's not available anymore in bookshops, it is available in tht library in Nicosia in Bookshops. The other one. Perhaps I have a few myself. I don't know how to send it to you.
- I can contact you when I'm in Cyprus and would really like to get it.
- Ah, excellent. Excellent. Very good.
- OK, I'm going to the questions. You said you visited your house in what year?
- About 6-7, eight years ago.

- So you didn't go when the borders opened?
- No, no, I have not been there. Even in 2004 it was open or after doors opened. But I have seen hundreds of photographs in Facebook.
- After when, when in 2003, when the borders opened, you didn't go right away and you said you didn't go after the opening, which year is in?
- No, I thought you were talking about 2020 when the enclaved part of Famagusta was open.
- Oh no, I will come to that. I have another question for that.
- Yes, but after 2003 I went, just one or two parts of Famagusta of the North enclave.. And as I told you, my wife forced me to go to our home.
- Apart from your own house, did you try to see anything inside of Varosha, the fenced off area?
- No, as I said. I have not gone to the fenced of area after it opened in 2020.
- So, if I asked you which one is the most remarkable and vivid memory for you of Varosha, what would you say?
- Oh, and there are so many memories. But some I remember from being a young boy, when I was 6-7. One is that my grandfather, I have his name and he had his office, he was the muhtar as I said and he was also a merchant. Due to the huge land he had in Engomi. He had many Turkish friends. Turkish Cypriot friend, from the enclave, sorry, from the Walled City, within the walled city. So he used to visit there often and he used to go by a cart, with a horse. Which were the taxis in the early times. So he took me once too a coffee shop, he was talking to his friends. Right facing us was the Church of Saint Sophia, Saint Nicholas, actually we, Famagustians, used to call it Agia Sophia, but the real name was Saint Nicholas. It was built by the Franks and

it was a beautiful, really. I was really shocked. I can never forget that the face of that Church. And now it's a mosque from 1571, when Famagusta was occupied by Lala Mustafa Pasha. The mosque got changed and its called lala Mustafa mosque. Another memory is from my other grandfather. The other grandfather had his own horse and cart. And he used to take us outside Famagusta, for example, one thing that I remember, was really amazing, he took us to Salamis. You know, just outside Famagusta. Very, very interesting. And of course, as I mentioned. Before Kantara was something I will never forget because most of my summers, I was there. Actually my grandparents, the muhtar built the 1st house in Kantara. The land belonged to the church, and they persuaded the Archbishop to convert it to land. And my grandparents bought 3 plots of land. And one they built the 1st house. Kantara is really, even though it's 30-40 kilometers away, it's part of Famagusta. It was the holiday resort for the Famagustians, for the people of Varosha. Now I keep saying Famagusta and Varosha, the original name was a Ammochostos, in Greek means buried in sand. And from ammochostos, the Franks changed it to Famagusta. And that was the name. Of course, the of Famagusta goes back three and a half thousand years. Because originally the first town in the area was Engomi or Alasia. Then it was Salamis. Then it was Constantia. Then it was Arsinoe. And finally, Ammochostos, Famagusta. And of course the Lusignans and the Venetians built fantastic walls around the city. Because they were afraid of the Ottomans, and eventually they did come. Famagusta, fought very bravely for some 10-11 months, but eventually they surrendered, because they had no food. And from 1571 until 1878, when it was transferred to the British, it was under the Ottoman. Now in

- 1574, 2 years after the occupation, the Sultan sender ferman, you know an order; giving instructions to expell all Christians outside the walled City. And that's how Varosha was created. Ferman itself, a translation of which I have in my book and he said send them outside, expell them from the city, maybe in a varos. Does it mean anything to you?
- Yes, yes it does.

- So that's how the name Varosha became. Even though in the last 10-20-30 years, or even before 74, the the district was called Famagusta, Ammochostos, but also officially the town, Greek part of the town was called also Ammochostos. But the the people of Varosha used to call it Varosha. In fact, when my father died in 1988 and his mother, my grandmother, was about 100 years, then she died at the age of 105. I asked her, what should we write on the stone cross where he was buried. Shall we write from Famagusta or from Varosha? From Varosha my son, Famagusta is Turkish. Your father is not Turkish. They're used to live some Turks in Varosha and some Greeks in Famagusta until the 50s and 60s. But as I said, until the 50s and 60s, until the relationship between the Greeks and the Turks were very good, as I told you, my grandfather used to visit very often and we used to go. There were one or two churches like the Agios Giorgos, remained Christian churches and we used to go there. Many years I remember. In fact, my grandfather had so many Turkish friends, that he also had many priests and bishops, and archbishops as friends. Many Varosha people used to joke at him and tell him you have friends only Turks and priests, nobody else. And when he died in 1952 Archbishop Makarios came from Nicosia to the Church of Saint Nicholas in Famagusta, in Varosha for the burial.

- It is really interesting that you are talking about the relation between Famagusta and Varosha. And to be honest, you are the first person to refer to Varosha as Varosha because since I have been doing my interviews everyone has been correcting me. It's not Varosha, it's Famagusta. It is a whole and it is really interesting that you are referring to it and how your grandma said that Famagusta is Turkish Varosha is Greek.

- At the beginning of my book, on the history, there are several pages about the name, how the name I explained the name of Famagusta from Ammochostos and Varosha. From the ferman and so on.

- So after 1960, I'm guessing the relation between the Old Town and Varosha changed a lot. So from 1960 to 74, was there any Turkish speaking Cypriots in Varosha?

- I don't think so. Visiting yes, many of them were visiting and working, but I can't remember whether any Turkish Cypriots lived in Varosha. And as I said before, Greek Cypriots definitely lived in Famagusta, a few of them, but after 55 and 63 they moved away.
- And going back to the question. What is your memory, that is more vivid, just related to inside of fenced off area. What would you say?
- Well, first of all, it was our house, our home with my wife and two children. And this home was in the same plot of land as I said before as the hotel. So both the home there and the hotel is really important memory. But now I can visit it. I can visit the hotel but as I said, psychologically I find it very difficult to. Same with Kantara. All my cousins and friends, my brother have visited Kantara. And I have many photographs, but unfortunately our house there, the first one that was built by my grandparents has virtually collapsed. So I can not go. After 2003 when it was allowed to visit not the enclave, but the rest of Varosha. My mother went there with my brother and my son, her grandson. And she had the same shock that I had when she went outside the house and saw that there were no orchard at all. Not a single tree. She is still alive. She's not very well, but she's 97.
- I wish her more health and long years.
- Very nice of you.
- You said the plot is on Kennedy Ave. Which hotel is it?
- The hotel, the name is Aurora. Aurora name given by my father. But as I said, it was put that down, 15th of July 74 and I think also on the day of the invasion, my wife was inside the hotel. Just helping overseeing the workers there to put in furniture in the rooms. Because as I said before, the hotel was to start operating in September. It had been rented and it was to start our operations in September 74.

- Really great that you had a relation in Kato Varosha and inside of the fenced off area as well. And you said you were riding bicycle to go to the gymnasium. Would you like to share more memories from those ages. where you were living in Kato Varosha and visiting inside of Varosha? What was the relation between Kato Varosha and Varosha?
- Well, it was just a parish. Just a part of Famagusta, Varosha it was the same. The municipality of Famagusta, includes all these parishes. The central parish of Agios Nicholas, Kato Varosha, Saint Luke, Agios Memnon and so on. All of them are one municipality. And one other point is that the fenced off area, which was opened two years ago. Yeah. That is a relatively small part. It's 1/5 of the municipality. Relatively 80%, 4/5 of Varosha is inhabited by settlers from Turkey, according to my information.
- My next question is, what does the name ghost town mean to you?
- Well, it's really sad. It reminds us of Famagusta and that we cannot return and live there. I'm trying to remember because at point, Greek Cypriot point, didn't like the use of the word ghost town. He used another word, I will remember it later.
- And I know you said you visited after the borders opened your house, but did you visit after October 2020?
- No, as I said, I have not been in the last two years. I have not been to either Famagusta, or Varosha or Kato Varosha. Famagusta within the walled city or anywhere, the last few years. I had been before, as I said, I went to Saint George Exorinos church, I went to the event for Othello tower within the walls. And I also went to, parts of Varosha, which were not fenced off. And Kato Varosha, when I visited once, only when I visited our parental home. After that, we drove, by car we drove to Farengars, the church, but unfortunately it was in a bad situation and it was worse, as I said, no more orchards at all. Before 74, in Kato Varosha, wherever you look, except the center of Kato Varosha, where there were shops and homes, everywhere else there were orchards. You couldn't see houses, because there were so many orchards that you couldn't see the house next. When I say house, the house

of the owners of the next orchard. And as I said before, next to our parental home there were five or six houses.

- Have you not visited the front of Constantia hotel where you can see the beach side?
- Oh no. As I said I was, I went to the ex police station and where I saw Savoy Hotel. Just one or two places of Varosha.
- If I asked you if there is any place in Varosha where you feel connected, what would you say?
- Well, one place, as I said before, is there the house that my father gave us next to hotel. But also I remember very well, Stuart Levon. Portico Glovers, which before 1950 approximately was the home of my grandfather. And they demolished it and built several shops on the floor, on the ground floor and three flats on the first floor. One of these shops or offices on the ground floor was my father's office as a chartered accountant as an accountant, he had his office there, so I used to visit there. He used to take me there. And then I walked when I was before the age of eight years old. And I used to walk about 200 meters away to go to my grandfather's office, the muhtar, which was on the other side of Ermou street, which was the main commercial Street.
- So that building was in Ermou Street?
- It didn't belong to my grandfather. He used it as his office. Our building in Famagusta, Varosha, building in Ermou. My great grandfathers home was there. On the 1st floor and on the ground floor, he had shops and it was a really nice building.
- Where is it located exactly?
- Ermou Street starts from approximately Savoy Hotel, from the police station and the courts, justice courts. And it ended next to Saint Nicholas Church, where on turning left it was Democracy Street. Which is again, in more recent years, it was the Main

Street of Famagusta, and that street drove all the way towards the coast, the beach. Going, walking or driving democracy street, towards the end you reach, to your left you reach the gymnasium. Where I studied for six years and on the right was Likeon Ellinidon, the Greek ladies Lyceum. Very nice, beautiful building. There was, in Democracy street was Hadjihambi cinema.

- If I asked you to describe me your daily life, which right before the 1974. Where would you say that you were spending more time and everything in Varosha?
- To be exact at that period of time I lived in Famagusta, for only a couple of years because we came back from London, as I said before, when our son was born at the end of 69. Then in 72 I got a job in Nicosia. And we rented the house and lived there, but we, also, as I said, we kept our home next to the hotel. And we used to come weekends and so on. It was a short period. The interesting thing is that those people that became friends of mine at the gymnasium. 5 people and myself 6. We are friends till now. Best friends, closest friends until now. In fact, after the occupation, as I said, many of us went abroad to work. So we lost contact. Eventually some 10-15 years ago, they all came back. And they live in Nicosia or outside Nicosia. I gathered them together and we organized meetings. One of us invites the other five and their wives, of course. And we got together again.
- How was the gymnasium years? What were you doing day to day in when you were going to the gymnasium? How was life?
- Again, with these friends, these five friends, but also the teachers at the gymnasium, some of them were amazing. As I said before, the famous writer. So it was really amazing. In fact, when I went to Cambridge and I showed them my results, I was accepted because they saw what we were taught and who were the teachers and my grades at the gymnasium and I was accepted without GCEs.
- So the education was really good in the gymnasium?
- Extremely good.

- And what was the places that was mostly used by you or your friends at the time?
- We used to go to Kypseli sweet shop, coffee shop. It's in the centre of town there, at the corner of Democracy Street and Evagorou Street. It was the most well known coffee shop, sweet shop. And we used to go there to spend some time. But also swimming at the beach, travelling by bicycle. It was a really interesting period with these five people, five friends.
- Would you say that you were spending so much time on Democracy Avenue?
- No, not myself, because I had to go back to Kato Varosha by bicycle, but it's so well known. Most of the time that I spend in the center of Varosha was in democracy, but also the beach. There were so many nice coffee shops like Faliro and other places, but it was really nice and the coast, how lovely the coast is, the sand and the sea there.
- Which place has the most value for you from those years?. When you were going to gymnasium, which place would you say has the biggest value for you?
- Well, the gymnasium itself, the cinemas, Hadjihambi and Olympia and so on that we used to go. The Greek ladies lyceum, as I said, beautiful building. But also places just outside of Famagusta, like Salamis, Karaulos, where the Jews were enclaved by the British, after the Second World War. And of course the village of Engomi, where my father used to take me. Because he inherited his grandfather's lands there and we used to go to his friend the person who cultivated Islam and share with 50/50 with the products. My grandfather had baptized him and my father baptized his son, who now lives in Larnaca, anyway. We used to go there and we used to visit also the ancient city of Engomi or Alasia. In fact, there is a small story, in the late 1920s And the Prince, who later became King of Sweden. There was an excavation team headed by the Prince from Sweden and when they were digging, they found a wall. So the Prince asked, to whom does this land belong? And the villagers told my grandfather. Bring him here, he said. My grandfather didn't speak English, so he sent my father, who was 17 then. He was at the gymnasium. He used to tell me the story

that he went into the tent where he was living for a few weeks. And he asked him how much do you want for this land and because my father knew that the value was very low and also, it was important that the land was used for the excavations, he said nothing, it's yours.

- You said when I asked you which places were important for you, you told lyceum of women. What was the connection between lyceum of woman and gymnasium?
- No connection really. Because it was for ladies to start with. My wife, even though my wife is from Nicosia, she lived several years of the primary school, all six years of the primary school she did in Famagusta, because her father was a judge. And he was appointed for a few years, 6-7 years in Famagusta. And because my father was very sociable, everybody who came to Famagusta, like my wife's father and also other people who came there. They became friends. That's how I Met my wife, when I was when we were both six or seven. So my wife was a member of the Lyceum there. And she played at the theater and so on. But the other thing is that the gymnasium, until approximately 62 when I finished there, it was all males. There were no girl students. They had another gymnasium.
- Where was it?
- The other gymnasium? Next to. How shall I describe it? I forgot the name, there was a church and it was at that point the road towards Kato Varosha started. So it was towards the West of the center. And there was a church there, again, partly underground. I will remember the name and the girls who took exams and so on, including Turkish Cypriot girls used to go there and pray, so that they would be successful in their exams.
- So the Greek Gymnasium was for males. Until when?
- Well, from 1960 there were two or three girls in the commercial section. There was classical and commercial section, for the last three years and there were two or three girls only. After 1962, when I left, I don't know when what happened.

- And when did you come back from school?
- In 1967 when I finished my studies at the university.
- Was there any difference between the two 1962 to 1967 when you came back to Varosha?
- There were important differences because those were the years that hotels and big buildings were built in, nearby on the beach. So there was considerable change, also Famagusta, from the end of the 50s, from 1960 onwards became a very important commercial city, partly because of the harbor. The most important harbour in Cyprus. The orchard. Because the oranges were sold to Europe, England and tourism of course. Just to give you a small example, I think it was 1960, a film was partly filmed in Varosha, it was Exodus, which was the history of the Jews, because as I said before from 45 until 48, I think they were enclosed in Carolus, just outside of Famagusta. So this film was partly filmed in Famagusta and famous authors Paul Newman, I think, and some other, we saw them in Famagusta, in Varosha.
- Was there a big change in life after these changes?
- Well, some change. Because people change there, many people changed their work. They used to work for hotels and other buildings for tourism. And some hotels were built just outside Famagusta. So there must have been some change.
- What buildings was the landmark buildings for the locals at that time?
- Well, the big hotels, I can't remember the names now. I have a list in my books. Constantia and Florida and the King George were built in the 30s. They were the first hotels on the coast on the beach and but from then until 1960, I can't remember any hotels from 60 onwards. There must have been one or two. Of course. Most of the hotels and there are so many and some very large ones, they were built in 60s and 70s.

- Apart from hotels, what places were the most used and valuable for you Famagustians?
- What I what I mentioned before, the coffee shops in democracy Street. The coffee shops on the coast on the beach.
- So those places did not change with these big hotels coming in?
- Some of them, like faliro and what's the other one there? Two or three of them were the same. They were built in the beginning with the 1st 20 or 30 years or of the 20th century. Anyway, and there were so many hotels and buildings and other coffee shops and so on, built after 1960. But those 3, were the ones that we remember best because they were there for so many years.
- And you said you were going to cinema like Hadjihambi and everything.
- Yes, Hadjihambis, Olympia, Rio, I can't remember the name, but Olympia and Hadjihambis were the oldest ones. Now, Hadjihambis virtually collapsed.
- And you have seen this through photographs, right?
- Oh, yes, yes.
- And this brings me to my next question. You are the owner, admin of one of the biggest facebook group dedicated to Varosha, Famagusta. What made you make a Facebook group and how did it start?
- I started some 10 years ago. At some stage it was the biggest. Now it's I think it's the second biggest because I don't have so much time to spend. But anyway the reason was to make Famagusta known. To remember Famagusta in the first place, for us people who live in Famagusta to remember it, and also for people, like my sons and my grandchildren, who never lived it. Well, my son lived for four years in Famagusta.

But many people, most of Famagusta people nowadays have never lived. So it's one way to help them to get to know.

- Probably there has been a big change in what was being shared before the opening and after the opening. So before the opening, what buildings or what places were the most shared ones on the Facebook group?
- Well, the buildings and also streets. And because some people had photographs and also some people took photographs from the areas which were not fenced off. So there were photographs. But now, of course, the photographs coming also from the fenced off area. Amazing. It's hundreds. Thousands.
- Before the opening, which buildings or which streets were the most shared ones and collectively remembered ones?
- The ones that we mentioned the gymnasium, the lyceum. The streets that democracy St. and more Ermou St. The cinemas. And the beach, of course. Faliro and the coffee shops on the beach and so on. And the new buildings, hotels.
- And I know that you said you didn't visit Varosha after the opening, but obviously you are probably seeing lots of photographs from the opened places. Is there any place that you were expecting to see from those photographs?
- Yes, even though I have some photographs of the hotel. I'd like to see photographs of it as it is now. And I asked a friend who visits Famagusta very often and takes photographs. I asked him to take photographs but I have not seen it yet I have not. He hasn't brought it to me yet.
- You said you can see it now because it is on the open street, right?
- Yes, yes.

- If if you send me the location that I might send, I might have the photograph of the hotel.
- Well, do you know Alasia?
- I do, yes.
- We forgot to mention it before. It was one of the oldest and very successful. Kennedy Avenue, exactly behind the Alasia, 100 meters approximately away from the beach from Alasia. At that point is our home and behind the home, is the hotel. Actually there is another road behind which is Lincoln Street. Really both Kennedy Avenue and Lincoln Street. Actually, my father was planning to demolish the house, our house so that the hotel would be maybe he would build a swimming pool. Because the hotel initially had three-star hotel, but when a swimming pool was built, it would be four.
- Because I went inside of Varosha and because I'm doing research on Varosha, I have photographs sort of every building on the opened part. So I will look into it and if I will send you the photograph, if you want.
- Yeah, it's not a large hotel. It's, eight stories I think. As I said, in front of it there is a long, narrow one room narrow, long house. The area next to the hotel is empty from what I saw from photographs, it's empty and it has been cleaned. Because there were bushes and trees and it has been cleaned totally.
- So I'm looking at the map right now. The Lincoln Street is right in front of the Lordos Hotel apartments. And next to the Riviera Hotel. So the building is located on the plots between the Little Lincoln and Kennedy Avenue right?
- Yes, Lincoln and Kennedy, yes.
- I will send you the photographs. Going back to my questions. Do you see a feature for Varosha?

- Well, we hope for a future. When there were discussions between the two sides and the United Nations always Famagusta was, Varosha was, I don't know, If agreed is correct but at least between the Greek side and the United Nations, it was decided that Varosha will be returned Under United Nations administration, and that the owners, we will be able to return. That was decided many years ago, but unfortunately now my fear now, is that there may be, I'm sorry to say this, there may be an objective, difficult objective by the Turkish side. That they want to use Famagusta as a tourist resort and not allow the owners to return. That's my fear. There is, of course, the committee, to which the Greeks, the Greek Cypriots, the owners of Famagusta properties in Varosha can apply, but it's difficult. It takes many years. It's not certain that some people who had applied and won their application. For example, some applied to receive compensation for the inability to use their properties. And so many years, as far as I know, with the exceptional one lady who had property in Kyrenia. I don't know where many people or any people who have received any compensation.
- What kind of? Feature would you like to see?
- As I said, I think the what is fair is for the people of Famagusta to be able to return to rebuild the houses and hotels and so on. And together with the Turkish Cypriots within the walls to be able to live happily and also exploit Famagusta as a tourist resort.
- Did the October 2020 opening change your mind about the future of Varosha?
- Well, as I said it gives a hope but on the other hand it depends on what the objective is. If the objective is negative, then it gives me very sad prospects.
- And do you think some places in Varosha should be protected as they are now?
- Well, what do you mean by this? I saw this question but what exactly do you mean?
- Like preserved as it is or rebuild it the same.

- Absolutely yes. I mean it would be a crime to destroy the gymnasium or lyceum and so many other places. And the same applies to ancient places like Salamis and so on. It would be a pity if they will destroy, if they are not protected.
- You said the gymnasium, the lyceum, and what other places? Could you name them for me?
- I don't know my memory is a bit weak and I forget some places and let me see if I can find something in the, just give me one minute, please.
- Yes, sure. No problem.
- We didn't mention the feast, that were taking place in Famagusta from all the times the flood festival Cataclysmo, the flower festival of Hysteria and the orange festival. So people from all over Cyprus used to visit famagusta to watch these festivities.
- I knew that there was Orange Festival, but what other two did you say? Flower and flood?
- Cataclysmo, I translated cataclysmo to flood, that was that took place on the beach there were swimming competitions, many competitions there and also singing Cypriot songs competition again It was probably the oldest of the three festival. And very, very successful, people, as I said, coming from everywhere.
- And it would take place in the center of Famagusta, Varosha, at the beach.
- Yes,yes.
- OK, I think that was all of my questions. Is there anything else you would like to tell me or something that I forgot to ask?
- No, I think you covered everything really. And let me just have a look. I have my notes here, a lot of notes and I cannot find anything that we've not talked about.

E13 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Absolutely. I was there in 1973.
- Can you open that more, what is your relation to Varosha?
- OK, so my relation to Varosha is in 1973 my parents decided to take myself, my brother and sister for a holiday in Cyprus and they choose varosha. It was our first time from the UK and so we went there for two weeks. And we stayed in an apartment block in Varosha, which is now still inhabited by the Turkish army.
- And which hotel is that?
- It is, it was called then Lordos Etolier Court, which is next to the Sandy Beach Hotel.
- And you said it was your first time away from UK for holiday, right?
- Yes, correct.
- And do you know why or what made your family to choose to go on holiday to Varosha?
- Yes, because my dad did his national service with the British Army between 1956 and 1958 in Cyprus and he wanted to take us back there.
- So before that he also went to Varosha, before 1973?
- Yes, he must have done because he did duty in the Turkish old city in Famagusta.
- And was he talking about that times to you?

- Yes, he said how it was. It was 1955-59 was a very dangerous time in Varosha and the rest, some other points of Cyprus because of EOKA, there were really bad plans and they had to be very careful.
- And do you remember that two weeks in Varosha?
- Very clearly.
- And if I asked you what is the most vivid memory that you remember?
- The most vivid memory was on arrival and we arrived in the apartment block. And I remember the Porter in the apartment block, he took us to the room. He took us inside the room. And he opened the curtains and all we could see was beach and sea, a fantastic view. I would like to add to that, that was 1973 and in 2014 I found the same Porter again and he was aged 95 and suddenly four months later he died.
- I'm sorry about that.
- Ah he was 95, he had a good life.
- And if I asked you, what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- I don't think of it as a ghost town. I think of it as abandoned.
- Did you visit the surrounding area after 1974?
- Yes, after 1974 I did not go to Cyprus again until 1978. And we stayed in Limassol. And we tried to visit. Famagusta and Varosha, but obviously then we could only get so far before the UN line was there and they did not allow us. The first time I was able to see it again was in 1998 when tourists were allowed to cross the Nicosia.
- And what was the reason that you wanted to see the sounding of the wires?

- Probably because childhood memories, the fact that my father was in the army there and we found his army friend there, a Greek Cypriot. I wanted to see if he was still there, unfortunately, when I went back in 1998, the friend, he had passed away in 1985.
- Did you visit the Palm Beach area?
- Yes.
- And after 1998, have you visited again?
- Oh my God many times, many times. I know it's called the Palm Beach area, but the actual hotel used to be called Constantia. So, I know it says that and the King George Hotel the other way.
- And when you visited the surrounding, what stroke you the most?
- What struck me the most, I think. Well, I saw it all. I could not believe that the Turkish army had been allowed to take everything away, loot it and. You know the story about my father taking the photograph of me next to a Turkish soldier in 1973, a Turkish Cypriot soldier? You know that?
- No, I don't.
- I will send you the photograph sometime. And I uploaded this photograph to the Turkish Cypriot Famagusta group. Somebody recognised the soldier, and they said, Oh my God this is blah blah blah. He's still alive. I met him in 2009, 46 years later and we keep in touch. And he told me that he witnessed the Turkish army, they were bringing boats into the port, and they were loading containers onto the ships from all the hotels and the houses. From all the belongings in the houses and hotels.
- And when you investigated the like the seaside or from wherever you were looking from what could you see?

- I could see from the fence at Palm Beach area, I could see exactly where I used to be in 1973. I could see the Turkish army with the sun beds and the umbrellas right outside the apartment where I was. Very frustrating.
- Have you visited inside of Varosha after the October 2020 opening?
- Only about eight times.
- When you went there, have did it make you feel?
- First of all, it made me feel, oh, this is unbelievable and very sad. Then it made me feel, how could they have allowed this to happen?
- Did you have any memories coming back to you?
- Especially because I don't know how far you went or how far you walked in Varosha, but if you walked the same route as me, can you remember walking up Kennedy Avenue and then you had to turn right where the army is?
- Yes.
- OK. So, where you turn right there, you are literally 100 yards away from where I stayed. Just past that barrier, you can see the apartment block where I stayed.
- And what memories came back to you?
- I just remember walking up and down that avenue with my dad. He used to go to the bank every morning to change traveller's cheques in the bank. So yeah, I remember it very well. And also you probably didn't see it, but at that barrier to the left hand side there is a house, with a red tiled roof. And all the Turks think it is the House of Sophia Loren. It's not the House of Sophia Loren. It is called a Marango's House and it used to have the biggest library in Famagusta. Of course, it's all now been looted.

- And I know that you are one of the admins of the Varosha Facebook group. What made you get involved and create a Facebook group for Varosha?
- I think it's because Robin Plumber asked me if I wanted to be admin. I accepted because I wanted to get involved in an important matter of course. It's very difficult because, the Greek Cypriots are very highly charged and emotional about the matter. But at the end of the day, what the Greek Cypriots have to realise is the fact that is they caused this problem.
- And over the years, there's been so many photographs that are published in those Facebook groups. Did they help you to remember anything?
- Yes, some of them did. I mean, ultimately, when I walked inside Varosha, I started to remember. You have to realise, I was only 11 years old then. But I do have a very good memory. When you are a child there are certain things that you remember later on. And these are memories I have never lost. I just wish that the Greek Cypriots, they've had seven or eight chances to have Varosha back. And the government says no all the time. And then they start crying about it. Well, you had seven or eight chances to say yes, greedy.
- Is there a place in Varosha where you feel connected to?
- Not until 2020, when I was able to walk down Kennedy Avenue. And I saw for the first time in, oh My God, what, 48 years, 47 years or whatever, when I saw the apartment block and still in good condition.
- And that's the place you feel connected?
- Of course.
- And if I asked you, which place do you think carries the most historical importance for Varosha?

- Historical? For Varosha, well, Varosha is mainly a tourist area, so I suppose the nearest historical place would be, Saint Nicholas Church, which is what they call lala Mustafa pasha mosque. And of course, about 10 minutes away you have Salamis.
- And going back to the Facebook groups, I know that's there's a repetition of some photographs that keeps popping up on the feed. So which places would you say are the ones that kept popping up and being remembered by people?
- Oh my God. Yeah, you gonna have to help me out here.
- If we start with democracy? Which places do you think were the ones that's mostly remembered?
- You see democracy avenue and evagorou as well. Kennedy Avenue, obviously. There is a two places I will try and find within Varosha, one was called Andy's bar, which my dad used to take me to, and it was my first experience of salted popcorn. That the second one, my mum and dad used to go to a place called, London Kebab and I would like to try and locate these places. I do remember the market on Evagorou. Used to go there most mornings with my dad. They only allow that for Turkish army personnel to go along with it. They will not allow civilians to walk along it. You could only walk along Democracy and some parts of Kennedy.
- You said an Andy's bar and what was the second one?
- London Kebab.
- And you don't know where they are?
- That's the problem. I don't know the exact location. I was 11 years old.
- And apart from these two places, what did you expect to see the most? And apart from the apartment building that you stayed?

- I was hoping to walk along the full length of Kennedy Ave, past the apartment where we stayed, Sandy Beach Hotel, Golden Plage Hotel, the exact area I want to go to, it's only about what, two or 300 metres, and that two or 300 metres is where the army are. And they won't allow it. That is what I wanted to see. I want to go inside the apartment building. I know exactly where the room is, where we stayed. I wanted to see it.
- And what was life for the two weeks periods that you stayed in Varosha?
- It was really good. In fact, my parents were invited by Mr Lordos to a meal, and they had to get a babysitter for us. Yeah, because I was 11, my sister was 9 and my brother was 7. I will send you some pictures so I can sort of make you understand it, I have a few pictures from 1973 which maybe will help you in your whatever it is you're doing.
- You said you remember visiting municipal market as well, what do you remember the most about that?
- I can remember going in there with my dad and I could see the guys getting fish ready for sale. I can remember seeing the guys getting their vegetables and fruit stalls ready. Yeah, it was very, very busy place.
- And on Democracy Avenue was there any place that you would go with your dad or your mom?
- Be honest with you, the only other place I can really remember, it was on Kennedy Ave. My dad, like I say he used to take me to the bank but it was so nice cause in 1973 September is really hot and the bank was all air conditioned in 1973 thought, wow what's going on here? We just walked into a fridge. The only other thing that happened on Kennedy Avenue, I was walking with my dad one day and he could see this man walking towards us. And he said, my god that looks like John Cleese. Have you heard the name John Cleese?
- No.

- Have you heard the British programme Monty Python. What about Fawlty Towers?
- Sorry.
- OK, well it was very famous programmes back in the UK and he said I'm sure that's the guy from the programme and sure enough it was. And this guy was walking towards us and my dad just said to him, hello John, how are you? And he said I'm fine, thank you. Are you having a good holiday? And that was it. But yeah, famous UK person we met.
- And you said you were visiting a bank on Kennedy Avenue Which one is it, I don't remember seeing a bank when I walked.
- Right. I'm trying to remember it was on Kennedy Avenue, maybe could be in the area where the Turkish army is and that is why. Obviously on Democracy you see the Barclays Bank, right?
- Yes. And apart from the Municipal market, the bank and Andy's bar and London Kebab, was there any place that you were visiting or going?
- I can remember one hotel we went to, I'm afraid, I can't remember the name. We were invited to this hotel and we had a very, well, a very posh meal. We were invited by Mr Lordos and I can't remember, I was only 11. I really can't remember.
- Can I ask how come they invited you?
- I don't know how my mum and dad got involved with Mr Lordos. I think it was George Lordos is the name. I'm friends with Andreas Lordos, which is his son. Uh, but I don't know how we get involved with him.
- And do you see a future for Varosha?

- I think there is a future for Varosha. I believe that some areas of Varosha can be rebuilt. But some other areas will have to be demolished beyond repair.
- And did any of the things that happened after the October 2020 opening changed your mind about the future?
- I always believed before 2020 anything is repairable until I walked in there and I saw for my own eyes. And then I realised, I think actually the only area that will probably be repairable is number one, where the Turkish army are now. Because obviously that's still been going for nearly 50 years. Beyond that, on the coastal area you can clearly see the structures of some buildings. Can be rebuilt or, well, not rebuilt but repaired.
- And you said when you went inside, apart from the places that you remembered, was there any places that you saw and struck you the most?
- I think what was very, very sad is when the King George Hotel collapsed. I don't think that was a passage of time, but I think that was done on purpose.
- Why do you think that?
- Because I know the mentality of Cypriots. Well, I think, yes, we've opened the doors, so you can come and see and when you think about it, that place has stood for nearly fifty years. They opened the place and all of a sudden things collapse. Why?
- Do you think the same Falirou as well?
- Yes, definitely. I think that had helped collapsing.
- And apart from these? I'm going to go back to your childhood again. What was the relation between the locals and tourists at the time?

- As far as I can remember, we were, you know, the Cypriots, Greek Cypriots were very welcoming. I can remember walking along the old city walls with my mom and dad, brother and sister, and all the Turkish Cypriot children were coming up to me wanted sweets. It was all very friendly. So yeah, it was a good atmosphere.
- You said you were walking in the Old Town so but considering at the time Greek Cypriots were not allowed to walk inside, so did you feel that tension at all?
- Not at all. Number one, because I did not realise Greek Cypriots were not allowed to go there. Number two, I was only 11 years old. I would not realise this. Yeah.
- And you said you were going to municipal market with your dad, which is a very local thing to do. Was there anything that's you and your dad was doing very local like this?
- Not really from what I remember, we were just looking at what was being sold and what was on offer to buy. That sort of thing.
- Have you visited or went to any of the cinemas?
- No, no, I don't remember any of that.
- And if I asked you, if any of the places in Varosha should be protected as they are now. What would you say?
- I really think the areas of Varosha that should be protected or where the Turkish army are now. Cause obviously, it is fully functioning. And they have maintained that area, so even if they have to, should we say, demolish the rest of Varosha, that should be a landmark for how Varosha was.
- And apart from this, is there any place or building that should be protected, even though they're not fully functioning?

- I do think things like the football stadiums and the cinemas, if they can, and churches, all churches should be restored to their former glory.
- You said the stadium, is there a reason for that?
- Well, because it was very important at the time. There used to be a lot of sports going on.
- And when you visited, have you come across any of these sports events?
- No, no. I didn't have time, there was a war.
- And have you come across any events when you were spending time there?
- You mean in 1973?
- Yes.
- No, no, not that I remember. No.
- You said there is lots of photos from that time. Do you remember where those photos were taken?
- You mean the photos that my dad took?
- Yes.
- Oh yeah, I remember. Yeah, all of them. Yeah.
- And what are those places?

- Well, there were photos taken on the beach. There were photos taken inside the apartment. There were photos taken when my Mum and Dad were dressed up, ready to go with Mr Lordos. I will send these to you.
- Thank you. And if I asked you, because you said the churches, stadium and cinemas could be the ones to be protected. So if I asked you, looking at the perspective from the Varoshians, the people that lived there, yeah, places, do you think that are important to them?
- Well, obviously their own personal houses will be very important, but obviously you must remember walking in Varosha yourself in 2020 or 2021 you can remember, there is a Turkish sort of like mosque, church thing that they are restoring. Have you seen it?
- I did.
- I mean, I can remember in 2004 when they relaxed the borders, the first place the Greek Cypriots went to was that church with all the oil drums down the side. There was a guy there. He was on the other side. He might have been a policeman. He was in civilian clothes telling the Greek Cypriots, no photos, no photos. And I am thinking, wait a minute, this is their church. It's difficult, very difficult.
- And for mosque inside of Varosha, this is not the case. You mean?
- Yes.
- And why do you think that is?
- Cause you know, these are people's lives, houses, where they used to live, they should be, it's like putting carrots in front of somebody's face. Yes, you can come back. But you can't visit, you can't walk in there. It's torture.

- Obviously personal houses to these people are important because they carry the sentimental values, but. If you think from the perspective of the public or which places, do you think carries into mental values?
- Oh my God. There's so many places. I mean people, I mean okay, Greek Cypriots will have many favourite places. They will remember festivals, orange festivals, all the rest of it. I did think it was very, very poor taste. But you must have seen it yourself when you go back in Varosha and there is that very nice building that used to have a Greek writing on the front. And the Turkish Cypriots have blanked it out with a piece of wood. Why do that? And also also in the gardens there, nearly opposite, where they put the Turkish flag and the Turkish Cypriot flag across the building. Why? It's to mess with people's heads. Not nice.
- And you talked about the building in front next to the municipal garden. I'm gonna go back to your visit again. Do you remember visiting that municipal garden at all?
- In 73?
- Yes.
- No, I don't. I have to admit, no.
- And you said Orange Festival is important to them. Why do you think that is?
- Because it was done every year and he was done in those gardens. You can even see they still have the frames that they used to put the oranges on. And you know, they made it so they cleaned it all up, made it nice, so it's all messing with peoples heads here so that when they come back. They see and they remember.
- You knowing about the Orange Festival and most of the buildings, is that because of the Facebook groups?

- Mainly, yes. I mean it's obviously you, you probably seen yourself videos et cetera what used to happen in VAROSHA. And it's all been taken away from them. And now they think they are going to be able to do it again, but they only get little bits teasing them.
- So at the beginning you talked about when you visited after do you were able to go to the North Cyprus, you said the King George Hotel and Constantia Hotel. You saw these places. Do you remember visiting King George Hotel?
- Yeah. So you know when you go onto the beach near Palm Beach and you have the Devran Beach restaurant?
- Yes.
- In 1998, that did not exist. There was nothing there, just a little shack with a Turkish Cypriot guy selling drinks. So the Devran Beach restaurant didn't really happen until about 2010 or something maybe later.
- And my last question. When you visited the surrounding area, but also the inside. Apart from how the buildings are taken over by the trees or flowers? Was there anything that stroke you the most? That was the remembrance of the war. Other than the lootings, of course?
- The smell.
- The smell and how did it change?
- The smell. I'm trying to think of the best word for it. I didn't notice it the first time I went in there, but I was there last Christmas. But it just smelt, I want to use the word death, but it's the wrong word it smelt sadness.
- And do you remember how it smelled when you were children?

- Oh my God, yes, you could smell Jasmine flowers everywhere. Even in the taxis on the dashboards, they had Jasmine flowers. It was beautiful smell.
- During that two weeks periods, would you say you spend most of your time on Kennedy Avenue or democracy?
- Let me think. Probably both. But my dad hired a car, so we went all over the island.
- So what do you remember the most about Kennedy I need?
- Kennedy Ave is a very long Ave. It was used to be very, very busy. Lots of restaurants open. Lots of bars open. Is always very busy. The only other thing I do remember is at the time in the 1973 they had a problem. I think they had a problem with the sewerage system and sort of like late in the afternoon, you would have this terrible smell.
- And in terms of the use of this area, would you say it was mostly used by the tourists?
- Definitely, yeah.
- Do you think that you need to add anything to any of the answers you have given to me?
- The only thing I would add is I promised myself that one day I will get back there and visit. Where we stayed, unfortunately, you know, I mean, I lost my dad in 2014. Eight months later, I lost my mum. I always said one day I will get back there. I'll get back in the apartment building. I'll try to get to the room that we were in, it is a childhood memory and I just want to see it one more time, just to see how much it has changed. I have a feeling it will not have changed very much because the Turkish army, they've really, apart from painting the outside, they don't do very much to upgrade things.
- Why do you think you feel this much connected to that place?

- Probably because I've been asked this question before, probably because it was my very first holiday not in England. It was all exciting.
- Is there anything that you think I should have asked you but I didn't?
- Not really. I would. I mean, I don't know how far you went inside for Varosha, if you went right to the very end. When you go along Kennedy Avenue and there's a little foot back to the beach. When you go down that footpath to the beach and you look left, you can see where I stayed. Also the Turkish call it a military area, is not a military area is people's houses and its peoples you know, past. There's nothing military there.

E14 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- I feel connected to Maraş. Because we had ties from the past in Maraş. I mean, I come from a family with a commercial background, especially in business. That's why our family's first relationship in Maraş, let's call it, started in 1954. Because my father, together with his brothers, owned a business on Ermou Street in Nicosia. After that, they decided to expand the business and opening a second branch came to the fore. Wherever a branch is opened on the island, it will be the most profitable, they decided in Maraş. And in 1954, my father came to Famagusta as a volunteer among the brothers and opened the second branch in Maraş, also on Ermou Street. Of course, this branch was able to function from 1954 to 58 year. That was the fate of the shop in Nicosia. Because Ermou street is on both sides, although it was here in Maraş, but Ermou street in Nicosia was very close to the border. Due to the clashes, they had to leave both Nicosia Ermou and Famagusta Ermou. They had to move further inland in Nicosia, across the street from the Palace hotel. In Famagusta, my father closed the shop at that time and had to come to the city walls and move the second branch. We have a relationship from that time. Of course, the years 1958 and 1974 were a period when the Turkish Cypriots lived in isolation and had to continue their lives in the enclave inside the walls of Famagusta. Of course, this period was troubled because there were Turkish Cypriots who went outside the city walls, that is, there were people who went to work, young people would go again and maybe spend time in Maraş. But there was also a situation where everyone had to take the risk. In other words, you had to take your own safety risk when you went to Maraş. We had such an advantage, I was born in 1967, my father had a very serious environment there, of course, because of those Maraş years. And his relationships with those people continued. For this reason, people were afraid to go to Maraş to the sea, for example, but since my father knew the environment, he would take us to the sea of Maraş or every day in the afternoon, especially in the summer months, we had a routine Maraş tour. He would put us in the car, take us for a ride on the shore of Maraş and eat ice cream. For example, every summer they used to buy me sandals from there, from Bata, there was a bata shop at that time. Or I remember the beach very, very well. We used to go to

the coast we called the camel harbor and spend time. In other words, we had a more comfortable situation than other Turkish Cypriots because of my father.

- So what trade would your family be engaged in?
- At that time, the family used to bring us things such as radio, television, food supplies, children's supplies at work. They used to sell them. Of course, there is much more to say about Maraş. You know, the one that sticks in my mind the most from my childhood, especially at work, is luxury cars, Ferraris, lamborginis. There is something that the most well-known brands are strolling in colorful Maraş, where the houses of the rich are located and where you can see the last examples of modern architecture, very luxurious buildings that almost compete with each other are now starting to be seen, the weather is in my memory. In other words, there is a very colorful, very dynamic city in my eyes when I think of Maraş.
- So, if I ask you, what do you think is the memory you remember the most from those times?
- So, for example, I'll never forget that they used to do an orange festival. That carnival atmosphere of that orange festival. I remember her very clearly, they used to take us and she was very, very beautiful. Another thing I remember clearly is that a Greek boy tried to drown me, I have such a memory in the camel port. In other words, just because I speak Turkish, ours would have already warned us, Don't shout too much, Turkish is in the sea. One day, a Greek boy, I forgot that warning completely, he tried to strangle me while shouting and screaming, and my father saved me, for example, this is one of the events that has taken place in my mind. Another thing that stuck in my mind was that the Golden Sands hotel was the last hotel to be built. This is the year that the Royal family is a partner in, and once we went and saw it, and then the warrior came out. I mean, for example, I remember him very clearly. These are the things that remain in my mind from Maraş.
- Is the place you call Develi port in front of Falıro?

- Yes, exactly, I mean, especially the current palm beach, hotels of that size, those were the ones we usually went to. The name of Palm Beach was the Constantinos hotel and it was a very clear hotel in my mind, it was a hotel we went to a lot with the family, there was even an older sister there, one of the family was disabled from walking. Therefore, he always sat in the electric chair at work. He used to call us, he loved us, etc., for example, I remember him clearly about that place.
- Well, when we were talking earlier, you said that your father would have gone so comfortably and without any fear because of his ties in the maras. Was it the same way to the orange festival or would Turkish Cypriots be seen more at that festival?
- Of course, Turkish Cypriots used to go there more on festival days, so there were many people who threw away the fear of Turkish Cypriots in such big organizations. But other than that, as I said, the families were not in the habit of going to Maraş very much, do the Greeks do anything? I don't know if they would call me something like this?
- What if I asked you to tell me a little more about the orange festival?
- I mean, I remembered, here's the girls in costumes, let's say the sisters, then for us, of course, there were animal figures, decorated with oranges, they are very clear to my mind. Whether it was a bird figure or a rabbit figure, they would make different animalcules, they would decorate it out of oranges, it would be something like a formal parade, what we call a parade. In that parade, everyone would pass through in different dresses at work. Songs were sung and so on. Such a festive atmosphere and, of course, the many orange groves from Maraş that remain in our minds the most. In other words, especially in the spring months, the whole smell of this orange blossom would surround the streets of Maraş. That was a very obvious thing, for example. Plus, there are also windmills, so if there are 2 symbols of Famagusta now, I say it. If Famagusta is dates for the inside of the city walls, it is windmills in Maraş, that symbol is really very prominent. The windmills working everywhere were both a sign of production and one of the symbols of the city.

- Between the 1950s and 1958, your father owned a business in Maraş. The salary we see in those years and now is completely different, in an urban sense. Did your father tell you about these changes? Anything about the development up to 1954-58 and '74?
- Of course, let me put it this way, I mean, we actually did that thing up to 1974, because when you look at the actual boom period, it's the period from the late 1960s to '74. Of course, there were many things, but the main structure, that is, the modern structuring of Maraş, is the period from the second half of the sixties to 74. In other words, those libraries, theaters, cinemas, the construction of these essentially coincided with the period I mentioned. In other words, I think it was probably a 10-year period for modern norms to emerge in Maraş. It existed before that, but I don't know what contemporary architecture and Maraş is what I am most upset about, Maraş was also the center of intellectual capital. In other words, Maraştı is the place where the people with the most serious intellectual background live. In other words, from architects to writers, poets, musicians, all cultural people lived in Maraş. That's why it's one of the points that I'm most angry about now, we don't want to reduce cultural heritage to just something, so there is a new dimension of cultural heritage, there is a modernist dimension. That modernist dimension, one of the most pioneering points in the world, was Maraş, and we unfortunately lost that modernist intellectual accumulation. In other words, if you ask me, the loss of Famagusta arising from Maraş is incredibly great in that sense. Because the city has lost all its intellectual memory. The trouble is there.
- And in this intellectual accumulation Without a doubt, the greatest contribution there are high schools, museums and many other places.
- I mean, how many art galleries there were, how many theaters there were, can I tell? I mean, I wonder in which other city there was an art gallery. Or there were libraries, special libraries. In addition to the state library, which is very serious, or there were art workshops, which were directly directed by the artists. Such things, that is, do not exist in other cities.
- So, were the Turkish Cypriots going or using these places you mentioned?

- I don't think the Turkish Cypriots go very far. There was no structure that was very accepting of the Turkish Cypriots, I think there was such a problem at that time. We had some well-known artists, but they were mostly in Nicosia. But I mean, there weren't many famagusta, famagusta, maybe there were many artists at that time, of course, that could have had an effect. Unfortunately, it was not possible to see a large number of Turkish Cypriots here. But inevitably, as I said, that thing, that art movement, somehow reflected all kinds of crumbs in Maraş and its surroundings.
- So what does a ghost town mean to you?
- In other words, when we say ghost city, we have already created the ghost with our own hands. In other words, it should have been necessary to return this city directly to its owners in 75 or 76 years without delay. Far from doing it, we also condemned its looting, plundering and destruction. Therefore, I have always said that, I liken Famagusta to something, I like it as if we are sleeping with a dead person for years. That is, a dead person in our arms. When you look at this is a serious psychiatric disorder. There are such examples in the world where a loved one dies, he does not report it and continues to sleep with it, months and years, and then they realize it. It is a serious trauma and a serious psychiatrist disorder. They subjected us to such a psychiatric life. I see it that way, that is, there is a very serious trauma in the people of Famagusta in that sense. There was already a very serious tourism potential. There was a bed capacity, and today, tomorrow, we will find a solution, and continuous tourism investments have been postponed in Famagusta. You know, Maraş is what you need there, let's do it. Therefore, at the point where we did not do it, Kyrenia shone first, and then Bafra shone. Serious bed capacities have been built in these places. And Famagusta was also doomed to disappear in tourism. In other words, a city with a capacity of 10,000 beds, a city that takes almost 85% of the entire tourism movement to ninety, has been completely reset, and this has continued and continues. So this ghosthood has never worked for us, as the people of Famagusta, I call it. Famagusta has lost all its dynamism and all its advantage, so we will not forgive those who govern us in this sense.

- So, did you continue to visit the wires after 74 to see Maraş?
- Of course, after all, you know what our typical Famagusta tour is, where you can see the sea, Famagusta is a city that is disconnected from the sea. Side by side with the sea but away from the sea. You go to the classic lagoon, palm beach tour, you go along the wires. For example, I remember my eldest daughter, why are these wires, she was only 5/6 years old, child, why are these wires here? Why does the military exist? This is one of the child's first questions. In other words, this is probably one of the worst images you can give your child. At a young age, we made our children question the wires and the military in this city. We couldn't demilitarize it. We could not remove the military and wires from our lives. That's why we always looked beyond the wires. And think about the people who live on that deep side, especially along the wire, they always slept with him. I especially think of summer nights, people come out and sit in front of the door, a dark city is closed in front of you, it is a serious trauma, so this and the people of Famagusta have been living with this trauma for years.
- So, when you look at the city, what appeals to you the most or bothers you when you look at it through the wires?
- In my opinion, looting and plunder are the most brutal aspects of that war. I think looting and plunder is the most painful face, and keeping it that way is one of the biggest shames in my opinion. The most striking thing is when you look at it.
- So, did you visit after the opening in October 2020?
- Yes, I went, I mean, I went first. Because there was a lot of demand from my Greek friends. You know, please go, we already had a demand from them, let's put pressure on them, at least maybe before I die, I can go and see our house, our place, the streets we live in. Of course, we didn't want this, you know, such a blunt opening. More controlled, I don't know what else, maybe people could have been called street by street, Greeks. A more planned visit was on our minds. But it was a shattering opening. As a result, because many people did not expect it, people who said that they would open it to us for so long, let's come and see, and when the hop suddenly opened,

some of them could not find that power in themselves this time. They said, please go here and take a photo with us. I went and took a lot of photos and took my family with me that day. You know, as I said, the children always looked at the other side of the wires all that time. We took them with us. We showed the kids a little bit left and right, plus I took photos and shared them with my friends. Why, after almost a year and a half, some of them gathered their strength and came and faced the devastation there, it's not easy at all. I mean, it's like, I would say that, you know, there's this issue of losses. You wait for years, you wait, you know, would he live or not? You don't have classes anymore, so you don't live, but you want to make sure of it, you say that you won't be comfortable until you at least bury your bones. This trauma is similar to it, so you have to go and see the destruction there and bury it somewhere in the brain. In other words, it is a very serious confrontation. Therefore, it requires a very serious endurance for those who live. That's why I understand very well, that is, I can imagine the pain of the Maraş immigrants very well. I liken it to him. Of course, many people could not grow it, let them see it. We have something in common with the Greek Cypriots, we have a platform where we cooperate, and they have a page called Ammochostos y Polimas, these Famagusta refugees. For example, almost every day, especially in recent years, there is news of a death, leaf and leaf fall, and it is written that one person left before he could see it. Or it is written that he left without returning, so this is the most serious pain of Maraş when you look at it.

- Well, you said, you took a photo, where were the places where they specifically asked you to take the photo?
- So, for example, there were those gymnasiums, I shot one of those gymnasiums, they had one institute, the women's institute, which created very serious transformations in the lives of the people of Maraş. There was a café called Edelweiss, which we know now, where most of them were high school people. They used to spend time in Edelweiss, they used to go to work in their early youth and so on, there were people who asked for photos of the place, I always took them and threw them away. In general, I took it, so if it comes across street by street like this, you don't know whose house it is, I threw them away. Some of them have houses and so on.

- Was there a place you expected to see before you went inside?

- So the place I expected to see, I would be curious about Edelweiss, too, because every once in a while we'd stop there and they'd buy us ice cream. Edelweiss even had 2 branches, one more was left in the back streets, it was not opened anyway, but I was curious about the place in the main center, for example, in terms of sight. Again, there is this thing, it was something that many Greeks said, George, there is a painter called Paul Georgeou, famous. George Paul Georgeou lived within the city wall. But because of these events, he had to leave his house within the walls. Later, he set up a studio called a bungalow in Maraş. I was very curious about it, it was already reflected later, there is a picture of Don Quixote on the wall, for example, I was very curious about it, we found it and took a picture of it. So the things I was curious about were more or less, for example, bata, bata store, as I said, we used to go to buy sandals, I was curious, but I still haven't seen him, I haven't found him, so where was he and maybe his sign fell off, maybe he won't be visible. But I don't remember it very clearly as a street. Plus, there were some nice houses at work, and my sister and I used to play the game; That house is yours, this house is my game, who chooses the more beautiful house first, and there were such very advanced and modern buildings in terms of architecture. For example, I searched a few of those houses, I saw some of them, I photographed them, of course, they are in terrible condition.

- What houses were they?

- So when I say which houses, it's private property, let me put it that way. It's just like private property, but the houses drawn by the most well-known architects of the period, most of them the houses of wealthy families, are no longer like that. In other words, these are the homes of the people who are well-educated and earn the most money.

- Do you know where the commercial place that your father ran was later transformed?

- I mean, they were always shops, Ermou Street. But Ermou street did not open at work, the entrance was opened in it. Therefore, we couldn't see it exactly, but it was already a street of shops, so it was not played with there.

- Is there any place in Maraş that you feel connected to?

- As I said, the places where my memories take place are mostly along that coast, especially there, I remember its sparkle and vitality very clearly. Of course, those places tell me a lot when I go here, especially along the beach, full of memories.

- Is there a place that you think is socially valuable?

- I mean, the place that I found socially valuable was the bandabuliya, which was famous, and they had one covered market. As I said, it is already the garden of the place where the gymnasium is harmony, now our people called it a national garden, they turned it into a park again. Those were very popular places. In other words, I would say that these were the places that the community visited.

- Was bandabulya used by Turkish Cypriots?

- No, the Turkish Cypriots would not go, but I think they would probably visit from time to time in terms of shopping, especially those who work there, it was possible to find some things there that you cannot find in our country. Therefore, he would go and buy something from there from time to time. For example, my father used to go and buy something there from time to time. You know, as I said, the things we couldn't find here, the Turkish Cypriots could not access everything at that time. Therefore, it is possible to find things that are not available in some jobs, whether it is food products, this or that.

- You mentioned a Facebook group, how did you come across it?

- That Facebook group, I think it was 2011 or so when they contacted us. They contacted us because we started the Famagusta initiative in 2010. We also advocated for the return of the city in a way that our voices were very loud. Therefore, somehow this thing, our voice, was heard there as well. They came and told us what we can do together for the city, we said we can fight together. Therefore, we organized joint

events with them, whether it was concerts or exhibitions. At the end of 2013, we started the services in the exserio church of the Greeks in Famagusta wall. They started to come and go there regularly. We still have a relationship with that group. Because we have a common struggle. Together, we advocate the return of Maraş to its legal owners, the revival of the port as an international port and the transformation of the tourism port, especially by making it a structure where cruise ships or yachts can come, turning it into a structure where it can contribute even more to the tourism of Famagusta, and starting the process of listing it on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list within the city walls. Of course, this is possible with a consensus on these 3 issues. In other words, you will be able to give Maraş so that in return, you can ensure that the port is modernized and internationally recognized, and that the interior of the city walls is included in the world cultural heritage list. We could not convince our authorities on these points. There is a problem here.

- You have also touched on it. I was very interested in a few other meetings, for example, I have a question about Maraş. Each time a connection to the city wall or a connection to the ruins of Salamis. As you described, there was a lot of isolation and experience, but despite that, they see Famagusta as one, not separate, which is very interesting.
- In other words, of course, the situation is even more dramatic for the Greek Cypriots. Imagine that from 1958 until the gates were opened in 2003, these people could not come inside the city walls. Because they couldn't enter, it was forbidden. Therefore, they were detached from the good, that is, from the inside of the wall of Famagusta when you looked at it. I talked a little bit more, how did they find you with this group and so on, you know, these church services, these are the doors opened in 2003, almost ten years have passed. We saw that there was no one coming and going to Famagusta. There is a serious resistance on the Greek side, we said how we can break it. You know, religion is a much stronger institution than we are on that side, we said, let's catch these people by the wires of bam like this, there is a ritual from religion and so on. Then, of course, 3,000-odd people came to the first two event winners, especially at the end of 2013. 5,000 people came to Good Friday in 2014, and those people mean, you know, because that's what it meant to them. I'm going to show my ID card, I wonder if I know the authority in the north. Oh, and now when it comes to

religion, they've put it on the back burner, and those people have come. He saw the cultural heritage here. Oh my god, what the hell is this? Because many people who have not seen this in their lives, except for those old people, do not remember the cultural heritage here. When I came back again, people know what's going on there, blah, By bringing more of these people to Famagusta, because these people didn't realize how important the cultural heritage is in Famagusta and how much it is, they didn't approve of UNDP and the European Union giving money to do something here. When they came and came face to face with the cultural heritage here, they realized how important the work was and that it needed to be protected, and they started to say this time, let's do something for the cultural heritage in Famagusta. That's why I always say that we have a serious contribution in that sense, the job is not as simple as it seems, that is, the technical committee of cultural heritage, and it was thanks to us that it was fleshed out, I say it, if it were not for it, I think that these funds would not have entered Famagusta so easily today.

- You also said that you support the Hands on Famagusta project. So what do you think of that project? Or? What could be done to translate it into real life, or how could it be transformed?
- In other words, Hands on Famagusta was already a dynamic project, so it was open-ended. In fact, the production of that model depends on it. You know, people come in and it can be like this? Can this be the case? How should the city develop, what should it be, what should not it be? In other words, the aim of the project was to create an interactive discussion platform, and we, as an association in those years, entered into another much more important project in 2014-15. There was another non-governmental organization supported by the municipality of Derinya, this was a project to bring Famagusta and Derinya together with them. Because we made a definition there at the beginning of the project. In this definition, as you just said, people see a part of salami or something, our definition of Famagusta was already as follows, while creating the project and applying and asking for funding, our idealized Famagusta starts from Derinya, includes Maraş, includes the port, includes the city walls and extends to the ancient city of Salamis. We called it the greater Famagusta region. This was our goal and this was our field of work within the scope of the project. Within the

scope of the project, we organized entrepreneurship seminars for young people, football tournaments, women's beach volleyball tournaments, chess players, and produced a documentary called A Taste of Famagusta, about the tastes of Famagusta, with a master chef and an apprentice next to them. Again, we chose 2 walls, one of them is there for the lala Mustafa pasha mosque and the other is in the place known today as the garage as soon as we cross the derinya border. We had 2 walls painted together by Turkish Cypriot Greek Cypriot artists. This was a very comprehensive, grounded project that brought together the people of Famagusta and Derinya for the first time in many years. It is also very important for us. I always emphasize that. In other words, it was one of the best and most efficient works we did as an association.

- Do you see a future for Varosha?
- Unfortunately, the future for Maraş is a holistic solution-indexed idiom. In other words, we have always said that Maraş has the potential to be the key to a piecemeal solution before a holistic solution, and we have been saying this for years. By the way, I remember that my first work on Maraş was in 2008. I remember that in 2007-2008, and before that, we established the first working group on Maraş in 1996, within the municipality. In other words, while discussing the master plan of the municipality, we need to establish a separate committee on Maraş and take the work of that committee forward. Because we started from the view that this city could not be planned as a whole without Maraş. We started in the first 96, but my first mono-communal, 2-communal work was founded by my friends who I had served on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in the past. They said, well, we have the funds, do you want to do something for Famagusta? So I said, I would like to bring the Greeks and Turks together and create a report for Famagusta, a technical report. In other words, in 2007-2008, we produced a report in the style of how the maras of the future should be with a group of people and such an elite group, with artists, architects, engineers, tradesmen, businessmen. In other words, those points have never changed since here, those points produced, but unfortunately, as long as the insistence on being a part of that holistic solution on our side continues, that step-by-step solution that we envisage here, the point that Maraş is the first of those steps, has never been realized. The result that always comes out there is that Maraş is a catalyst, if we rebuild Maraş

together, if we can re-establish life there together, it will provide a motivation for a holistic solution to the whole island, it will be an example. For this reason, the report already had a finding that we should be able to plan it as a pilot region, as an autonomous administrative region. And then all the work we did was always supportive of him, but the work is still there. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do this for years.

- Do you have a chance to share this white paper with me?
- I'll assign it to you, it's in my file, I'll assign it to you, it's okay. His name was Famagusta Revival.
- So, did the events of October 2020 and what was done in Maraş afterwards change your thoughts about the future?
- So let me put it this way, I don't believe that such unilateral actions will get us anywhere, so you can't get anywhere by ignoring people's property rights, people's past. If you arrive, some things will be incomplete, some things will be wrong. My view is still more stable. In other words, although they say that we will do this job on our side, this job will not be accepted by the international public opinion. Famagusta or its utility will be limited. In other words, we insist on the thing, the important thing is to be able to do something together by getting the consent of the other party and involving them in the process. Otherwise, something like "I did it" will not lead us to the results we want.
- So, do you think Varosha should be preserved as it is now, or anywhere in it?
- So let me put it this way, I'm in favor of not getting too touched. In other words, if it is to be done at work, we have always advocated for an analysis and technical study by international experts, and we have always advocated this years ago. Again, since the years when we came together with those Maraş immigrants, if something is to be done, we have advocated a study that we can call a feasibility or fact-finding in such places, such as Germany or America, in war zones that have carried out projects on these

issues, in such cities, where experts will be involved in the process and experts with different backgrounds will be involved in the process, but unfortunately, our side should not come to me. Oh, they just started a one-sided process by excluding this and that.

- So, where do you think it should be protected for you?
- I mean, I don't know what the bandabuliya style is, there were these theaters that needed to be preserved. Or there was this place I called the women's institute. These are places that have left a place in the memory of the Greek community and made some changes in the lives of families. I mean, there were a couple of cinemas like the very important Hadjihambi cinema. They are always mentioned. And when you look at it, these are the structures that have left a very important mark in that recent history. In other words, it is those culture and art venues that will be protected, that is, the library, the theater, the cinema. And 2-3 others, as I said, bandabuliya style, gymnasium-style institute-style places that have left a place in social life, have left a place in economic life. Of course, I would like to see the thing, for example, we made a request for it. The place we call the painter's house is also bungalows there. Because there are murals on the walls and they must be protected, they should not be demolished and spilled, there are such places.
- Well, all my questions are over, but from the answers you gave behind, you said that you were visiting with your family in 1974, but most of the things you said were either on democracy street or by the sea. Wasn't there such a visit on Kennedy Avenue?
- It was on Kennedy Avenue, so we used to pass by there all the time. I remember when we went and bought something for our mother, especially my mother used to buy something for herself on Kennedy Avenue. I also remember the thing, let me tell you, my mother and father were dancing, my mother slipped and fell, broke her ankle, for example, Hadjikakou's clinic on the beach side. In that Hadjikakou's clinic, there are many people in that clinic who have found a cure for many people. For example, Hadjikakou is one of the important places for me in the clinic because how many times did we take my mother after she broke her wrist, my parents would get there, we waited for them in the car. I mean, it's one of the places I remember very clearly.

- Well, I don't know if you came across it inside, Lordos is on one of the apartments. Melis supermarket writer or did she belong to the Turks?
- No. It is something that was done after 74. I mean, it's not a thing, it's post-'74 as far as I know. For a while, business permits were given to some things, businesses, that is, there are soldiers there. You know, before the military's canteens were fully established, Turkish Cypriots were allowed to open some stores there with special permission for a while. They are them.
- These are all my questions to you. But before we finish, is there anything you would like to add more than any of the answers you gave, that you would like to say but didn't say?
- I don't think so, I think I told you what was more or less on my mind, so I hope a solution will be found at the earliest, so we are at that point now. Because people who have not taken a step for so many years will probably not take a step in Maraş from now on. If a holistic solution is found, Maraş will gradually become a part of our lives in whatever status it is, and it will give famagusta or a serious economic and social dynamism or dynamism in terms of tourism. Because it's really a dead potential out there, and we haven't been able to capitalize on it for years. It is very sad when we look at it, that is, if we measure it with 100, our economy will be at the level of 100, but today it is at the level of 20, 30, with the absence of Maraş, I say so. This is a great strangeness for all of us.
- Is there anything you say you should have asked but didn't?
- I think you asked them all.

E15 Transcription

- The name Varosi(a) is just one of the names we EC use for our city. The others are Famagusta and Famagusta.
- Although 47 years have passed away from my city, Famagusta is constantly in my thoughts and feelings. Not a day and/or night goes by that I don't remember or discuss it and talk or write about it with relatives, friends and even those who have been "comfortable" with the situation that has prevailed since 1974. I feel inextricably linked to Famagusta.
- Our whole family is Famagustian and we are proud of that. In Famagusta I grew up and was educated. I attended the second primary school of the city from 1959-1965. From 1955-1971 I attended the Greek Gymnasium of Famagusta. From 1971 to 1974 I studied at the Cyprus Pedagogical Academy in Nicosia and at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens.
- These were the most beautiful years of my life, which I look back on with nostalgia every day. I remember my friends, the places where we spent our free hours, the beautiful events organized in Famagusta, the culture that was pervasive everywhere, the contact we had with the thousands of visitors who came to spend their holidays in our city.
- I remember Famagusta beach with its golden sand and crystal clear waters. The beach of Famagusta that stretched for several kilometers is one of the most beautiful in the world! The life of Famagustans was inextricably linked to its beach and is the main asset of the city and Cyprus as a whole.
- Another thing that does not leave the memory of Famagusta is the green orange groves that surrounded the city from three sides. In spring, the smell of flowering trees embraced the whole city!
- The name ghost town given to it by some, journalists or others, I don't know who, for me it doesn't apply. It doesn't represent our city, and it doesn't matter to me. I know that Famagusta is enslaved, looted, with its infrastructure destroyed, BUT alive and waiting for US its real owners to return, to rebuild it and make it even more famous.
- Famagusta has its municipal boundaries. When the Turkish army occupied it in 1974, it closed a part of the city, which constitutes about 1/6 of its total fabric. Why they did it, I still haven't learned. The other 5/6 were left open, and were either inhabited by

Turkish settlers or Turkish Cypriots who relocated there coming from the southern part of the island, or were left to become ruins. In my house, for example, lives a Turkish settler, just 10 meters from the "closed area". He offered to sell it to me for €50,000!

- As soon as the barricades opened in 2003 I started visiting the city, on a regular basis, until today. And, I will continue to do so until my final return. The first visits we made with my family, with my wife, my children and my siblings, were very painful. We cried constantly and could not accept the destruction and plunder of this once beautiful city.
- The pain was even greater when part of the "closed area" was opened. It hurt me a lot when I saw my favorite school, the Greek Gymnasium of Famagusta and the Lyceum of Greek Women of Famagusta, buildings built in the style of ancient Greek temples, covered with huge flags of Turkey and TRNC...
- But all the places I walked, everything I saw 47 years later, reminded me of the beautiful years we lived there as if not a day had passed.
- When a part of the "closed area" opened in October 2020, I was one of the first to visit it. I wanted to see my Gymnasium, the football stadium where all sports events took place, G.S.E. (Evagoras Gymnastic Club), the building of Anorthosis, my favorite football team, the Lyceum of Greek Women, the Municipal Library and Art Gallery, the 4-star and 5-star hotels, etc. ...
- Everything was looted, destroyed and full of rubbish... Pain heavy, but this pain made us even more determined to return. That was the universal decision. No one said "it's over."
- Although there is a UN Security Council resolution, Vote. 550, 789, for the return of the city to its lawful inhabitants, Turkey did not respect them.
- My vision for my beloved city is to return and live again peacefully with our fellow TK citizens, as we used to. Everyone at home, at work, with mutual respect and appreciation.
- Famagusta can once again become the diamond of the Mediterranean and a tourist destination for people from all over the world.
- I was asked many times about the memories I have from my life in Famagusta. I always answer those who ask me that "I not only have memories of Famagusta, but my SOUL is still there in FAMAGUSTA"!

E16 Transcription

- And do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Yes, Varosha was obviously after Independence it was this city that was offering a lot of chances, with a lot of scope for doing really both, the proper way of dealing with the new place, new city. And with mainly tourist destinations at the time when in 1960, it was a time when tourist developments started developing in both in Europe and the world as a matter of fact and also, Cyprus was starting its independence in 1960. Varosha, being a city which is located in the big bay, which is one of the best, has one of the best beaches in the Mediterranean. With the beginning of the independence in Cyprus, obviously Varosha was a very important target to really look at it from the point of view, real development as a tourist destination. Because, you know it has one of the best sandy beaches in the whole Mediterranean. And also, the climate in generally the orientation for people who, for especially from the north, over night to come and spend time in the sun and also in the sea. I think Famagusta is one of the best in the Mediterranean. To me as an architect, obviously where you were involved right from the beginning with different projects of course, different private housing, different private developments, existing buildings and so on. But gradually it was all being developed and it started becoming a real destination with a lot of queries from tourists operators from all over the world. Obviously it helped to become known also with the study that was being made by a French delegation that was being sent by the French Government as a help to the new republic. The French mission, as we used to call it, which made a report for tourist development for the whole of the island of Cyprus, they are marking the best locations, the best places, giving mostly affect on the sea side part of the tourist section rather than in the main land, you know Trodos and the mountain. Because at that time it was a time that people were looking mostly for sea and the sun. Obviously, that, because they have originally given a very important report of the Famagusta area, Varosha area, it became very well known and it became, obviously for the locals but also for the foreigners as the real beach to spend two months a year as a holiday. Although, Famagusta a lot of people could spend a whole year as a holiday because of the sea temperature which is very comfortable. On the other hand, it was also at the time biggest, the main port of Cyprus , so for cruise ships

and passenger ships, they used to come, as they had destination in Famagusta. So our obviously practice we had a lot of different than developers and different people who are studying different areas and to start some tourist development. Obviously it was not very easy because of the time, it was the new state and the new area without too much income, without too much money and obviously, but they were all getting prepared, right, so they be ready to start at the time when Varosha was really going to become the destination. We were involved in different studies and we were also involved together with the French mission, because we used to work together in a lot of areas. Travelled with them or around Cyprus and not only by roads but also by visiting the actual locations but also by sea, looking at the different base and the different version of Cyprus that was at the time really completely, absolutely fantastic, some areas they were absolutely nice and beautiful. Unfortunately lot of things happened since than all this beauty has been jeopardized and it's been separated and don't being enjoyed. But anyway we are hoping and trying and hope that things will become normal again for all the people and northern citizens of this island.

- So you have given me so many things. Because all the developments inside started with the indepenence in 1960 and if I am not mistaken that is the year you started your architectural firm as well right?
- The year that I started the architectural firm is the year that the new republic started at the same time, same age. I came back from London after I have studied and worked as an architect in London, my brother was already here with a small office, without too much work. We got the big, big job for the time, being as a young architect, a secondary school in Nicosia, it was a big job. So I came back to Cyprus to start and finish that school and together with the school the things started being, you know, at the beginning, our first connection with Famagusta, it was Apostolos Barnabas, the monastery, where I was doing help for the renovation of the monastry and we helped for, to build a new church above the tomb of Apostolos Barnabas. And we were also doing a small coffee shop outlet to serve the people, the tourists, people with toilet facilities who were visiting the monastery, you know by bus or car and the landscape of the area, what these people were doing, I was one of them. Our first involvement, it was very interesting because, we worked on mostly new buildings this was all the

renovation and restoration work and later on we started in Famagusta in certain different plots to make different development plans and the biggest one started which started was the Aspelia Hotel, it was part of the church of Agia Triada, right on the beach, which is probably one of the nicest spots in the Famagusta bay. Also has a nice access from the port, which is not very far from the port, from the city center and what. At the time obviously we had to clear the site from a lot of useless, miscellaneous prefab temporary buildings that were being built during the year without any control without any permit or anything. Obviously, the church was not a very old church, it was a new church with a lot of problems. So it was decided it was a church property and then we decided to pull the church and to develop the whole of the site with the hotel and the church. Obviously it was a very first time that we have tried to use the so called modern architecture at the time with exposed concrete finishes. Also, a very, sort of free standing without too much decorative, useless parts on the elevation. It was mainly the building that was being, going to be serving people for different scope, either for long stay or for tourist stay or for day stay so they had facilities for restaurants and other outlets, which were helping the people on the beach, they were helping people for the day and we envisioned at the time that the basement was the parking place area for 200 car. And also we designed the new church for the corner of the site that was the end of the main road coming from the city centre, it was more or less the focal point of the, sort of approach from the city centre to that area it was the church, again, you know, with the help of the then Archbishop, allowed us to use a modern concept instead of the old byzantine churches that were used at the time, it was something completely new. To be quite honest, I think that it was good to be started work, with a very good name, we had very good clientel for the first year of the operation. The church was almost complete at the time and it became a focal point and an example I think for a lot of other developments in the area. As something to be followed to be quite honest. Of course, our other big project, which was really very big and really, I mean it involved the whole golden sands area with the golden sand is almost 2.5 – 3 km of sandy beach which at the time of the British administration used it as an army plot. So the British they were having an absolutely fantastic holiday, the soldiers who were living there, they were living on the nicest in the beach in the Mediterranean, day and night. Nobody to worry them, it was actually fanstatic. It was a site that was going to be developed for a government as an example to give people the parameters town to develop the site without torturing the surroundings, try to

accommodate the new construction with the environment and generating it without this hype. That was very important also to avoid very tall buildings as much as possible, you know, the friendly scale and the low key aesthetics. Of course the Golden Sands was a tourist destination for thousand hundred beds, another which was 550 rooms, with two hundred and fifty it was the bungalows, one and two story buildings. One story was right on the beach. because the design had difference of levels from the approach road, you are entering the first ground level, on the first row and going down to the beach was the ground floor which was very interesting because all the bungalows, the two hundred bungalows, they were opening their balcony door you could go out in the sand and dive in the sea and back again without having to go through the communal areas in the hotel and so on. But all these rooms, they were all served by special design for the help of buggy car to serve all the amenities and drinks and for all the bungalows. So in another words they could have their breakfast, they could have their lunch, they could have their dinner in their room from the main kitchen in the hotel. And they were there it was a two hundred fifty five staff hotel which started operations in the, started being run two or three months before trouble started. It was a very very interesting project for us, it was a very big project, we were working with the engineers who are from London, it was a very big engineering firm who helped us on the structure and the earthquake design at the time, because Famagusta is earthquake zone and at that time you could not mention earthquake in Cyprus nobody knew very much about it. It was something that we discussed and we thought that you know it might be an important thing to study and go deep into it and make sure that you know, at least with a then engineering knowledge to design a building to withstand. It was a, I think if it was being operating, it would have been a really very well known destination, for Europeans especially. It was covering the half of the site and the other half of the site was being used by the public. In other words we had public facility for local people who were not staying in the hotel but they could still go there spend the whole day. They had accommodation for changing rooms, for spending the whole day on the beach with all kinds of restaurants and facilities and so on, with lot of parking. People from Nicosia they could go and have their swim in Famagusta without having to go through the hotel reception and accommodation. It was a pioneer in project for the area, we had good reception, it was supposed to be run by then very well known operation for Trust Houses Forte, 1914 if I am not mistaken is running the hotel in Cardiff. Trust Houses was a company, hotel company that was being brought by Trust

Forte, who was another big company and they became one name trust Houses Forte. Trust Forte they have been a big hotel in Cardiff run by the son of forte. The big hotel in Cardiff is forte hotel. The Trust Houses Forte Organization together with the British Airways who were going to bring all the people, all the pioneer tourism to Cyprus, they had internal agreement with the government to run the Golden Sands Project for five years and then another five years and so on. It was a very important project for us, we learned a lot, so we came in touch with a lot of people who were involved in developing, obviously cause you have to go through all the methods, you know the feasibility studies and the environmental studies. At that time these things were not very well known in Cyprus and they were not being used in Cyprus. In an area which at that time it was only orange groves, wild eucalyptus and other wild sort of green area.

- I have a lot of questions to ask. So going back to the start, your first project in Famagusta was the Aspeliea Hotel, right?
- The main, well known and important project. Because there was a smaller ones, some shops, some flats, some houses but those are not, we don't consider them as important additions to the Varosha developments.
- But you still did residential and shop architecture?
- Ohh yes, yes, yes, yes.
- And where are they located?
- They are mainly located in the center of Famagusta.
- Would you say Democracy or Evagorou or?
- Obviously we did also the Evagoros Port in Salamis. The Evagoros Port was being bought as a hotel and we started renovating and extending it as a new venture again, we were going to add another hundred rooms to it, on the beach of Salamis ancient area, which was under construction. Its also helped a lot in the development and the

together, another colleague of ours, we did the Salamis Bay, which was being owned by British construction Company, Fair class, who bought the land and developed the area for the big hotel with houses, bungalows and hotel apartments. So I mean the two main big projects in Famagusta at the time, which was the Golden Sands, Salamis Bay, the salamis Bay was together with our friend Stavros Economu, were both projects which our office was involved between 1971- 1974.

- If I'm not mistaken, you said that Archbishop, called you for the Aspelia hotel, right?
- Yes.
- When did it start? When did the design process and looking at the land feasibility started?
- It started between I think, started discussing in 1965-66. That you know to find ways and also talk to the municipality. Because the site was in a big devastated site with a lot of wild plantation, you know, with the wild trees and obviously to be clear, a lot of things had to be demolished, had to be something had to be cut. Obviously, you have to involve firstly the parliament to help us in this and to clear this field so that we can, because that was the very first new project as a hotel project in Famagusta that it was being started, you know, in a big way, in a big sort of organize, shall I say. You know, many other smaller ones, 20-25-30 rooms were being built in the center of the town but they were not sort of, you know.
- And it was there a competition for it, or they just wanted your company directly?
- Although they were probably, they were you sort of pointed us directly, no competition at the time.
- And do you think that was because of the projects that you have already done in Famagusta?
- I think it had a lot to do with the previous experience and the staff which the office had to be able to finish the building. Obviously this will take into consideration because at

the time we have been organized as an architectural practice, we had three or four assistants and architects, 3-4 technicians, 2 engineers. And you know, obviously it was a time when you have used all the other consultancies, the mechanical engineer, the electrical engineer, structural engineer, which at the time they were not very well known in Cyprus, you know but in Famagusta only few had people, they have used them so that because this experience inside. That's why I said that the Golden sands, being a very big project. We had to use all Arabs as our engineers because of the complexity of the project and the earthquake prone zone of the area and also you know we have to work with the interior designers and the, you know, the operators. Trust Houses Forte, they had their own team of designers and their own team of others. And then we had to have meetings in London and Cyprus to discuss the materials and the finishes and so on. So at the end of the day, I mean the product was going to be really, a very, you know, sort of peace and the home accommodation for the people who wanted to spend 2 weeks the qualities in time.

- And you said the discussion started in 1965-66. How long did it take you to design, to come up with the design of the Aspelia Hotel, but also the church?
- First of all, the actual hotel started and changed three times, in other words we have done the same project three times. The first time it was just apartments. That was going to be used, you know, lettable for the people to be used by the company. Then at the end of the day they said that, you know from the feasibility point of view, they found that the administration of activity was going to be not very. Then it was decided to use a new product at the time. You know the product we use the hotel suites, the hotel apartment, which you design the apartment, in other words, every unit had the living room and the dining room and the bedroom. In other words, every unit was 2 units and not one, so we did another design for it and then at the end of the day when they came, the final feasibility that was being done came that, you know, the hotel was going to be profitable in the most beneficial for the site. Then we changed and redesign the whole thing as a hotel and that's why it took two years and a half, three years to design and two years to build.

- That's really interesting to hear and. And what was the inspiration behind the design? Because you said the public spaces and I went there as well, I looked at the building and there is a direct relation between even from the church area to the beach, so I see how we played with the public and private interface.
- We wanted the, first of all the public space between the hotel and the church to be used by the public and not by the hotel residents. We wanted the area there to be part of the city as well. We believe that building should not, especially with nature, they should be part of the city and they should make their input in developing the actual site. That's why we, for the first time we tried something that was not very well known and very well used, since you know to be able public and the City citizen to use the square, the main square between the hotel and the church. But we thought that was really very good, especially people coming out of the church on Sunday, they could stay in the square, they could mix up with the people and so on. And it would become area sort of the focal point for a meeting place for people you know, to not just clear cuts so the function hotel here, church here. But we thought that it would be an idea to bring people of the city within the actual development. That's why we made sure that, separated the cars from the ground floor. No cars were allowed to go there, it was for pedestrianized. All the cars, they were in the basement. And we had the pedestrian access from the upper part of the side near the right-hand side of the church, down to the beach. So that people coming from the city center to be able to go from the pedestrian path down to the beach instead of going through the traffic Road.
- And which architectural trends do you think that's affected you in these decisions? Were you following any of them?
- I personally look not believe in this trends, I think that architecture is something that should come out, of real thought, real study of the requirements and also the real study of the site. And this actually has to be given a very important aspect. I mean it's not sort of, I don't believe that I should take an example of somebody else from somewhere else and use some items you know, sort of them, bring them in Famagusta. We wanted in Famagusta to create its own identity. To create something for Famagusta and not something that will be brought into Famagusta. It was as I said,

it was the beginning of the independent in Cyprus and architectural, architects and construction industry in Cyprus, it was a very, very childish stage. We had to do everything ourselves because we didn't have help. We did not have Mechanical Engineers. So we had to find mechanical engineers, bring them from abroad to help us for all the mechanical services. I mean, we had to hotel, busy kitchen, the kitchen had to serve three or four different kinds of restaurants and must have somebody expert to help you for the design of the kitchen. We are not kitchen expert. They then you need all these services, the air conditioning, the cold water, the drainage at the time there was no central drainage, sewage in Famagusta so we have to use Treatment plants and individuals and all those were pioneering, new challenges for us, that we had to if we could not find locally to bring from abroad to help us to understanding of something that. The landscaping as well. I mean the landscape of the town, it was not known at all. Nobody knew anything about landscaping. Nobody knew anything about organizing the site and organizing the garden and you know, making them being livable together, the communal spaces, both for the residents and the citizens.

- And if I asked you what were the key stages for you during that from the beginning of the discussions to when the hotel started operating?
- Ohh at the time, the main one it was the, at the time when it was the final decision to go ahead with the hotel. Because until changing from one scope to the other, and obviously this, you know, every time you sit down to start drawing and changing from one thing to the other, is not a very... although you still study and you study for your big captain, you still keep them and you have. And but at the end of the day, when the time started and the final decision will be made, it was a real thing for us because we made our program and we knew what we were doing and it was a real joy to work, you know, we had a good contractor. And they put, you know, so the team of people who are working with that. And for both, were very lucky to have both, for Golden Sands and the Aspelia. Old, very, very good associate.
- And when did you get the final decision, the go ahead? Which year was it?

- We started in 1966 actually, I mean from our, designing 1965. now for the church, we did the church design well 15 or 20 different designs for the church with the you know, for the final one. I mean that was design was the final product, but there are another 15 or 28 other design that were being made for the council.
- Why did it take that much for the church? Was there any people that was against it?
- Yes, obviously. You know, the church committee, there were people that even for the church, they brought from Athens, from the Politechni school, they brought the professor of Byzantine architecture, who was the tutor at the university polytechnic in Athens, they brought him to look at the thing and. And fortunately, he told them that you are pioneering a new church and you should go ahead with it. Obviously it helped. Although our efforts for so many years, they were not convinced by bringing somebody from Athens talking to him for half an hour, they got to the decision. Ridiculous.
- And did the construction of the church started at later stage then?
- No, it was almost the same. It was almost, we started the, when the hotel was almost at the finishing stages.
- And if I asked you what is your favorite part from this project, what would you say? What is your favorite thing?
- My favorite thing is the space between the church and the hotel. Yeah, because the hotel as is designed, there is there is the front elevation which is the sea, the beach. And the back elevation, is an elevation that looks at the square and looks at the church. And it's a very nice area within the site. It's like a small square in the city. And that it was something that really, for me it was the first time I saw it with people on a Sunday with a lot of people in it, it really gave me a lot of pleasure. I always believe that the architecture is parts of life. Is the life, architecture is. We part that gives spaces where people they live, they work, they enjoy themselves and so on so they are creating inside and outside spaces, which they should be functional. And they should be shaped in accordance with the site in accordance with the environment and the

human, not just a building that was being built on the site with doors and windows. I always like my buildings to be part of the city and part, to be used by the whole people of the city.

- And when did the Aspelia hotel started operating?
- 1972-73.
- And was it a big success for you?
- It was a very big success. It was a very big.
- And what were the touristic facilities inside? You said there was a restaurant, there was pool.
- Yeah, it was very, very busy actually. I mean we hunt clientele mainly from England all the time. It was really very booked. But the restaurants, I mean they were really being used by the people of Famagusta a lot. Because for the first time they brought the French cuisine which was, you know, the manager of the hotel was a French man. And had a very, very nice restaurant where there was a Greek restaurant, of course, we were very, very. And they had, you know, really very interesting evenings for people of Famagusta you know to spend the different outings.
- So the owner of the hotel is the Archbishop, right?
- Yes.
- And it was being operated by a Frenchman?
- The manager, yes, the manager was employed by trust houses forte, because it was being run by the Forte.

- And you said when the discussion started and it was an empty site except the old church, was there any people, local people that didn't wanted it to be demolished?
- The hotel?
- No, the old, the old church.
- The old church, because it was a real dilapidated building. The roof was leaking, the roof was being sort of it was being neglected completely needed a lot of alterations. It had to be demolished, it was not a something that had any value also ever, either in history or in design. It was an accidental building, if you like, probably the owner of the land, many years before, owned the land, built this little church in the corner of the site. So that would not destroy the other part of the site.
- And when these discussions started and the construction started, what was the buildings on the beach front? Which buildings were there already when the construction started?
- There was a hotel on the left hand side. I can't remember the name of it, which it was existing there with, it had 10 or 12 rooms, of course, room without facilities, without bathrooms and communal toilets and communal everything. It was old and also the Constantia hotel, which was right on the edge of the Bay. It was the, the one building there. There were no other buildings. It was full of eucalyptus and deserted part of the land.
- And going to the Golden Sands Hotel, obviously it was one of the biggest projects at the time and it is one of the biggest projects where the government puts their hopes in a project. And I think it's really amazing that you took part in it. So how did that discussions start? How did that day come up to you? Was there any competition?
- Again, there was a competition. You know, it was invited 5 firms. Five firms from England and Cyprus. And the operator, they had also some say, the government, the British Airways and so on and our team were chosen.

- Why do you think they chose your team?
- Speaker 1
- Because of, as I said earlier, you know that time it was who could be able to design a good hotel and whether he could really come design, supervise and build this supervision and complete it. It was very important, whether we have the facility, we have the staff, we have the means to do that work because you know supervising project of that nature with a different engineers and different staff at that time it was a very not very easy thing. So they were all done personally, I used to do all the supervision personally, to assist. I used to attend all the site meetings I used to visit the site, three or four days a week, and I used to every Thursday, we used to have a site meeting. We had to, you know, to solve all the problems to track them in site or in the office here. I mean, it was a very, very busy sort of time. It was really, it's not like now where we have facilities and available colleagues that come out of universities and then you can employ. At that time there was nobody. We had to go, even coppies, cobbies of drawings, we used to copy them ourselves. You can imagine, I mean, it was a real tough time.
- And when did the discussion started for this?
- For the golden Sands, the discussions started in 1968-69. And by the time the agreement was agreed between Trust houses, British Airways and the government, it took about a year or so, and then when it was in decision, it was the financing and the thing. And then the appointing of the consultant, the team of consultant. And then we started designing.
- And how did the design process?
- It was very interested. It was very interesting, very, very interesting because I was enjoying working with all these experts, especially because Trust houses and forte, they had, all the people, the people who knew everything about the hotel, back House of the hotel, you know everything that you needed the kitchen, bathrooms and the facilities. I mean, all these things which are individual things with only the people who

work there, they know exactly. How many rooms, for instance, a cleaner can clean a day easily. And how many stations you know to accommodate all your facilities for every floor and at the same time we have to look at the fire escape. At the time fire escape was not very well known, but I mean for the operator, for us as architects, we have to think about it. You know, yeah, we have to do with all our knowledge at the time, the municipality they didn't know very much about it.

- And how many did it take you to design?
- Golden Sand took us almost 18-20 months to design.
- How many revisions did you have to make?
- Not many, because we worked with the operators very closely. The operator, they have the manager from the beginning and which is used to design, make sure that all the plans work. And they were all approved in the design stage, so we didn't sort of finish drawings, going showing to them, making their own comments. We used to do it together, discuss it together, go back to the office and draw it, and then go back and show it to them and make a decision. And at that time, actually, I mean, I spend a lot of time in London, I used to live in a flat in London and I had a sort of assistant, help with me. We used to work day and night for two months and months until we finish the original preliminary design. Which you know reach at the stage where we have to do the preliminary design and present it to the owners, the government and the operators. So there was a big exhibition that we showed the drawings, explain the drawings. We got the approval, and then we proceeded to the condition of the building.
- You said the big exhibition. When did it take place?
- 69 about 69-70 there.
- And when did the construction started?
- 1970

- And it's finished in 1973, right?
- 73-74 yes. The hotel was being finished, actually, in February, 1974, January/February 1974 and it started being run, the hotel, they were, all the people, they were being trained. They were there, all the people for months, it was the running, as we say, you know the hotel. All the people were in that position and then of course the bungalows they were still under construction.
- So the bungalows never get to operate?
- No, no, no.
- What was the main touristic facilities on site?
- Anything you can imagine as far as I can, you know, I think whatever you wanted, you had it. We had at the time a bakery. A place where they used to do all the local cake, sweets and cakes and so on. A local restaurant. I mean and also all the other international restaurants, even the Chinese restaurant. There was a Chinese restaurant.. But for the bungalows, who had other facilities and bars and things in different areas on the side.
- And I'm going to ask the same question. What is your favorite thing about this project?
- My favorite thing about the project is the low rise building with the bungalows. Seen from the road. They don't obstruct the view to the sea, is very important because it's only half a story upon the road. So you could see the sea above the roof. Which was very important. So in other words, the golden Sands for 2 and 1/2 kilometer, we build 1100 rooms without obstructing the view of the sea from the main Road. That was a very important thing, very important. I mean, we did not do what the existing Famagusta did, with all the blocks of flats being right on the beach, right on the wave and without any access from the road to the beach. Yeah, I mean, it was really well, not that kind of planning. Not that not that kind of development.

- And there is a belief that the reason why they didn't touch Golden Sands Hotel is because it is owned by the Queen. Is that true? By the British queen.
- No, no, no, no, no. No, no, no, no. No queen, no king.
- And when it started operating, what was the relation between the public like the locals and the tourists in Golden Sands?
- It was really very, very, very, very good, very, very nice because we have left a lot of area in the public, a lot of beach for the public because the public amenities, they were ready, they could go, they had a lot of parking, lot of areas to park places, all the facilities changing rooms for relaxation, spending the whole day, you're really very, very. I mean we, because 50% of the size was given to the public. Very important, it was not being used. I mean that site, with today's prices, if it was normal, being out for sale, that part of the site it was given to the public, it will be 1.5 billion euros. You can imagine. It was left out as an area for the public.
- Were you visiting Famagusta before the 1960? Before the 1960, have you visited Famagusta?
- Yes, but from 1953 until 1960 I was away studying. So if I went to Famagusta, it before that and it was either family excursions or school excursion.
- And the cityscape was totally different?
- Ohh yes, absolutely, it was a village. It was just a small village by the sea with very village type houses, small houses. No communal facilities, no shops.
- And it is really amazing that. In 1960s, you came into practice and you basically started in Famagusta and you had the chance to see this huge difference from 1960 to 1974. And you took part in two big amazing projects that were pioneer.

- Same with our practice, the same for the whole of Cyprus actually, to be quite honest, because we have been involved in the whole Apostolos Andreas to Paphos. I mean, we have been involved in almost 60-70% of the hotel accommodation in Cyprus, it was being designed by our practice. I mean, most of five star hotel from the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia, from the Appolonia in Limassol. I mean we were part of the development I mean the Apollonia Hotel at the time when Limassol had no hotel. It was the same. I mean, you know, sort of.
- I saw all of this on the website of your company and there is a building in Apostolos Andreas.
- It's a place that I like very much, and I used to do it. I used to go personally again there. I used to go to Apostolos Andreas and come back to Famagusta and come meet them and go to Nicosia. Two or three times a week.
- And I know that I will take your time until 10:30. But is it possible that I asked you some questions about your memories of that time?
- And I don't know, the memories, the memories, good and bad. Obviously it', I went back in the area because I did a book on the Byzantine architecture of Cyprus, the whole of Cyprus. I mean the history of the Byzantine architecture. And another one for the timber roofed churches and byzantine churches, on the trodos mountain. And of course that was separate from my architectural work, because I used to carry with me always a sketchbook, and I always used to sketch, and when I used to go to Apostolos Andreas, I used to visit all the byzantine churches of the peninsula, finding every byzantine church, according to the history books I was reading, and so on, the research I was making and design and draw a lot of these churches. Then I published them. They are all being published.
- You talked about the timber roof churches and I had another question about the two hotels from which country mainly the construction material was used for Aspelia and Golden Sands?

- But material except the steel and the things that Cyprus are not produced, the other material, they are Cyprus materials, they're all concrete and you know with the sand and the things which are being used from Cyprus.
- And I'm guessing you have spent a lot of time inside of Famagusta because of this projects.
- Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean, you can imagine that that I used to, in the summer, we used to rent the House by the beach. On the other side of the bay, St. George's Hotel. There's an old house there, on the beach and I used to rent with my brother and I used to spend almost two months on the beach there. So I lived in Famagusta in summer, most of the time. Although I was working in Nicosia and going for the evening in Famagusta.
- And, St. George's Hotel, is it the King George or?
- Yes, yes.
- And you used to live there?
- Yes, yes.
- What is your best memory from that place?
- Fantastic.
- Was King George there when you started Aspelia hotel?
- Yes.
- And if I asked you what is your most remembered memory from your time in Famagusta, what would you say?

- Is the day when we had opened Aspelia hotel. Because in the Aspelia hotel, in the lobby of the hotel, for the first time we used a very big wall mural, pottery by Valentinos Charalambos. Valentinos Charalambos was an artist, a professor of pottery is probably, well, famous. He's a very fantastic artist. And it was the first piece of pottery, which he installed at the time, although he was working in Iraq and he did mostly work and learn that in his skills in Iraq. And brought them and put them in the hotel. And it was the first time when people really went to a place where it was a real lobby with Cyprus art, it was very, very, very important. And to be quite honest, was real memorable, memorable day. Very, very.
- It must have been amazing for you to see all the people filling the building that you dreamt of.
- Yeah, that's OK, to see as an architect you are suppose to be creative.
- And where you're visiting the surrounding of the Varosha, after the checkpoints opened in 2003?
- Not really, only. We have signed an agreement UN, United Nations, UNDP at the time to look at the Apostolos Andreas Monastery territory because it was in a very, very bad state, especially with the sea area in front. And the United Nations, they have, and the Church of Cyprus, through UNESCO, they appointed the Professor of architecture from the University of Rome, who was one of the committee during the remedial work for the Pisa tower and the Venice, sea protection. You know, to look at the Apostolos Andreas, to make a report to restore and then, you know, to make the monastery to. And when appointed by the church again in the thing as the local architect to design and supervisor to work. So I had to, with the help of the United Nations, with the car of the United Nations, to go to Apostolos Andreas to do that well, you know. To do all these, to study the existing situation, make all the reports. I took this chance actually to be quite honest and the agreement, I had with the United Nations, with their help and their assistance to give me some time with the driver in the car to visit some of the old byzantine churches, in some of the peninsula and some of the villages. Which I

had to draw and I had to do and this is how I did all the area. So they really helped me a lot.

- That's really great and interesting to hear.
- It's, it's in. It's here. If you come to Cyprus, I will give you one of the books so that you can read and see.
- Yes, I would. I would read it also.
- You, you, you when you see the book, you read it, you will understand the feelings and the thing and the visiting and you know to be able to go and see all these, some of these monuments they date back from the 8th 9th century. And some of these churches, they are really fantastic churches, all churches. Which are being really dilapidated in the very bad state. We had two dimensional drawings, we had to draw. I had to sketch them and the book is full of sketches, watercolor drawings. They're not photographs. And it's a book which is all the Byzantine churches.
- I know that there is a digital lab, that's in Cyprus that they are working on creating this 3D installations of this heritage buildings. So maybe as the next step for your book would be to take your sketches and make them do 3D models.
- I mean, I did for that as an architect and somebody who enjoys these things and really feel responsible to do because of my big love for Byzantine architecture and the local artist who really built these things without knowledge, without being educated themselves. You have to create, you made this beautiful buildings which are fantastic buildings and fantastic monuments. Many people, they came and they said we will find us and you know, print the book and I said no, I don't want anything. I want the book to be my work and my everything. I don't want any help from anybody. The book is there who wants to, I give it present to all the people. But something that I, you know, these parts are the extension of my work. Architecture for me is my life. My family and architecture.

- Did you go inside after the opening of the streets? Did you go inside of Varosha after the opening of the streets?
- No, no, no.
- Why?
- Psychologically, it's not the same. Then, especially if you have memories, feelings. People you met there are not there. Places which they were different than now absolutely different. His name being in a desert. You know, it's a very pity. It's a great pity, actually that the and you know, they were all left in such a state inside terrible state. Some of the monuments we have, I mean these monuments, they are not ours. Belong to the people, to the whole world. I mean, monuments are monuments for the civilization. They don't belong to us, and they don't want to take advantages of our own property.
- Which places do you think are the monuments inside?
- Look there are a few monuments in the in the area, which is now controlled by the army. Is the style of architecture which is Byzantine, has a dome, which has either five or six sides. It does not exist anywhere else in the world. And there are five, six examples of this. And you have to find them. It's not easy. Is in remote areas in remote villages and you really have to study maps. Maps that the old maps. Now roads have changed. Area has changed. You pass them and you don't realize it. I mean, Trikomo for example, Trikomo I went 10 times with the United Nations, to measure the church. Which is very nice church. The Panayia as well, which is absolutely fantastic. Very nice and I spent the whole day in Trikomo to measure all the churches.
- Trikomo has changed a lot now have you went there recently?
- No, no, no. The the last time is when I finished all the measure drawings but since then no.

- It it has changed a lot.
- No, it did change this, and there's no doubt. I mean, you found so much difficult in, you know, finding the location of these churches. First of all, because of the wild plantation that grew over the year really to cover them completely, you don't see them. Or you're being again mostly demolished, part of the bodies demolished, part of it were collapsed and so on. There are churches where we went there five or six times.
- What about the churches inside of Varosha? They are not Byzantine, are they?
- There are Byzantine, and there are Gothic. Because mostly they were built during the French occupation. I mean they are mainly. It was the time when the French occupied Cyprus and they brought the gothic design and gothic construction knowledge in Cyprus and they built the cathedrals Agios Nicholas, Agios Giorgos, some of the other churches. But there are three or four old churches before that, Varosha is full of old churches.
- And do you feel like there is any place in Varosha where you feel the most connected to?
- What connected?
- Yes, inside of Varosha, any place that's actually has a sentimental value for you?
- Absolutely. My name will be visitors, I said at the beginning of this interview is the Apostolos Barnabas where I stayed there two weeks together with the three monks. When were renovating the monastery. That was in 1952-53 when I completed the school. Then I was supposed to go abroad to study. My father, being a contractor, was doing all the renovation and all the reconstruction of the monastery. And I went and stayed in the Apostolos Barnabas with monks for two and a half months. I used to swim in Salamis, which was 1 kilometer away and I used to stay during the night in the monastery and that was a very, very good time.

- Do you see a future for Varosha? The fenced off area?
- If there is an agreement. And sensible agreement. And they sit down and they really see for the good for the people, for the people of Cyprus. People who own this island people who live there. They should really come up with the real scientific study of the area. It needs a lot of study. Famagusta is a dilapidated city. There's nothing, there's no infrastructure, no roads there, nothing. Absolutely nothing. So you have to have a new city with new environment and this cannot be done just by reconstructing a pavement and doing a bit of the road, the road and reconstruction elevation. This is not remedial work, I mean, this is really stupidity. Financially, viability study by people who really are very specialized in this kind of situation. Come up with different scenarios. Build different models. And start studying. Maybe actually planning the town planning of the area. Famagusta needs a real image as a city. People can really be coming touring in the Mediterranean.
- Do you think any of the places inside of the fenced off area should be protected as how they are right now?
- Yes, yes, absolutely.
- And which places would that be?
- Ohh many places actually. I mean I cannot say one more than the other because mostly they are all the same age. And they have the same potential. I think the whole, the whole area needs to be that sort of thing.
- And I'm gonna go back to the time that you went to Famagusta in 1960 when you went there, you said there wasn't any big hotels and it was just the beginning.
- They all domestic scale. Houses were being let out as hotels. I mean, they were not nearly designed hotels as such. They didn't know very much about it. They didn't, at that time people they used to see the sea only for fishing. Only few people used to see the sea as a place to swim and they used to do it as a sport, mainly the sport is, you

know, they used to have both in summer and in winter and some of the people who are fanatics in swimming but. Well, it was never something that was going to be thinking that they was going to become millionaires by building tourist accommodation.

- And what was the places that the locals would spend the most of their times or where would you spend your time?
- Well, obviously anywhere near the sea near the beach. Close to the beach. Don't drive on the beach. I mean Beach alone, only to see the sea, not enough for me. I want to see some of the look around as well you know I want to see some of these you know mean should have some public squares. These public squares and public spaces to be joining the sea so that you know, so the from the public square we can walk to the sea. You can really bring the sea into the town. I mean there, there should be not the place where two things, you know, the sea and the city. I would like the two things to blend together, you know, to bring them together in a way that is properly and scientifically done. But as I said, this, needs a lot of study anda lot of thinking behind it.
- Were you using the Democracy Avenue a lot?
- Yes.
- Do you have a favorite place on that street?
- Edelweiss restaurant, the coffee shop. I can't remember. To be quite honest, when I was in Famagusta, I used to sit on my veranda above the sea, was a very big veranda, a lot of friends they used to come there as well and very nice so I didn't have to go out.
- And in terms of the urbanization from the 1960s to 1974. Did you had any part in the urban scale?

- No, no. On my own, yes, I mean some such, I looked at the city. I looked at hotels they were being thrown up by the same people so. But nobody knows how it's going to be finish at the end.
- And you said the French government sent help to support the developments and you said there is a report on Varosha?
- On the whole of Cyprus. But for Varosha they gave more emphasis to be quite honest. Because Varosha was also an intellectual city at the time, had a lot of intellectual people. Had a lot of people from Famagusta who are people dealing with education and mainly, since the occupation. Obviously, it was very important that Famagusta was going to have everything, that everything in its roots to become a real international Cypriot city with all the facilities, because they had everything. The theater, the cinema, they have the school, they have the... I mean all these things. They were more developed than Larnaca, more developed than Limassol. And obviously that they had better sea, I mean when we had Famagusta, nobody was talking about Limassol sea, or the Paphos sea, I mean it's you know because the sea of Famagusta is a different thing all together, the sand in the area, it's fantastic.
- Do you have this report on Cyprus still with you?
- Probably the only copy that exists.
- Would you be able to share it with me?
- When you come to Cyprus, give me a call and give you a copy. But when you come, I will not give it to anybody because is the only one that I'm sure nobody in the government this really does not exist.
- It will be the first thing I do to come and visit you. And I'm guessing you have the revisions of the projects that you did on Australia and Golden Sands. Would you just share them with me as well?

- Yes, yes.
- And one I have one last question. Golden Sands Hotel is the only hotel or only place that is not looted. Why do you think that is?
- No, as far as I know there. The hotel, I mean all the furniture of the hotel was being sold out. I was offered furniture, you won't believe that. The construction company with whom we were working together in Saudi Arabia. The Managing director of the company was passing through Nicosia, came and saw me. I'm here in my office. And in my office opposite the conference table, I have a picture of bungalows of the Golden Sands. A picture that is very, it fade away when, you only see the branches of the palm trees. And some shade of the views the buildings because of the years, they've been there since Thursday before 1974. It was the first day and Monday we had, on Thursday we had the last site meeting in the morning and the photograph which I took, I used to take the photograph and I enlarged it and I have it and is still there. And I said it will stay there until I die. So he sat opposite, he looked at this, he said is this the Golden Sands? I said yes, how do you know. He said I know. And if you want any furniture I can give you furniture. I said why do you have the Golden Sands furniture? We designed it. With the furniture designer, A friend of mine superior and he produces in his factory here in Cyprus and it was really very, very beautiful, very stylish, Cypriot white sort of pine timber. Very beautiful, very nice. Very simple and very ergonomic as well. I said yes, I want. I said where did you find it? He said we bought, the company from to start from Ankara, construction in Libya, where we were working. We bought this construction company and all these, all their offices, they are equipped with the hotel Golden Sands hotel furniture. I'm telling you that, to see something which nobody knows very few people know.
- To be fair, there's been so many myths that no one touched it. That's why.
- Yes, probably probably after that they stopped. Probably the bedrooms, most of the bedrooms they are intact, I don't know. But really, very, very nice bedrooms and very nice, the hotel was really nice hotel, very. And for that one beautiful place to stay, you know, for people who. They will have the view to the sea, they have the verandas.

- That was all of my questions. Do you feel like you need to add anything to any of your answers?
- These things, they don't talk about that and they come. I think we have said a lot. If you need anything else and you come up with other questions tell me.

E17 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yes, I feel very connected with Varosha.
- And would you like to tell me your relation to Varosha?
- Both my parents grew up in the city of Varosha, they used to live very near to each other. They were sixteen when the Turkish invasion occurred, so they have quite strong memories. And I grew up with their stories about how Varosha was very developed city, very modern city for the time, how touristic it was. And it was very, very, very much different than the other towns in Cyprus. Other towns were like villages in front of Famagusta in general. They have quite strong memories and it's like I lived there, because of their pain and because it's a very sensitive age, at the age of 16, they have very strong feelings about it. So it's like I lived there and grew up there.
- Before getting into your parents, I'm assuming your grandparents were, you said they were from around the villages of Famagusta, so how did they settle in Varosha and when?
- Well, my father's mother and father were from Agios Sergios and Trikomo. When they got married, they settled in Varosha because my grandfather was a pharmacist. He was living in the closed area where the Turkish Cypriots were after the bicomunal fight started. He was the only Greek Cypriot pharmacist in there he had friends, Turkish Cypriot friends and even the employees there were Turkish Cypriots. They had a very good relationship. And he left the sealed city because his Turkish Cypriot friends told him that it's dangerous, you have to leave. The fanatics are taking over and stuff from both sides, I mean. So yeah, they were living in Varosha. Now from my mother's side; her father was from Archana and now again, it's the same story, when they got married, they bought a house in Varosha. They had their kids there. They were going up there, because my other grandfather was a teacher, a mathematician. And at that time, he

was at the school in Varosha. Then after the occupation, he came in Larnaca to teach. So yeah, that's how they ended up in Varosha.

- It's really interesting because one grandfather was a pharmacist, another one was a maths teacher. And do you know where the pharmacy was? Like exact location?
- Yeah, it was on Evagorou Street in Democracy crossings, near Anorthosis Famagusta building. It's very near there, the second pharmacy. Because I told you the first one was in the walled City but after the fights in 57 when they began, he left and he went outside, let's say Greek Cypriot safe let's say area. I know exactly where it is. You can see it. Unfortunately, they only let us take a photo now that they opened the city. Like we couldn't go really near but, you can see.
- And your other grandfather was a maths teacher, in which school was he?
- He was teaching in several schools. He was at Larnaca. Then he went back to Varosha and after the occupation he was back to Larnaca. So he was in the Greek Gymnasium of Famagusta.
- Is it the one on Democracy Avenue?
- Yes, yes, yes. The first gymnasium of Famagusta. The one that they hang the Turkish flags now there.
- Did you have chance to meet your grandparents?
- The pharmacist no, he died before I was born. My mathematician grandfather is still alive and I lost my grandmothers as well. But I had the chance to meet the three of out of the four.

- And I'm sorry about that. The grandfather that is mathematician. I'm guessing you grew up with hearing from him so many memories and what would you say is the most repeated memory that he keeps telling you?

- My grandfather doesn't like to speak so much in general, not only about the memories of Varosha, but my grandmother had strong feelings so she was speaking a lot about this. But one thing that my grandfather was repeating is; one day because a GSE stadium, the football field that the teams were playing there, it was next to the school and he had the keys to go from the school to the stadium and he was opening the gancelli for the kids to go and see the football matches and when the Grivas fanatics started painting the schools and planting bombs; one day, Makarios fans went and right with paintings on the school for Makarios and he was accused that he opened the school for the Makarios fanatics to paint and Grivas with some thugs went to his house with pistols and they told him you shouldn't do that. So that's a strong memory for him because he was afraid, but he was not involved in any in any of the two sides that were fighting. But that's his strongest memory back then when they were plugging bombs and they were trying to scare people so they can pass what they wanted to pass back then. That's the story he was completely repeating all the time.

- What about your grandmother?

- Ah, my grandmother. She's the sister of an EOKA fighter, I don't know if you heard that name. He was an EOKA fighter back then, not the second EOKA the first EOKA. He was a friend of the second man in charge after Grivas, young guy. And because the family in general was involved with the first EOKA and she loved her brother, she has very strong memories mostly with the British because they were always investigating, they were searching the houses they were sort of like trying to find some evidence to keep them in jail or something. So I remember, her always telling that we had no problem with the Turkish Cypriots, we only had problems with the British. And but not all of EOKA members were like this. There were mixed plans and mixed targets for the members. Mostly that and the stories about her young age when she used to be at school, like in the 40s and the early 50s, that everything was simpler, everything was

more relaxed. And in the late 50s tensions became a reality and the sad part continues until today.

- Did your grandparents talk about how Vartosha changed after the 1960s? Because during the 1950s to 1960s the town was not what we are seeing now. It was more simpler times and just cinema and the school, but then all the touristic developments started. So did they talk about that changes at all?
- Yeah, yes they did. It was the time when my parents were growing up as young kids. They were becoming teenagers. Mostly my parents, but my grandparents as well were talking about it because of the Cold War issues that, they started saying that we should start cooperating and tourism got exploded and Cyprus is highly affected by tourism and the first city that saw these changes was Varosha because many Greek not only Greek and European superstars were visiting, it was like the LA of the Mediterranean and because of that many Famagustians started investing in the touristic area and many hotels were built. They started creating bars, clubs, and they were mentioning that we had clubs, bars, huge hotels that the other towns did not and when I visited last year when they opened it and saw what was there in the 70s and then when I was seeing pictures of me as a young boy during the 90s in Larnaca, it's a huge difference. 20 years later and Larnaca was still underdeveloped and that makes you believe that; because when they were telling about the huge development of Varosha and how the city was and it was very 30 years in front of the other towns, you're saying okay, they're making it huge, but when you see it in front of you, you say okay, they were right. I mean it was fascinating, how the city was very developed in relation to the other cities.
- And I'm gonna ask the same question for your parents because they were teenagers and I'm guessing for them to see Varosha, through their eyes, it was different. What are the memories that are mostly repeated to you from your dad and your mom?
- My dad, I remember him telling me that he was working with my grandfather in the pharmacy. But my mother and other Famagustians when I hear them speak among them about how good those times were and because of the tourism explosion, they had money, as young as a 15 year old to have, I mean two liras back then, two Cypriot

liras was a huge amount of money. And he said I was working in the pharmacy and then I could go to the cinema, I could go to eat outside, I could go to the bar and drink beers and then I was coming back and it was like I did not spend any money. So they remember that Varosha was becoming a very prosperous city and it could feed the citizens because of the tourists there was insanely big. And that's what they remember that they had so many things to do they had money to spend, tourists were thousands, the city was alive and after the occupation when they came to Larnaca and so the town that was underdeveloped, they had no tourism, they were living in the tents for quite a time, the difference was huge for them. They had no money, they had no house and they left on a very sensitive age, so life was really unfair for them.

- What does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- You see a town 50 years ago, you see how it was 50 years ago, and you can feel how alive was that town. And you can feel the souls of its past citizens. Come and go. When you see the town and when you tour through the town, you can understand how alive that city was, how much it could give to the Cyprus as a whole, to the Cypriot economy. For all the Cypriots and it's really a pity that we let our island and its treasures go in vain, without using it for the good of all Cypriots citizens, not only the Famagustians, as those who have resources or houses or hotels there or whatever, but it can donate to the Cypriot economy in general and not only Varosha the whole Cyprus. So Ghost Town, it has a past and the souls of those who left and those who were living there. They're stuck in there. So that's how I translate the term ghost town.
- And after the 2003 opening, were your family visiting the wires?
- Yes of course. My father has been in the Famagusta Municipality since 2003 or two.
- And were you and your family visiting the wires, particularly to see something in the town?
- Yes. My father is very emotional with Famagusta, he has devoted his life for the city. He's been, as I said the municipal councillor since 2002. All of his extra energy that he

has after work or whatever he is trying to commit to do something most bicomunal events and he is a member of a group of Famagusta our town, which is a bicomunal group for Famagustians from both communities. They tried to do events together. They went to that fence before they open it. In Christmas and they were planting trees there they were celebrating, let's say together, not in a religious theme, just something as a tradition let's say. They made many, many events. Especially there they were trying to make epitaphios again, we're not a religious family general, but they're just trying to keep it in a tradition mode, something like that, that we remember our past, we remember our roots, we are still here and we cooperate with our compatriots, something like that. So yes, in 2003, I was 8 years old, so I wasn't that grown up to understand what is happening or whatever, but he was taking me with him. As I was growing up, I was hearing different things on the Greek Cypriot side and then when I was visiting the other side, I would say, okay they're not monsters here as they tell us, as I hear different stories, history has many sides, so I began to understand that I have to create my personal truth and not what they're telling me that is the truth. But yes, we visit almost every week, not only Varosha, in general, we try to collaborate as much as possible.

- So what was the ways or whatever your family doing to make you understand Famagusta and what is happening because obviously it was wired and at a certain age I'm sure you started to question why is there wires around the city?
- Mostly on stories and descriptions. They make you imagine it, and when you see the sea, how fascinating, how clean and how perfect the sea is there, and you can see the huge buildings from far away, you can imagine how life used to be. I remember growing up while going there, at first I was filled with anger. But after when you understand political and historical background; okay you still feel anger but you know how it's not only one sided in every part. And you can recognise your side's mistakes. And if you try to correct them, it's your job after that. But yes, mostly the desire to do something for my country in general, not only about Varosha, how I was imagining Varosha or what is the life was there. It's mostly by stories and descriptions I would say.

- Were they doing anything to like make you imagine? Because I'm guessing they weren't able to get any photographs of your parents childhood or whatever. So were there any ritual that they would do for you to imagine the city or their life?
- No ritual, not in that sense. You can imagine that in every family gathering, everyone had a story to tell. And you could see where they agree, where they disagree. You could make your own results. You could filter it, and you could understand how. But the truth is that not many photographs were taken. I remember that my mother, didn't even have a picture of herself as a young girl, we found one like five years ago and that was the first time I saw my mother as a young girl. There are many things that cause them pain. And if you start feeling their pain, and I don't think you need anything else more than that.
- And when they were visiting the wires, I know they were going there for events, but was there any place inside the wires that they were particularly looking to see? Or they would show you as the kids like this is what whatever it is?
- Yes, my mother's house is behind Sandy Beach Hotel now. Sandy Beach Hotel is where the Turkish military officers live there. It's in Mialou street, my mother's house. It's very near Christi Akti beach. It's where they used to go to swim and she was always look there we were going to swim always there or the Camilla rock where they used to swim towards that rock and they were fighting who is going to swim there first. But again, it's stories of young kids. We always remember how we used to play with our friends and whatever. Every kid remembers that when life didn't have any stress. And for them, that transition from young teenagers to grown-ups was violent. And I think that cost them many side problems would say. But mostly where they used to swim, where they used to go and drink coffee. The cinema, its stories, when they were going to the cinemas and they were pranking people in the cinemas, kids stories, not something particular.
- Which places they would say for coffee and cinema? Do you know the names?

- They were going to Hadjihambi Cinema. For coffee, what was the name? Let me remember. They were going to Salamina twig. King George Hotel they used to go there because it was a famous hotel. They were going to watch Anorthosis football matches. It had many destinations, they were visiting the hotels 1 by 1. Because it was something really brand new for their unique to see so big hotels.
- You said your parents were 16, so which schools were they going to?
- The first gymnasium and Likeon Ellinidon for the girls. After that, they went to Larnaca.
- And after the opening of the streets, did you visit the town?
- Yes, I visited many times, 7 to 8 times myself.
- Did you visit alone or with your family?
- Yes. We walked wherever you can walk. I also visited with TV channels for interviews as a young man from Famagusta or whatever, but yeah, I went there many times for different reasons.
- And did your grandfather also went there?
- Unfortunately, no. He and my grandmother are not really in a position to make the trip. So I think he doesn't want to see again.
- And I'm guessing you want the streets with your mom and dad as well?
- Yes we did.
- And did they had any memories coming back to them?
- Yes. I remember my mother when we visited the first time, she told me I was imagining some buildings much bigger because she was young, she had a different view. They

were remembering some places they used to visit, that if they didn't see them, they wouldn't remember the names or what they used to do there. And of course memories wake up. Some are stronger than they remember them. Some needed some help to wake up.

- The next question is for both yourself and for both what your parents was thinking; was there any particular place that you wanted to see when you get in the town?
- I wanted to see mostly there, the football stadium. You can't really visit now. And the Evagorou street where Anorthosis Famagusta building was there, my grandfather's pharmacist on the other side of the road. Of course Democracy street, which I walked many times because it was a central street. And you can understand it was a proper city centre back then. For my parents, no, they did not have a particular place to see. They just, I mean step by step, they were unlocking memories and everything was like shocking to see here. They didn't have anything except my mother's house. My mother's house, you can pass from the street, my father's house, you cannot, yet. It was a pretty emotional moment. But it's in Mialou Street where they put like the green fences because the soldiers live there and they wouldn't let us open and see. We also almost fight one time because they wouldn't let us see. And but okay, I can understand why.
- And when you were walking with your parents, you said there was memories unlocking, would you be able to tell me like which places was the places that were important to them?
- Firstly their schools. The schools bring up many memories, you know the backyard. I remember it was the garden next to the school, the municipal garden. My mother, when we were passing from the road, she said I remember when they used to be schoolgirls, they had to wear uniforms even on Saturdays, if you were school girl, you have to wear a uniform. And one day she was working without her uniform and the police came there, they arrested, kind of, and they took her home and they said your daughter is walking around the city without her uniform and she remembered that

when she was passing because she said they arrested me right here, she was showing me the spot. And the discos, my father mostly because he was a male student, and at 16 he could, run away from his parents and go grab a beer or something. And the cafes in Democracy street. Mostly the hotels where we used to sit and watch the tourists.

- Was there anything different that they remembered? Compared to what you have been hearing when you were growing up?
- No, because they were so strongly stating that it was a prosperous city, it was much more developed than the other cities we heard it many times before they opened and I visited, so I had constructed picture in my mind. I remember that I didn't expect that so many number of hotels or hotel apartments or I didn't expect such a big number. I think that's what kind of shocked me that it was indeed a huge number of touristic apartments and bars and everything. I mean, even Larnaca today does not have so many touristic apartments or hotels or bars, clubs even today. And there were many that were being built back then and stayed like half built. I saw first hand that tourism was huge.
- Again this question is gonna be for you and for the memories that you had growing up. Is there place in Varosha that's carries sentimental value for you, but also a place that you grow up with the stories?
- A place? You mean a building or?
- It can be anything?
- The city as a whole is a symbol. But cause the football teams of Varosha, Anorthosis and Salamina, were kind of the excuse let's say for Famagustians to gather every weekend, it was like a Famagustian gathering towards the teams and talk about the city. Famagustians love their team, whatever they support. Because it was a way out for them to go back in time and to talk about how nice it was. That's how I remember my young ages when they used to take us to the stadium to watch football and I have

the conversations between them. It was like a chance for them, I don't know it was like they were visiting a psychologist. It was like a chance for them to talk about Varosha, to talk about their young ages. So for me, as I told you, the stadium or something. Because I remember my father told me when our team was playing, the whole town was gathering to walk and if we were going by foot to the stadium and it was like a celebration. I guess it's the same for my father, for my mother, she's mostly more of a sea person. Because she told me that on summers, she was all day in the sea, so I would say the sea in front of the city, the hotels there or something.

- Is there a place that you think that carries the historical importance for Famagustians?
- There is the Marangou library. It carries some books about Cypriot history and Cyprus in general. The Hadjidakou, the Doctor, he carries a lot of history. For me, it might be; because back then Anorthosis building, they used to teach music, they used to teach languages, I mean it was a like an institute of knowledge, not only a football team or whatever. What else? There are many historical buildings in Varosha, in different ways, historical not only.
- Would you like to tell me all of them?
- The schools of course, the stadium. The cinema, Hadjihambi cinema.
- You said the Hadjidakou doctor? Why do you think that has a historical value?
- First of all, there were not so many doctors back then and he, from the stories I've heard, because his son was the friends of my mother and father's, he actually married them, kind of. So I heard many stories about him. I heard that he was a very good person. Even when the occupation started, he was even treating wounded people, even Turkish soldiers, because he just wanted to treat people. But before the occupation he was treating people and if he knew that their family were struggling or they don't have so much money, he wouldn't take any money. And there are many people telling this story, so it cannot be a lie or just a rumour. So I consider it as a very historical place.

- And you said the Marangou library as well and that's because of the amount of books that there was in?
- Yeah, marangous was, you know, Anna Marangou?
- Yes.
- Her uncle, she told me that it's the most important, Cypriot centric library because it has a huge amount of books that are based on Cypriot history from very long, until modern Cypriot History and it's a pity that we just let it there being destroyed by time. So yeah, when she told me when she showed me some examples of what kind of books, I consider it as a very, very important place for Cyprus not only Famagusta.
- And is there any place that you think that carries a value like this?
- I think I've mentioned everything, maybe I forget something. But it's it's not like that I consider the rest of the city that it is not historical or something. You would say that the Walled City is also historical, you could say that the liman is also historical, the port. Depends on how you see and what historical means for everyone.
- It's really interesting because when I asked you why, you didn't just said it according to what you heard from your family, but you also said these because you heard from other people's stories as well. And if I asked you if you see a future for Varosha, what would you say?
- After the opening of the sealed city, of course, things are getting much worse. Politically speaking, if we see the leaders in both sides, for now, I don't see any, at least in the near future, to see any good progress, at least. But in general, I am a positive person. I don't believe at that, at least speaking for myself, I don't think I will ever give up trying with my way. But unfortunately, it doesn't depend only on me, or on the Greek Cypriot side, or on the Turkish Cypriot side, or in both sides. It's an international relations problem and bicommunal problem, so everyone can and should

do his or her part. But just to answer your questions and your question in particular; with the current leadership that both sides have, I don't see any progress in the near future.

- And if you strip it out from the political problems, what kind of future would you like to see for Varosha?
- Outside the political problem? The vision for the city as a city in general?
- Yes.
- The best-case scenario is to start rebuilding the city together. All the Cypriots, not only the owners. Start by respecting the past, of course, but also by respecting the future as well, because that's more important. We can give it under the, but again it's a political answer, under the UN vision, I don't know. But I can only say very general things. Respect the past in a way that some historical parts have to be preserved, and not only in recent history. Because there are many historical buildings and whatever, since the Latin but also for me the most important thing is to rebuild the city together as a way demonstration that we can live and rebuild the future together.
- And you said that the recent things that happened, like the October 2020 opening, changed your mind. Can I ask why?
- Because, sorry my answer will be little political, but that's how I see things. Because that shows that Turkey changes its policy about the Cyprus problem. We all know that the first best case scenario for Turkey was always annexation. But now we can see first-hand, not only in words, that they are moving forward to it. And what makes me furious is not that. Because Turkey is a member in the international system they see induct. For the best for Turkey, that's understandable. But what makes me furious is the Greek Cypriot side is sleeping, and they think that that's nothing. They're doing it to make us anxious or whatever. I think that Turkey is serious now and that they're just going to open small parts. And because I visited many times and there were many Turkish officials or real estate agents from Turkey millionaires, that I understood that

they came here to investigate the possibility to invest, and this is the worst part. Because firstly, they will destroy the past and secondly, they will destroy the opportunity for the two communities to rebuild the city and show, both to, not only the Cypriots but to the international community that we can work together and we can rebuild the island in general together, so if we lose Varosha, I think we lose a big part of our chance to solve the problem. That's how I see it.

- And if I asked you if any of the places in Varosha should be protected as they are now. What would you say?
- The Othello Tower in the walls and all the more old buildings.
- Inside the fenced off area.
- I don't speak about the hotels and the newest buildings. I mostly speak about what was there many years before the occupation. I think I mentioned most of what I think should be preserved. The schools, it's not like I want them to be preserved. A part of it could be preserved, the rest could be expanded and be more modern. But I don't know you are an architect.
- How do you think or why do you think that's preserving them affect the future? How and why?
- It's not about affecting the future, it's about respecting the past, kind of. That's how I see it. I don't think that, people that lived before 74 in Varosha, I don't think that they will manage to return. Unfortunately, most of them passed away anyway. But my father and my mother, who are from the youngest that remember something. Because if you were five or six years old, you don't remember many things, but if you're 16, you have strong memories. And now they're 63. And I don't see. I don't know. But it's mostly about respecting the past, not that it will affect the future. And it's about kind of preserving the small part of the city's character. Because it had a character. That's how I see that.

- Just one more question I have for you, when I asked you about the preservation you directly removed the Hotels, which is the Kennedy Avenue. So when you were growing up, were your parents talking or your grandparents were talking about the Kennedy Avenue to you or not?
- Of course they were talking about the Kennedy Avenue, but it was mostly about touristic reasons and that the those hotels was something new for them. They never saw so big hotels. They had the tallest building which had 16 floors, you know, because it was something new for them. But apart from them being just touristic facilities, there's nothing for me, that is important. I would gladly shoot them down and build something more modern. But yeah, that's how I see it. Maybe it's wrong, I don't know, but there are more important parts of the city that I believe we should try at least to preserve than the hotels.
- Do you have any answer that you want to expand more on or add anything to?
- As I said Varosha, Famagusta because of the special character and the special points that it has, I mean in relation to the other areas of Cyprus and because it has been a ghost town for the last half a century. For me, it's the key to solve many aspects of the Cyprus problem. Memory is something that we should preserve as well and we should pass it to the next generations. Not for bad reasons, but for obvious reasons. Memory something that you should pass to the next generations and if we lose Famagusta and Varosha, and the memories that were trapped there, I think we will lose a big chance to solve the problem. And that's how I see it, that's my last comment, I think.
- Just a quick like catch up on the things that you told me. You have given me so many names of the streets and buildings, which I think, I don't know if it's something that your parents did a good job on or you just have an interest in getting yourself more?
- It's a combination I would say.

- It's really amazing that you refer to buildings with their streets and names I was surprised. And is there any place that you think you missed and you should have told me? Is there any place that you think, you missed?
- Maybe I missed the Café on Democracy street, which I keep for getting its name.
- Edelweiss?
- Yes Edelweiss. It's not the first time, it happens to me all the time. I cannot keep that name. But yeah, it was the main cafe before tourism exploded, they were all visiting the cafe. And Boccacio, it was a very important place. At least for the younger generation. It was something more modern for them. If you consider the fact that I'm not good with remembering names of streets with Varosha is something different cause. It's something that yes because the Cyprus problem is something that annoys me. Especially my father who is very emotional with Famagusta. That combination helped a lot to remember at least some important things and names.
- And do you think is there any question that I should have asked you but I didn't?
- No. I think it's quite the complete questionnaire.

E18 Transcription

- And do you feel connected to Famagusta?
- All the time. I even wrote a book about my memories of Famagusta, which was published recently and has been a great success in Cyprus, I wish I could translate it in the Turkish language.
- Is it in Greek?
- Yes, it is in Greek.
- Will I be able to get the book anyways? Can I find it in the book stores in Cyprus?
- Of course, you can find it in Cyprus in the bookstores of Nicosia or Limassol.
- So what is your relation to Varosha?
- My relation to Varosha is that my parents, my father is George Lordos, he comes from Avogoru and my mother is coming from Agios Sergios and her surname, the family name is Pulliros. My uncle was the mayor of Famagusta for many years. He's very well known. My father is a self-made man and he spent his childhood in Avogoru, in this village that was a poor village. He's coming from a poor family and at that time he was born in 1915. They were living under the British rules, occupation. The times were very difficult, Great Britain was taking the 10% of the income, I mean the products of the villages. Anyhow, they were living very poor. My father, at the age of 15, he decided to leave Cyprus to go abroad. Go to America to work. He was 17 until he managed to leave Cyprus and he started his travel. But when he reached in Athens, he saw that he didn't have enough money to go to America, so he changed his destination and he went to England. There he stayed for three years, from 1933 to 1936. Three years and he worked in all sorts of works and he was in restaurants and everything just to earn money. And he was going to school in the afternoon to learn English. So he managed to do a course for three years for business. I must not prolong this, he came to

Famagusta. He started a small business and then he married my mother. They had four children. The first one was born in 1940 and the last one 1948. And during the Second World War and after that, and since then we were living in Famagusta. My father became a very strong man. He had a strong personality and he became a very rich man. And my mother, she, graduated from a school in Larnaca, from the Nun School in Larnaca, she could speak in English and French. They gave us a good life. Then in 1955 the EOKA problem started, the EOKA fights and until I must say before that until that time, my father's family, grandfathers, had an excellent relationship with the Turkish Cypriots. They were close friends. I remember my grandfather, who was from Agios Sergios, taking me with his chariot to Famagusta, where you have been living, the old town Famagusta. And there, all his Turkish Cypriots were coming to see friends, they were coming to sit with him and then joke and offer me, I was very small at that time, offer me several treats. Saying this, I want to show how close relationships they had. They were brothers. After EOKA fights started, Turkey created the TMT, Denktas at the time, Turkish Cypriot. So the British, they were very capable of ruling and dividing always. They did it in many countries so they managed to do this in Cyprus between the two communities the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriots. They were brothers before, they started killing each other and we arrived to the 1974 coup against Makarios, from Greece, the coup, acted in Greece in 1967 and then 1972 the second one. In 1974 they brought their problems to Cyprus, because there were many people who didn't like Makarios and he was ruling not very in a just way, we must say for both communities. So then there was the Occupation from Turkey. I must tell you here that I'm sure you know it, but in 1960, the fights between the communities were supposed to stop and they signed the Treaty of Guarantee, the Constitution of 1960 and the guarantor powers were Great Britain, Greece and Turkey. So we now find that Greece make the coup, Turkey occupied and then British were very happy sitting back and watching my country being destroyed. Since that time we left Famagusta, of course, but because they were, the army was all over. And people suffered in Kyrenia, they killed many and they looted and they raped children and girls and women. And we left and even the Turkish Cypriots, I can see today they are suffering in the hands of the army. So we are in Limassol since that time and why Famagusta was for confidence building measures, the 555 and 789. But we were expecting that Famagusta would be given back because they kept this town empty, destroyed, but empty. And the people could never return back. Now Famagusta is in terrible condition,

everything destroyed. While it was a beautiful city in the spot that it is, full of gardens and the green and trees. We were breathing only the smell of orange and lemon blossoms. Now Famagusta is, as all the world knows it, it's a shame to the universe to keep a town in this condition, divided, empty town, a ghost town. My heart, our hearts are broken because of this. I can never forget and the book I wrote is full of memories since my childhood and the smells. And the beauty of life there and in Kantara. We were spending all our childhood there in summer, our houses now being occupied by Turkish Cypriot. It was a very big house and we spend such beautiful times there. I go as often as I can, of course now in during this year's of the Pandemic, I didn't go back. I have many Turkish Cypriot friends, whom I love very much and we talk often. The girls of the family was 16 years old and now they are women and they have children, and we live apart.

- Thank you so much, you have given so much things to me to ask on going back to what you said about George Lordos, your father, you said he had a small business at the beginning. What business was that?
- He was a merchant, he was buying and selling products. He was going to the villages to find the oil, good oil to find rope, to find several things that agriculture people needed. And then he started investing his earnings to the land, to buy land. Land in Famagusta, in Kyrenia. And then he started in 1953, he built his first building. If you go to Famagusta, you'll see many buildings down bearing the names of Lordos and also my uncles. And he was a developer and we had five hotels in Famagusta, my family until 74. And Famagusta was a touristical place. We started the tourism in Cyprus.
- You said in 1953 first building they did. Which one is that?
- It is called Ariana. It's a building on the beach next to our hotel, the Golden Plage, which is being used since that time as the army, I think army soldiers live there. I don't know much. I've never been there. I have never been to the town now as they opened it, and I'm not intending to go to the town. If I go, I'll go back to the Old Town or to the villages of Famagusta but never in this town to see what they did.

- I have questions on that as well. But before that you said it started with buying and selling products and then went into investing in lands and in by what time did he started investing in lands?
- Since 48, when his business was giving him earnings. He was a very good manager in managing his property. He started investing. First of all, they bought my mother's house, their house that we were born and my grandfather's bought it in Yilasou Street number 10 and they lived there. And then my father bought another building in Evridiou Street, because they were becoming a big family and he had to move and we went to Evridiou Street 54. It was a very beautiful two Storey house, that was in 1951, I think we moved there. So whoever person tells you that, no this all belongs to Evkaf, we bought it from people, from Cypriot to Cypriot. I will tell you later about my appeal to the European Court.
- So they invested in lands and then they started making buildings, and then it turned into what tourism started to begin. So what's made him to get in this direction?
- He was very clever, he had opened ideas, he was European in mind, he lived in England for three years and he wanted us to be educated, to become also open minded to people, accepting everybody, in our house, any nationality, English, Jewish, Turkish Cypriots, all nationalities. So, he was expanding, he liked to expand and he sent his sons to the university. One became an architect, the other, civil engineer. He sent us in private colleges in England, the two daughters. He was preparing us to be in life, dream that we shall end our lives in Cyprus and Famagusta.
- I'm sure it has been an amazing journey for you to witness these changes as well. So, if I asked you what is your most remembered memory from your times living there, what would you say?
- I would say that I never felt that I needed holiday in another country. My life there was a continuous pleasure and holiday. I don't have bad memories. Of course during the fights, I was very unhappy. I was a child, as I told you. But then we were all participating

in this, we were children but we have been inspired by the school and by the church and that we were fighting for a good purpose to free our country from the British rulers. If you like, I can tell you about the property more, about the buildings that we built.

- Yes, of course.
- It's better if you ask me some questions so I can see all I am telling you now, it's actually my life until then. What else do you want to know?
- So again going to the question that I asked, you said it was a continuous holiday to live there. What's the most remembered memory that you have of the city?
- I don't understand your question because all my memories are beautiful. Ask me what is your point?
- When you think about Varosha, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?
- I feel very angry for the results, I feel very sad. My dream and my aim is to return back, live there and stay until I die. But of course, being 76 years old, I don't think I have too many years to enjoy. But I hope my children will be able to, because we're never going to give away. We are like that, I feel. That's why I feel so much for Ukrainians now, because it's their country and nobody has the right to deprive people of living in their own home, in their own country. We have been deprived from this by illegal Turkish occupation, it's illegal.
- And you have spent your childhood, but also when you were a teenager in the town as well. From your childhood, what sports do you remember the most?
- OK, the Cypriots, Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriots are very much alike and they are family people. So I remember the family meetings with my parents' friends and with my friends and then going out and after the hotels started, beautiful hotels, dancing. We were always wearing long dresses, we were very young and were dressed very beautifully with long garments. These are very happy memories. You are

only laughing. Of course, maybe we were privileged and the lucky ones, I don't know other what other people had. But everybody had job in Famagusta, imagine my father and my family with so many buildings and high storey buildings and so many hotels. We employed more than 1000 people, Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriot. If you asked many Turkish Cypriots, that many of them were working in my family's businesses. So he was providing for other people so, he didn't collect only for himself. That's why when we came here in 1974, we started again the same business, develop and hotels.

- Obviously what it became now there is a process in that development and you as part of the family, you were witnessing them coming up with the architectural designs, building them, building the business. So would you like to open that more to me?
- If you ask me in particular, you mean the designs of the houses, the changes?
- But let's start with the architectural designs, because it is not something that was seen in Cyprus, but if we compare it to the architectural trends now, it is totally different as well, so. Do you have any insight on how it started?
- You know, as the years pass, much more modern materials come. So I was going through the town today and yesterday when I was going out in Limassol and I was amazed to see how many, just an example, I'm telling you how many buildings even old building, they change their balconies and they put glass, so that we are not deprived of the view. I personally leave this house now. I'm on the beach. I shall take you later and show you. Balconies are glass, this is one thing. Then many things changed the design side, I like the designs today. And I remember when I was living there in some villages, I was watching the doors of the houses. They have changed the old traditional wooden doors. And they have put this iron designs if you have seen it, they were doing like a tree in iron and that was their door and inside there was a glass and I hated it. Now going back, I like it because it is something that it was being in fashion say, at that time. When I went in 2003 when they open the borders, I went there and I was shocked to see some houses, some colours pink and blue and more different colours and I hated it. I found it very disgusting Then thanks got they changed

all this and it is now looking a little bit more decent there. They have beige colours and neutral colours and design like.

- Going back to the how your family start doing Varosha and the changes started to happen. You said your family was going to hotels and dancing wearing nice dresses. Which were the places that you would go the most with your family?
- These belonged to my family. The Golden Plage, the golden Marianna. If you know the names, so the Golden Stardust and all golden hotels belong to us except from the Golden Sands. And they were going to the Savoy, we were going to Evagoros Court, which is the way to Trikomo, we were going to Salamina, Salamis Hotel, which doesn't have the name now we were going to many hotels on this roads after Salamina.
- And how old were you during these years?
- I was married in 20, at 20 years old I had my son in England. So when I left I was continuing 27. In 1974 I was 27. And this is my youth while you're studying in this age, I was married and I had a child. We were living Dolce Vita. And I was also working in my family's company. The office with my brothers and my father. We were going on holidays to Kantara. And sometimes we were going abroad. I was going back to England because I loved England. I spent six years there and it was nice to go back from time to time just for very short holiday or for business.
- It's really amazing to hear, that in 1974 you were 27, which means that you were able to actually witness the changes in the town that because I have seen this during the 1955 to 1960 that almost totally different than what we can see now.
- Actually, the big development started, after when I was in England and I was in England from 1963, I went to school and I turned back in 1971. Of course I was coming every summer with my baby and my husband. But this big, big development started after 1960, after the British left after this ruling ended and the Cypriots had separate government and they encouraged the development. Many factories were created.

Actually, also, my family had a very big factory. The Lordos Plastics, belonged to my family.

- And how did it change? How did it change after the 1960? It was it amazing for you to see people coming?
- It was, yes, it was because we had many Europeans coming even film actors and producers. They were coming to Famagusta to make films there and also this beautiful hotels in the buildings were something knew after the dry life the Cypriots had until the 1960. Until 1960 I think there was only one hotel in Famagusta, the Savoy hotel. Which is very near the walls of the old city and maybe one or two small hotels even for the locals coming from Paphos, which was very far at that time. And then suddenly the blooming of Famagusta started and the exports and the harbour was so busy. So busy, Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots were working together there. To load the products, the Cyprus products like the fruit and potatoes and whatever, we Cypriots produced. They were exporting to Europe. The Famagusta potato was famous all over the world. We still have the product of plantations in the villages, the free part of, Famagusta. I don't know in that side, maybe they have some plantations I don't think they can export.
- And if you compare your life before this blooming and to after, how was it before the 1960, like when there was just one hotel, what was life?
- But in 1960 I was a student. I wasn't participating too much in the adult life. But I know that the people were doing a good life from my father's mother, parents side and their friends they were going out and living a good life also.
- Which one was your school in 1960?
- I went to Agios Ioannis, this school is a primary school. It is near the what you call Palm Beach Hotel and what we call Constantia hotel, it's there. And once when I went to Famagusta in 2003 for the first time, I was telling my Turkish Cypriot friend, ah this is my school. He's younger than me maybe 15 or 20 years. He said, oh, that's my

school too, because I was going there from 1956 to 1958, cause I was in another school before. And then I went to the Greek gymnasium for girls, which today it's called Doctor Fazil Kucuk lyceum or something like that. But it is very ironical because my school was beautiful Greek pillars in front and it was a Greek gymnasium because the pillars are Greek. And then I suddenly now I see in this building, the beautiful building the name of Doctor Fazil Kucuk.

- I didn't know that was the great gymnasium of girls. How did it change to the lyceum of woman inside, on the Democracy Avenue or is it not the same?
- At that time we did have Lyceum, we had gymnasium from the first class to the 6th class. Then after the, recent years, I think here, after the 74 it became a Gymnasium the first three classes and then it became lyceum. But the boys were going to different school. The boys were going to this Greek Gymnasium in the middle of the town opposite the lyceum, this beautiful building that we're being taught music and poetry and it was a cultural centre and I was going also there as a child.
- So the Greek gymnasium of girls which is now dr fazil kucuk, it was connected to the lyceum, where you were going for music and arts?
- No, not connected, it was different but I think it was private. The gymnasium was government school. The lyceum was built by that very very great woman. Her name is Maria Ioannou, she built this. It was her dream to promote the culture and music and poetry. She was a teacher and her husband was a very rich businessman, producer of fruit, etc. And they put the money to build this beautiful. And I don't really remember, I think we didn't pay, or maybe we paid very little because all the Famagustians went through there. That's why you can see many people of Famagusta, writers, poets, musicians. They are really very well educated in culture.
- And what is the year that they built lyceum of women?
- I mean the first building, maybe it was rented but this school the lyceum was house, I remember I was maybe 7-8 years old, that means around 53, say, let's say 54

definitely. And we were going there just to start being teaching, they taught us theatre and piano. I was playing the piano. My father bought me a piano in 1955 at home. So it was there since that time and then they built this new building in 1970, I think, the one that is opposite the gymnasium.

- And before that, where were they teaching? And you said they were renting?
- Before they were renting in Evagorou Street, which starts from the walls and go through the other end of the town.
- That's really interesting because I didn't come up to this information on anywhere that they were.
- If you interview more people of my age will get this information. But if you are interviewing the young people, the young people, they know nothing, and they don't have memories. They were very small. Like my son, he was six years old, he was eight maybe. He was seven years old when we came to Limassol.
- And when you were in the Greek gymnasium of girls, what was life back then? What would you do after school?
- We were not allowed to do anything. We didn't go out, they didn't let us go out and we never went to party with boys. And if we were looking at boys it was very secret, you know, just glancing, no contacts. Of course I was brought up with boys because I had two brothers and I had cousins, many who were crazy, all of them. So we were playing together, games, I was playing football, I was playing, you know, this is glass, we were doing all sorts of things, but we didn't have too much contact with the boys, even in the primary school we were together, but we didn't talk too much. We were shy to each other. Our parents were very strict at this.
- Where would you spend your time with your family there? During the time that you were in the gymnasium.

- They were taking us to cinema. They were taking us to the family friends. They were taking us to restaurants. Plenty of restaurants eating this famous souvlaki that we eat here. Every Saturday actually my father was taking us, we were in gymnasium at the time with my sister and my brothers were living in England, they were studying there, elder. They were taking us to the cinema and then they would take us to very nice restaurant. In this restaurant, they were meeting all their friends, many Famagustian people say hello, exchange their news and then we would go home. The next day, my father always liked to take us to picnic and go around Cyprus to Apostolos Andreas monastery, to Paphos, to Kyrenia, to Kantara in summer. In winter we were going to a restaurant, not in our house because our house was closed for the winter. We didn't have central heating of course. And it was used only summer, but in the restaurant, the main restaurant, the only one restaurant in Kantara, I don't know if it's still a restaurant. I heard that this man who had it in 1974 he left, there was a very nice fire place and were all the family sitting around having very nice Sunday lunch. I must tell you that I have been learning for 10 years Turkish. I was going to school here in this side.
- To be fair, this is the goal for me as well, but it is kind of hard to learn Greek because of the alphabet. But I want to learn as well.
- Actually, I must tell you the truth, I wanted to learn because I wanted to communicate with my Turkish Cypriot friends who didn't speak English and they speak very little Greek but I didn't find the grammar difficult in Turkish. I loved it because it is like ancient Greek. But I didn't have anybody to talk with. We wouldn't have conversation. So I know quite a few words. I cannot have conversation, but I understand and I watch Turkish movies on Netflix. and if I had the chance to talk everyday with some people that would be very good for me and for you even if you learning grammar. The alphabet that is not difficult, it is grammar that it is difficult. But then you have to be able to find people to talk.
- To be fair, I have lots of Greek Cypriot friends and there is lots of them here in Cardiff as well, so if I learn I will get to practise. Okay, going back to the questions, you said

your father will take you to cinemas and restaurants and what was the main ones that you would go constantly at the time?

- We loved Heraeon, it is a beautiful building, you must go and see it, a very nice building even from that time and it was in the square of the market, you know the market of Famagusta, there behind it was Heraeon. And there during the day they were cooking some amazing souvlaki, all the smell was all over Famagusta and the people who came from the villages, very early in the morning, at 6:00 o'clock, the builders and workers, they would stop first there and have a breakfast with this souvlaki, kebab pita kebab. And another was Hadjihambis, which again was a beautiful, amazing building. That they let it collapse. And that's so much I cried when I saw it picture, so much I cried. This building they should take care of it and protect it or rebuilt it, if you're ever going to be involved in rebuilding. It was a crime. And there were many cinemas. Olympia was good, many cinemas. Summer, for summer and for winter. You make me cry now.
- I'm so sorry. But believe me that I'm in amounts that I spent on this research even though I didn't live there, I believe that I'm carrying all the memories and all what you are feeling I'm carrying it with me as well. So for me to see it, especially after the Faliro collapsing, I feel as well.
- And the Faliro and the King George, which was a beautiful hotel again, if you find a picture to compare how it was and how it is now. Now the next one that is going to collapse is Savoy, which again is historical building. Savoy hotel, it is after the, you know these beautiful buildings where from the walls come to Ermou Street, and on the left hand side it is the governments building not only the mayor the town hall, but before it was the Land Registry office, after the town hall, which is the Turkish Cypriots town hall now, it is Savoy hotel on the left. This is going to collapse soon, I suppose.
- I hope before that they will take caution, but I don't think so.
- Nobody cares to take caution. Nobody, everybody cares to bring money to their pockets, not for the whole not to prevent or not to show to the next generations.

Famagusta was a civilised town at this time and I never seen in my life people, only Afghanistani living, going back, back backwards, not through the civilization ahead, but backwards. So they took Famagusta back like the Russians are doing now to the Ukranians, 200 years back.

- Sadly. Going back to the question, what about the restaurants? Where would you go, every Saturday, your dad, where would he take you?
- He would take us to Karalis restaurant. We loved it because had very nice food. We were going to Faliro, which was on the beach. There next to Faliro was another restaurant called Ackteon, I think now it doesn't exist. And then it was Alasia. Alasia is a very interesting building, you have to see this, if you can see it, it's on the beach again. And in the afternoons, very often when we were children, my mother would take us to the seaside, this place is Akteon, Faliro, to swim there and have our picnic there, afternoon snacks, you know, so we were playing with our friends and my mother with her friends. They were doing this needle work while watching us. And then we came out of the sea. We are full of sand because you know, sticky the sand was sticking on my body, we were very bronze. And we were having our sandwiches and going back home.
- And if I ask you, what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- I feel very sad about this situation as I told you before. I feel ashamed, ashamed that we left the town being a ghost town and with this resolution. At least, I don't know, they could do something. Why should it be a ghost town? Why shouldn't we return back? Or if we return back, the owners, the legal owners if returned back at the time, the town would be maintained, there would be work, there would be the connection coming towards each other Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots would start because the people don't hate each other, it's the government that make this. It's the leaders who create the problem. It was Makarios and Grivas and the Ecevit at the time. And now the latest prime president of Cyprus, these people, they have no sentiment. They don't want to see a united country. They want it divided. They want to give to Turkey, the

whole of Cyprus. Akinci, his a pure Cypriot, he loves his country. We couldn't interrupt this and I wish he was still there, leader.

- And when the checkpoints opened in 2003. Have you visited next to the wires of Varosha or not?
- Yes, I'm always going to the border, to the wires and watching, my because my residence, my house was on the beach. Near the hotels, near our hotels, so I was always going to everything with binocular's to see what's the situation there and I had coffee at the Constantia Hotel or Palm Beach Hotel as they say. And then I was going to the Old Town to walk and see the lions. Have you seen the lions? Even in my book I mentioned the lions, when I was a child, I was always going there, they was always saying that if you have a complaint, go to the lions and talk to the lions. Then I was having my lunch or dinner with my Turkish Cypriot friends. I was offering them, or they were offering us and I was coming back. I never stayed there.
- Was there any specific place that you would look through the wires? I know you were looking at your house, but was there any place that you would look for?
- Always, I was looking at the places of my memories at the Faliro the Akteon and the King George and the to that the beautiful House of Mr Marangos, or the House of my friends who were living on the beach. And then in town I was going around to the houses of our friends, that when I was a child I used to spend my time their houses with my family. Just to refresh my memories.
- And you said that you didn't visit after the opening?
- No, I didn't. After they open, after they brought the wires down, I didn't no. I don't want. I cannot. Everything is so artificial. They just, you know what they did? They just put some asphalt and they think they made roads. And isn't it a shame that the brides from that side go there and take pictures in front of the demolished buildings. That demolished buildings bear the name of the owners, the real owners. Like my family and like many other Famagustians. If I go to the old city, I go to nice places to take

pictures, I go to the walls, I go to nice little houses that are tidy and clean. Maybe they're poor houses, but I don't care about this. They have their flowers, they are clean.

- And I know that even though you didn't go, on Facebook there are lots of photos of from the opened streets. Is there any particular place that you were expecting to see from those pictures?
- Actually, I looked at them at the beginning, but I don't look at them anymore. I don't want to see anymore. And many places I don't understand because it's full of very untidy, destroyed, how can I understand? You know, that being gives me very big pain. A very big pain in my heart. I think one day I shall die because you know I go to sleep in my dreams are in Famagusta. I walk all over the town just before I sleep and not this town as it is today. The town that I remember.
- And is there a place in Varosha that you feel connected but sentimentally for you?
- All Varosha is I'm connected. Even the old town. Did I tell you that after 1955 we were not allowed to go to the Old Town, it was closed for us, although we had girls and boys working with us, they were coming to the Greek Cypriot side, working in our offices and our hotels, Turkish Cypriots. I asked one of the girls who was working for us, Tulin was her name. She was a civil engineer. She died now, although young and I asked her I want to go and she said okay I shall get the permission from the army. But at that time I was very young, I was 25/26 years old. And the answer it was rejected. They rejected me. They didn't want because I was young and I might be a spy, me a spy, so I didn't have the chance to see Famagusta again. And I was dreaming to see the lions in the Old City again until I was able to visit in 2003 or 4, as soon as they opened in 24th April and the 5th of May I was there.
- And you walked in the Old Town after so many years.
- Yes, and I love it. I loved Kyrenia too, I went many times but I don't see Cypriots there, I see only people coming from Turkey and not that, I don't mind the civilised people,

but there are some people who are not civilised, you know, one day, one month, his job was to for the shoes.

- And you said we are connected to all of the violation and Famagusta with old town, but is there is there no specific place in Varosha where you feel connected?
- I feel collect connected to the area near the sea and where the orange Groves were, the smell. The beautiful smells are still on my mind. Do you know when we came to Limassol in 1974, I used to take my children to the orange Groves of Limassol just to smell and feel that I am, I was closing my eyes and feel that I am back there. So, I am connected to the all places.
- And from if you were to speak for all of the Varoshians, which places would be the most valuable for all of you?
- Value in the sense of value of money?
- No, no like in sentimental value.
- Of course it is the heart of Varosha, the main streets where our memories are and the towards the sea, that were the places we were living.
- And you would say you said the centre of the town is it the Democracy Avenue only?
- I don't start Famagusta from there, I start Famagusta from outside the walls. Outside the walls, there was the police station and the beautiful buildings of the Land Registry and then Town Hall. All this area were the houses of my friends opposite their walls.
- And do you see a future for Varosha?
- I see I have him everywhere.
- And what kind of feature do you see?

- Yes, that's very good question. What can I dream about the Varosha now? Varosha can never be as it was, of course, but it can be inhabited by my compatriots. I see and feel that, the right thing to be is to give the chance to the owners to decide, go back to their legal owned properties. Why did they deprive my home, my past, my pictures from the house? I shall never find them, personal belongings my property. And the people came in this side and they were living poor, appalling conditions, most of them in the tents at the beginning. Why should they do that in Cyprus? Of course you tell me that war is war and it is difficult. But now I know that the owner, the legal owner, is owner forever. Even if they now to get illegally or if they stay there and they don't give me rent or I don't have an agreement with them or they demolished then they built it something else like the Sea Gate hotel, I don't know if you know this building, it's just before the Palm hotel. A very big building, facing the harbour. This is our property. We built it and it was ready to be inhabited in 1974 in July, we even transferred all the furniture in this apartments because we are going to rent it out or we sold some of them to English. Now only Turkish Cypriots in there or Turks from Turkey, I don't know. But I have no right in this property which is the most prime position in Famagusta, overlooking the ocean, the sea and harbour.
- Did any of the things that happened after October 2020 opening changed your mind about what will happen to Varosha?
- Of course I am scared. I think that the Turks are going to inhabit Famagusta.
- And at the beginning of our interview you said, you will tell me something about EU Commission application.
- Yes, I appealed to the EU, High Court of Justice and I have gained my demands. I have gained the case, and I am supposed to get from Turkey some millions about my property that I don't want to sell it to them. I applied for loss of income. So they are supposed to pay to me and my brothers and the team that we applied about \$100,000,000 or something like that. Each one has his own share of course, but the Turkey, never responds to the monthly rent like that. Turkey's bankrupt by themselves.

They should better take care of the human rights of their people in Turkey and of the Turkish Cypriots and are they going to look after my own human rights? No, I'm not going to say this.

- And did you apply for all of the properties inside of Varosha?
- No, I applied for part of the properties, not from the inside of Varosha. I put another application to the Turkish Cypriot side regarding the rest of my property. That I'm still waiting. It is more than maybe seven years that I applied and I still wait to get an answer when they're going to see my case.
- And I didn't ask about it. I know we talked about the times that you were in gymnasium, but then you went to England to study and how many years did you stay here?
- I stayed one year in the boarding school, learning secretarial and Commerce and Industry. Then I came Cyprus, I married my husband who is a doctor and we went back to England to get his to practise medicine. So he became a registrar and in 1971 in January we came back. In the mean time I was going to several colleges in England to do this and that to get more education. I was going to the theatres I was trying to learn more. I was reading a lot of books I always read.
- That's great. And when you came back to Varosha was it's different than how you left it?
- Yes, it was different then how I left it. I like the differences actually, and it was different than England because England was large and big and London was fascinating and I was living also in another towns not only in London . And the scenery English fantastic. Of course I didn't like very much then weather miserable because I am like a clock working with the sun. If there is sunshine I am alive. If there is no sunshine I am miserable.
- Do you think some of the places inside of Varosha should should be protected as they are now?

- You have dreams. I think what they're going to do is to demolish and build again, that means nothing to me. And that day I will hate. Some buildings are not on such bad state, they can maybe rebuilt and the same and if there were and who's going to cover the costs that Turkish millionaires from Turkey or the Russians, the oligarch?
- Um, if we don't think about the economical side, which parts of all places inside of Varosha would you like to see protected because of the sentimental value to you? But to all of the Varoshians?
- Main points, Hadjihambis, is a point to refer. Some hotels like the Golden Marianna, it's a beautiful architecture and the Golden Plage is a beautiful architecture building. The Aretuza hotel apartments, when if you go you'll see name Aretuza, this is my own personal building. The other places are the Heraeon cinema. The market, the market of Famagusta, beautiful building. There were many, I don't remember now. The Lyceum, Gymnasium, Fazil Kucuk Lisesi, which was my school, Greek Gymnasium of Famagusta, beautiful building. You must go and see when you go back or when you come to Cyprus, call me and we go together to show you. Not inside, but these buildings that I have been visiting for so many years and tell you more.
- So if I asked you to take me on a walk in Varosha, these would be the places that you would take me?
- Yes, because I well, I don't know. You know, I don't feel I shall be fit to go inside Famagusta, fit psychologically and able to walk so much because they don't let cars of course. I'm sure I know why they don't let cars, because their asphalt will collapse. I cannot walk and then sentimentally I shall be very ruined. But the places that I could go with the car until now I can go again. Municipal gardens were not so many so much smelly of the flower of the blossoms, but the Agios Memnonas was the, Agios Memnonas is the area as you go out of Famagusta towards, Derinya, that is Agios Memnonas and it was full of smells. Now there are no, you know, I don't know how they managed to disappear all the trees. There are no lemon trees, no plantations, nothing, You can find more trees in the villages at the Turkish Cypriots live.

- You said you were working in a family office. Where was the office located?
- Which? Which office?
- The office, the business that you were working at the time.
- That was near the electricity authority, maybe the electricity authority is another good building and the telecommunications building was very nice. That was before our offices are in Kyriakos Matsis Street, which is in the centre of Famagusta, near the market, this beautiful market.
- So would you say you would spend much of your time around that area?
- Yes, yes, sure. Because on top of my father's offices we move to, after I told you, went to Evridiou street, then we built that another 2-3 buildings in this area and in one of these buildings it was offices underneath and George the Lordos offices and on top the big apartment that my parents lived with us when we were in the gymnasium and the top floor was rented out. I told you everything.
- And just one more thing from the Kennedy Avenir, you just said the Alasia restaurant. So other than that was there no place to go?
- Many places, now you are making me remember. Because I was living in Alassia area, in Kennedy Avenue, when I married and I moved there when I came to England, we were a small family only, I gave birth to my second child and then I was preparing to build house in land of our own. We were going to, there was a small taverna called Jubitz, there is another small taverna called Calamies, on the sea. With very fantastic mezze. You remind me many things now and hotels there were in Agios memnos some beautiful gardens, restaurant gardens, restaurants in the garden. It was managed by former relatives of Famagustians, but I don't remember the name. There was also Bocaccio, was a very modern, fantastic cafe that every night, if we were invited with my husband to go to our friends and play cards or have fun and have dinner after that,

we were going to Boccacio, most Famagustians and we were sitting there until two or three o'clock in the morning to have a night soup or a night cup of chocolate and joke. And we're living like that, 7:00 o'clock we're up again, going to start the new day of living.

- Thank you so much. That was all of my questions. Just couple more. Do you have anything to that you want to add to any of the answers that you have given me?
- I cannot remember. I think I told too many things. If I remember some points that are of interest I might send you an e-mail. Thank you for your time and then I hope I enlightened some sides of your research.
- Do you think that there is a question that I should have asked you but I didn't?
- No, I don't think you asked me something that you shouldn't. I know that you are trying to find out for this our views about the future Famagusta. I know that there are no emotions in political situations or economic interests. Nobody will care about the sentiments of the Cypriots of any side or the Ukrainians like I have feelings about Famagusta, my Turkish Cypriots have feelings about the properties they left in Paphos, in their villages. I feel for them. I feel for them. They have been destroyed by Turkey, we have been destroy by Turkey and of course by our own mistakes, I must say all sides mistake. Now about Famagusta, yes, I want to go back Famagusta, I want to go and die there. Even if some buildings are well, if I don't have my own building, my own apartment, I'm going to rent one, but not from Turkey, Another question which you might think about it and ask yourself where was Evkaf so many years? Where was Evkaf when my father was a child and he was a young man started buying land. Why didn't Evkaf say any claim because Evkaf, if they own this property, they sold it to the British and they took a lot of money, even the prime minister at the time, that I consider him to be a good man.

E19 Transcription

- And do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Very much so, because I grew up there and I think if there's one place that, is absolutely present in my home today is Varosha, not only Varosha, the whole of Famagusta.
- And what is your relation to Varosha? I know that you said you grow up there.
- My parents, my father's side are from Varosha, my mother's side is Greek.
- And do you remember living in Varosha?
- Yes, that was the most beautiful years of my life because I was young, a young girl. We had such a spectacular, easy life, I must say. We had the sea. We had a beautiful city. Relative peace. We never really, at our age, then young, young girls, we did not understand that there was a parallel world, to my world, living within the walls. We were never taught that there's an existence of Turkish Cypriot people that shared a part of our city within the walls. So this is something which I think marked a lot of my generation. The complete ignorance of a Turkish Cypriot population.
- And you said at the time, you were a young girl. How old were you?
- I left Varosha when I was 22.
- And which schools did you go to?
- I went to school in Nicosia, unfortunately, because my father was a surgeon, he used to work, but we went every weekend, all summer holidays we spent in Varosha. I am a Nicosian as well, but I'm a Famagustian mainly in the depth of my soul. Especially when I lost it.

- And you said your school was in Nicosia. How was life when you were in Varosha as a young girl? What would you do day-to-day basis?
- It's life like any average young girl would do. Swim the whole day, go out in the evening. We had cinemas and restaurants and coffee places I was already interested in archaeology. So I was very anxious and I was longing to be part of the excavation team and hence I studied archaeology.
- And if I asked you what is the most vivid memory from those times, what would you say?
- The sea. There's no other place in Cyprus, apart from the Karpaz. There's no no other beach for me in the world, then the Beach of Famagusta.
- And you said you were spending so much time in cinemas, cafes and everything. Which one of those would you say that was the main and most valuable for you?
- Well, there was a coffee place called Bocaccio. This is where we used to hang around. And then there was another place called Vienna that had the best hamburgers. And then there were many cinemas we could go to. And of course there were events at the ancient theatre of Salamis, which were very impressive at that time. Greek groups, theatrical groups, came. And of course, all the upbringing within a house that housed, within a family that had one of the biggest libraries concerning history of Cyprus. So I grew up in an environment that taught me a lot. I read a lot. I shared those impressions of the Greek intellectuals like Seferis and Dilitis when they came to Cyprus, I knew the families. I had a very lucky upbringing and a very lucky childhood, mostly.
- And if I asked you what does the name Ghost Town mean to you, what would you say?
- I never use it. I never used it. Something which I do not want to give to my city, it's a ghost town today because of all this black tourism that comes and sees what they sell as a ghost town. To me its always Varosi and it's never Varosha, it's Varosi, it's one.

- And very visiting the wires of Varosha before the opening of the streets after the checkpoints opened?
- I wrote very many books on that part of Cyprus that I miss very much. Not only photographic books, but I wrote recently a book entitled on both sides of Pedios River from Nicosia. I wrote in 2019 a book on the Karpaz. I published a lot of books concerning mediaeval history and I'm preparing my last book concerning Famagusta. My second book because I've already published exactly when the Checkpoints opened in 2006, I came out with a little book because people went there and they didn't know what was what. So I have a little publication called Famagusta, The History of our City, just like I have Nicosia, The History of the City. That takes into consideration basically the cities inside the walls, both of Nicosia and Famagusta.
- So would you say you were frequently going to Famagusta after the opening of the checkpoints?
- Oh yes.
- And what could you see through the wires? Were you looking for exactly, to see something?
- Looking to my house. I can't access today because it's not in the in the open areas.
- And how did it make you feel like trying to see your house but seeing hotels?
- Made me angry. Made me very angry, not angry, for a lot of reasons, because I know the history of Cyprus very well. I just see a continuation of a behaviour which I wish wasn't there.
- And did you visit after the October 2020 opening?
- I was there both times when prior to Erdogan's visit first time. When Mr Cavusoglu announced on top of a building, hotel building. And I was there when Mr Erdogan

came, and I have been there present. I would say something like, nearly once a week. Saving my way and trying to get my Turkish Cypriot friends to see what we can do together.

- Did you have any memories coming back to you as you walked in the city?
- It's like flashback of my life. I mean, I wasn't a baby. I was very well aware. It was my first love affairs. It was everything. It's when you leave a city and you're already 20 years old. You understand the city very well and you know the city very well. So yes, going back made me angry. And decisive of fighting against the two states.
- What were your impressions as you walked down the streets?
- You just close your eyes and you see your life and this is something which is terrible because you say what a waste. What a waste. Whose fault? And then you look into history and you say, okay. Do I really know? Do I really understand history? Do I really understand what happened?
- When you went inside, did you was there any place in particular that you expected to see?
- Yes, I expected to see the Greek Gymnasium. I expected to see the Lyceum, expected to see the garden of the Greek gymnasium where we spent a lot of time. My favourite coffee place, Boccacio. My cinema on the main road, the marketplace which I couldn't access because it was not in the Democracy Street. A quarter of a whole building plot where all my family lived. And I was peaking and trying to see things and I got into fights with people there that I trespassed and I entered things like the hadjihambi Cinema. I went, I said I want to see what's happening inside, which I of course wasn't allowed. Drones all over us. It was and it is still a very, something that hurts you, hurts deeply. What do you mean? I can't walk in my street? What do you mean I can't visit my house? And you can only see this and you can walk just one way, right? And there's ropes. And you can't access what's on your right and your left. So you can imagine the frustration of your houses on your right. And you haven't seen your house for 48 years

and you left one morning thinking that you'd be back at lunchtime. And then you never go back. An absolute feeling of frustration. Some people say I've seen it once, I don't want to go back. I'm not a masochist. I don't want to hurt myself every time. I hurt myself every time I go to Famagusta, I hurt myself. And it's a feeling you go and see this place and when you finish walking and you see all these tourists on bikes or the settlers that take their children there to see what? Derelict buildings? And you say this is a crazy world. Famagusta is like a zoo. It opens up at 8:00 o'clock in the morning and closes down at 8:00 o'clock. I don't want to see my city, my city is not a zoo. We're not animals.

- I remember watching in documentary after the opening of Varosha, and I remember you said we are sitting on the pavements like beggars while they are riding bicycles and that really hit me. I'm really sorry.
- Your generation has nothing to do with it. It's politics. And it's a huge issue. It's an issue that touches deeply to my eyes its the insecurity of both people. That we never accepted being Cypriots, just Cypriots. No, I don't have to say, I don't have any difference from you. My daughter is your age.
- Going to the more nicer memories up here. You said you would spend time in Boccacio and gymnasium even though you didn't go to school there.
- No, I didn't go to the school, but to me it's a building that is part of my heritage. Of who I am. Just like Salamis is part of my heritage, just like the marketplace is part of my heritage, which I can't see. Just like the church of Agios Nicholas is part of my heritage. Just like the House of Poli Orgio, all these artists whose houses are there. Like my museum, the archaeological, the District Archaeological Museum where I spent hours in. And now it's a devastated building. All the statues were transferred to Trikomo, in the new museum of Trikomo, they made in the old market place. That's a question. Why did they take the statues away? They weren't allowed. This is something that hurts me deeply.
- And what was your relationship with the students in the gymnasium and the lyceum?

- Well, we grew up together. We're the same age. I used to see them every weekend and all through summer holidays. Just like you have friends. I had friends just like any girl that grows up and sees the world before she goes to study. Coming from a city where we met foreigners, when we heard what Europe was like, it was a beautiful upbringing.
- Have you left for studying?
- I left for studying in 1968, before the war.
- And when did you come back?
- I left and I was living in Belgium. I got married there and at some point of my life in 1976, I had a little daughter there as well. I decided I couldn't live away from Cyprus so I came back.
- And I'm guessing there from 1968 to when you came back, there was a huge difference?
- There was a huge difference in the city, the city became a highlight. It was a centre of arts and tourism and small industry was a city that smelled beautiful in the evening because of the orange blossoms. It was a city that had, I made a lot of videos and documentaries on Famagusta but Famagustians never slept.
- And what was life before that, before these developments?
- I was living in Europe but situation conditions in Famagusta were amazing. Was beautiful life, you know, like any vivid vibrant city of the Mediterranean. The relations we took boats went to Byblos in Lebanon overnight, came back, we had dinner there, came back in the morning. We swam from one edge of camel rock to the Nautical Club. It was something that this generation, my children, never did something like. We were out from 7:00 o'clock in the morning, nobody bothered where we had lunch,

whether we had lunch. We knew all the families on the beach. Something very different to today's tourism because yes, there was tourism, but there were us as well. We weren't at the back like today, the Greeks are second class citizens to the Russians and everybody British and whoever comes as a tourist, right? We were first class. We knew all the houses on the beach, so if my mother didn't have any prepared lunch, we went to somebody else's house to have lunch or we didn't have lunch and we came back in the evening. We were swimming the whole day.

- When we were talking before the recording, you said that the English city was the place that has the character. What was Kennedy Ave for?
- Kennedy Avenue was the tourist part right? It was a high rise buildings. It was the people that, you don't find low houses except the one of my family and they call it now the House of Sophia Loren. Sophia Loren never came to Cyprus but because it was a beautiful house, they called it the house of Sophia Loren. Which I can't see, which I can't access, which I can't go. I can see it, but I can't get in, it's at the beginning of Kennedy Ave.
- And so how come your family house managed to stay there as a low rise buildings when the high rises were being built?
- Because a part of my family could afford to have a house like that. And our interests were not hoteliers. My father was a surgeon, my uncle was a businessman, bringing had his business in Famagusta and he was an art collector and he was a book collector. So we grew up in that house very much a way of doing more and more money because yes, money was created by the tourism and this is why the beach front was built with high rise buildings.
- Was there any place in Kennedy Avenue that was local? When I say local like you as locals would spend time.
- Yeah there were lots of little clubs, lots of little places where we could go to as well. There was Alasia, there were lots of places where we could go as well. We mingled

with the tourism. I think we had a first option. It wasn't like it's today that there about 40 lines of chairs on the beach, it wasn't like that. Was very different.

- Is there a specific place in Varosha where you feel connected to?
- I feel very connected to the mediaeval city because I'm person that has studied the mediaeval city very much and I'm very connected to everything that was in my path when I grew up there. Be it the person who brought fresh eggs in the morning on a donkey, be it the local supermarket, be it our disco be it Bocaccio be it the school, be it Salamis. You you can't pick. I can't pick anything from Famagusta and leave something else Famagusta is a whole.
- It is really interesting that at the beginning you said that you grew up without knowing the existence of the people in old town. But when I asked you right now you told me you are connected to mediaeval city.
- After I left and after we came after 1974 and after I could enter again. I was going to do my PhD Famagusta and then I did it on Salamis when I was abroad before the war happened because I finished my studies in 72. But I reconnected with, I had the knowledge in my head. I remember visually when I was a child, walking around the city, the mediaeval city. But through my studies and through my recollection, the fact that I was there after 2004 and I could visit, this is where I made in 2013 my site Historiccyprus.com. Go inside it and you will see what I do. I take people across and talk to them history. Not politics, history.
- When you do those tours, do you give history on Varosha as well?
- I refuse to take Greek Cypriots to Varosha because to me Varosha is not finished. Varosha is an open wound. If you want to see Varosha, you'll see it sentimentally. Take your grandfather, take your grandmother, take your uncle, take somebody. I don't do tours in Varosha. I do in Famagusta because I talk of past history to me Varosha is living, its there. It will hurt and it's something I forbid myself to do. I will not take anybody, unless it's a foreign, I don't know how many foreign correspondent journalists

diplomatic people from the diplomatic court is here in Cyprus. But I refused to do, a I am not showing Famagusta as a dead city. It's not. This is my way of thinking, I rarely talk of the past. I don't want to talk about my memories because 48 years instead of doing something pragmatical, we talked about our memories. We cried and we lost it. Unless had we projected projects with the Turkish Cypriots, had we proposed collaboration, had we gone ahead with proposals that would interest the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot, things would have been different. We never did. We never proposed anything to bring them together back in the old times. After 2004 when we got to meet the Turkish Cypriot of Famagusta as well, then we bonded together and we did a lot of things. Together we had art exhibitions, we had also religious events, we had events that were very known in Famagusta, like the Orange Festival and things like that. We did it on the beach. There's an amalgam of things that we did together with the Turkish Cypriot, which makes the relation between us very special.

- You said Orange Festival, how was it?
- It was something that the ladies of Famagusta came up with and they did all these statues where you could put oranges. So we used to go in there and have fun. But you know, these things didn't mean much to us at that time when we were children, right? It was beautiful to look at. We didn't understand the sentimental value of these things at that time, but they were there. They characterised Famagusta. The artists of Famagusta, the artist that still lives, that lived in Famagusta and are still alive today. The theatre people. There's so much that still bonds me with the city and I refused to say it's not there anymore.
- You said these events and artists characterized Famagusta. What artists were the ones that characterized?
- There were people that had a vision about Famagusta, there were people that understood its value. The Gothic city, the Venetian city, Varosha, the Greeks, the Turks, the Orientals, the Westerners, these are the people. I don't know if I mentioned, did you ever talk to Sokratis Stratis?

- No, but I have it on my list.
- Sokratis is a person who did a lot of things. He's the one to do who did hands off Famagusta. He's part of the University of Cyprus and he's got his team here and he collaborates with the team of the EMU. They did a lot of things together. There's many PhD thesis that were made on the future of Famagusta. What's it going to be like, how it's going to be etc.?
- And you said about at the time orange festival or this kind of little things didn't mean much because you were young and I would be the same. Now you said that sentimental values.
- When I saw this dolphin, still there, right? To me, the Orange Festival came up.
- And if I asked you, is there a place that carries a sentimental value inside? What would be those places?
- I can't separate anything. It's the whole of the city. The mediaeval city and because I got to know both of them very well. And I lived with even after 1963 because my father was a surgeon. And because my mother was a nurse as well and she helped with him so when he came to operate in Famagusta on Saturdays, we always came on Fridays and he operated on Saturdays and Sundays. He left us with a woman who used to be one of his old nurses, Turkish Cypriot woman, Havva, who took hold of us, my sister and myself, and took us around Famagusta, Mediaeval Famagusta, at that time we lived in Varosha, right? She took us around. We had a great time with her until my parents finished their job and came to pick us up. After 1963, we weren't allowed to pass through, right? No Greek Cypriot. It's not memories I have Famagusta, it's a living presence. There's no one day in my life where Famagusta is not present. And in the life of my kids and in the life of my grandkids. And they me yaya, finish enough, we don't want to hear anymore.
- Do you keep speaking to them about?

- Absolutely. And I took them there, we go swimming.
- And what were the places that you wanted them to see that was important for you?
- The schools and Salamis and I showed them my house from far away.
- Do you see a future for Varosha?
- Today, I don't see a future for Varosha.
- Why?
- Not until we have a proposition to the solution of the Cyprus problem. Famagusta, if we lose Famagusta, there's no issue of the Cyprus problem. Famagusta is the key that holds the people together. If we lose Famagusta, then its status quo, then it's two states. Under the circumstances today where Turkey says two states, there's no future for varosha.
- Did any of the things that happens after October 2020 change your mind about this?
- A lot of things changed my mind when they opened up the city, which we thought never be opened up. Questioning my government's position and also the fact of Turkey's occupation into our city. I don't want to use another word.
- And do you think Varosha should be protected as it is right now?
- Protected by whom? Varosha has no future unless there's a solution to the Cyprus problem. Unless the two communities decide that they want a federation. Unless the two communities decide that they want to share governance, that they respect each other, both two communities. And that they would be willing to work together for a common future unless these facts are there, it's going to be two states, unfortunately.

- If we be optimistic and say that all these Cyprus problems are solved. Do you think any of the places should be protected as they are?

- I think the city as it is, should be protected. I understand that it's 48 years and some of the buildings may have to be demolished because of the time. But I think, 48 years now is part of the history of Famagusta. You know that Famagusta once belonged to a private bank in the 15th century by the Venetians. Famagusta has such an amazing history and the fact that my city has a Turkish name because varos means, the suburb, right? So in 1571, when the city fell to the Ottomans, Lala Mustafa allowed the Europeans to leave, asked the Europeans who decided to stay to become Muslims and he told the Orthodox majority, because we were always the majority, right? He said you have two years to go and build another city in varos, in the suburb. Is this happening again today? Like in the 16th century with the 21st century, and The President of Turkey is telling us, you can't go back to Famagusta. Is history repeating itself?

- You said the city, as it is, should be protected because this is history. Which places would you say that carries the historical value for all the?

- I think they all carry, you know, there's a huge misunderstanding within these issues of preservation. Famagusta cannot be turned into a museum. The idea of protection looks into withholding something together, so that people can live in it. That's the key point. We want to go back to Famagusta to live there, not to look at it as a Ghost City of 48 years and I live nearby. No. I want to preserve the buildings, the life, the philosophy and what created Varosha? And this is important. We do not want to have another ghost city for tourists to look at black tourism. This is very important. So protection should be made. Protection to all sites that have to do with cultural heritage. Protection to the city as an entity. The city is an entity. You can't protect one building and another building. And demolish the centre. You have to keep it as an entity. This goes for the mediaeval city and this goes for Varosha as well.

- You said city as an entity and it should be protected, the historical buildings, cultural heritage..

- Social buildings, small houses, big houses, high rise buildings. Leave it the way it was, provided it's safe, for the people to come back and live, we don't want to live nearby and look at Famagusta from afar as a museum for tourists to come and see.
- I'm going to go back to the days that you were a young girl, I know that you don't want to talk about passwords. So growing up in this city that shaped you, who you have become right now. What would you say that was the highlights of those times for you?
- The fact that I saw one of the ancient cities of Cyprus come out, this shaped my life.
- And this was really important for the rest of the city as well because the Lyceum was having their theatricals..
- Famagusta was part of the excavations for bringing Salamis to light. Because it wasn't academic like it is today. Doctor Karayiannis, who excavated there from 1952 to 1974, came every night. We didn't have television, we didn't have Netflix, we didn't have anything. So my parents used to go in the evening after we had our dinner, to have a drink at Bocaccio. And he used to come there and talk about what he found today, what he found yesterday, what he needed. So Varosha, Salamis was not a something that belonged to the academics and it's the academics we knew. We were part of the coming out of the city and so were all the villages. Trikomo, Lymina, Aysergis, these are the people that brought Famagusta to light.
- And you said you were visiting the Archaeological Museum a lot.
- I visited the Archaeological Museum because when I came, I used to come back from my studies after 68, I used to take part in the digs in Salamis. And of course I knew all the statues that went to the district museum, those that did not want that didn't need urgent restoration. Thank God, the big statues went to Nicosia because they were in a worse condition. So when I entered the Museum of Trikomo, three years, four years ago, when it opened. And when I went in there and I saw, I said, Jesus Christ, I know this. I was there when it came out of the earth, but it's wrong head on it. Because when

they stole everything from the museum, they didn't have the time and probably they didn't have the knowledge to put the right head on the right statue And when I went there last Sunday, last Saturday. Because I yelled, they heard me, they tried to change.

- Do you wanna add anything to any of the answers you have given to me? Is there a question that you think I should have asked you but I didn't?
- No, you are perfect. I know you understand, and I know how you feel and it's absolutely obvious that we feel the same thing.

E20 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yeah, I am. It's my DNA.
- And what is your relation to Varosha?
- Nothing. DNA. Nothing else. I'm in love with Varosha, I don't know. That was something that happened to me, 1993. If you know I am a cameraman at a TV station. So suddenly, one day they informed me that I'm allowed to go in Varosha, with the Turkish TV cruise, so I did. When I was walking, I was feeling, I was hearing a voice, I was watching the people, in empty town. It was something that happens in first love, you get in love with the person. That's what happened to me, I started researching about this town. What was the things that makes that town to be after 50 years, nearly 50 years, to be like this.
- Before asking questions about the 1993 entrance, you said the DNA. Do you have any relatives that lived in Varosha at the time or?
- No. But my grandfather, if you want to know he was Christina Apostolos Andreas. I mean, he was building the Apostolos Andreas.
- And in 1993, I didn't know that there was a crew that was let inside of Varosha. And before that you didn't know anything about inside?
- No, I knew but didn't see it. Never see Varosha after 74 and then in 1974, I was child and I don't remember what was that time. It was the first time when I walk in when I grow up. And I was understanding what is that town. And was watching the buildings and you recognised that, oh, that buildings for 50 years they are still like this and is more modern than these days. I mean, Famagusta was 15 years in front of everything.

- And you said you started researching after the 1993 before asking about your research. Which streets were you able to get in and see, or was it all of the Varosha?
- No, it was Democracy, the same now as the last time when they walking channels the same road was. Democratacy, Evagorou and Kennedy it was like this, the same roads.
- And when you walked, you didn't know any of the buildings at all?
- No, but I was surprised. I mean, it was the buildings were amazing.
- And what strikes you the most when you walked in there?
- The most attract me was how in front this town was. It was 15 years in front. The lights in the streets, normally now, 2022, in Nicosia and everywhere in Cyprus, the wires they're on there. In 1974, you don't see wires on there it was underground. Also, I thought that all the workers from the houses now they start doing. And we used it. I don't remember how I was we using the car to come. Once a month to take the rubbish from the houses, that town that they have listings they have central. For all the town, it goes to another town and cleaning and bringing the water back. I mean, it was that all these things they make me feel that this town is too much for me. Can you imagine how this town was going to be today?
- So in 1993, when you went inside, was there anyone that came to you and asked to see their house or anything?
- No. As I told you, I went with the Turkish channels, we get the permission to go in. It was the first time after the 1974 and I believe this was a mistake from Turkey. Because all the channels they took the pictures out of Turkey and all the World saw this town how it is and how was before, because they knew it and they seen it after 28 years when I was in. They see how they did it. And for that time, they weren't letting anybody else to go in. Nobody could go in to have a picture or anything, and if you know. The soldiers they used to living in two hotels. There wasn't allowed to have a picture. It was also for them, they couldn't take any pictures out of this so I think it was the first mistake

of Turkey to get us, not just me, I mean the channels to go in so they show the pictures how it was.

- What was the reason for it?
- I don't know. The channels were asking, they wanted to go in, I don't know.
- Was there anything different back than when you entered in 1993 and how it is now? Was there anything inside the houses that was?
- No, no, no. No. If the state the same things, yes, yes, it was. It was like this that time. It was empty again. The only thing is the new road. On Democracy and Kennedy they made new ones. All the same.
- And then you started researching. And how did you start? Where did you start researching?
- First of all, I was trying to find from Internet. To know how was this town before and I was researching and I saw that the only, the most videos from that time, from Cyprus, was Famagusta. No other place have videos that time. Because how I said to you, it was 50 years in front, I mean, the tourists, they have cameras. The people who was living there had cameras that time and they made videos also pictures. So searching and finding out that oh 1960 about Famagusta. The people, all these things. I was trying to find from some English TV channels. Because I knew that 1974, English channels, they have four groups in our sides and four more groups, TV groups from your side, so they filming both sides. I found them, many videos from 1974 and before. So I get it and find out what is Famagusta was about it. It was a very rich town very, very rich. At that time, from 1960 to 74 was the peak of Famaguta. Cyprus gets 57% of the incomes from Famagusta Because it has a port, oranges, all these things that goes out of Cyprus. Plus they have the hotels, tourist comes. Only Famagusta was 57% of the income comes from Famagusta.

- It's really interesting to hear from your point because you are you are in the world of TV and camera and I never thought about this. That would obviously, if you look at those times, all of the videos were going to be from Famagusta, which connects to the touristic nature of Famagusta and you started with these videos. You started researching the town. When did you start reaching out to people?
- Before 10 years ago. I think so. I have it in my computer. All these things, pictures, videos, all the historical things. One day, I was watching and trying to find to make the videos from one side picture to the other side. Why I have to have it all these things they don't belong to me. Belongs to them, to Famagustians. They have to get it back. I mean, I have to give them something. And I made a group. Famagusta is your town, I make this group and I start put the videos the picture. And I get very, very nice feedback, from the people. So from that time I started to give them. But to keep them, you have to research. So I get too much hours to research days and years of research.
- When did you start your Facebook group?
- Eight years. Yes, I think so.
- And as you started your Facebook group and started to share the photos, I'm sure people started to say, oh, that that building is this. And is that how we have such knowledge of the town?
- First of all I have to tell you that I know the town, from stories of them. I know the House of each of them, because they give me the information before it opened to go there. Knew the story. And I have some videos drone. So I go through all the towns, all the streets in the Famagusta, and I make them with their names and etc. So I give them the videos and they start giving information, you know next to my house was this house that gave that etc, all these things. They give me the information. And I will tell you what happened to me, the day they opened. I was there. I was the first one who goes in that day. So I walk in, I couldn't explain what happened to me. I was shocked and suddenly I said no you have to be normal again. Because this is your time now, you have to to show them this historical time. And when I was walking and I was

watching and I have all this information in my head. And I was feeling that I have to record each house for them to give them when I go out because I said maybe tomorrow they are closing. Nobody can come in. So I have all this experience to show them the town. From them, I learned many stories. For example, I showed them the hotel, video, so they start calling me and said you don't know what you're reminding me. It was my first kiss there. When I find my first girlfriend and I give her a kiss on the roof. All these stories that they have that time, I know from them. Very secret things. I mean secret, the young because you have to recognise that, now they live the youngers, there were 17/18 years old, now they are 65 and those people live now. The fathers of them, they died, it is the last people that know Famagusta.

- I'm sure you have, like, amazing stories from them attached to the buildings. But before asking about those were you visiting the surrounding of Varosha before the opening?
- Yes. Because I was trying to find a way to go in. I wanted to go in, it was my dream to go in. That's why I told you, I didn't believe the first day when I was walking I couldn't believe that it happened. So I was visiting Famagusta because of them also, because they celebrate some things Easter time, epiphania on the beach. So I used to go with them and celebrate with them. We were already friends, I was one of them. When they saw me, everybody comes and talks to me, saying thank you to me and all these things.
- When you were, obviously you were going for the events, you said you were trying to like find a way to get in, but. Was there any specific place that you were looking through the wires.
- No.
- So when you were looking, especially from the Palm Beach area, you see the hotels and you see the Aspelia hotel, you see a bit of the church. Were you recognising any of these places?

- Yes, I knew that. I knew the place and I've never been in there or lived there, but I knew the names, what was behind the hotels? What was behind the church? Who was the house next to the church? All these things. From Derinya, I knew the houses over there what belongs to who? Because they told me. But I never been there.

- And which place would you say was the most important to those people before the opening? Before the opening they you were talking to them through the videos and images you found from Internet. So after the opening, new photos started to come up. So new stories came up before asking about that. What was the things that were being remembered constantly?

- Listen, the town is two places Famagusta. The beach is side is the tourist and the riches. From the sites of democracy and up, the Old Town, let's say the Old Town, it was the poor people. They were coming from other villages around Famagusta to work. They were working to the oranges. Because if you go to the Dhekliia road, left hand side, right side was full of orange. Now they don't have anything. But before it was full, so people from around villages, from Famagusta, they used to come out of the tourist of the town. They have many schools, many dancing schools, graphic schools, everything. And until, the youngest at that time who are living now, they have this human feelings. That's why they are very strong to want to go back. The feelings of them, they didn't change, 50 years ago and if you talk with somebody, how I talk, he makes me feel like the war was yesterday and he remembers everything very specific and areas things happened to him, like it was yesterday. But I would say different between refugees now. I'm a refugee also. There was some refugees that they was living somewhere. And after the war, they took them and put it somewhere else. But it was better than how it was. That refugees, maybe the memories, they didn't want to remember before how they was living, because it was terrible. And now they have better life, new family, I mean kids, grandfathers and every. Those people in Famagusta, they took them from 15 years in front of the others and they put them no better, less than how it was before. So the people from Famagusta, they still have very strong memories because there at the time they have all the things. And now, after so many years, they couldn't find better life like before. So they are very strong in their

feelings and the memories. Famagusta refugees, they have this different. They were in front of 50 years. And they took them back.

- What was the things that were constantly being remembered by them before the opening?
- Everything, everywhere, the central of the Democracy, the garden. They have many memories there. They have memories from the schools. They have memories from the beaches because they were living with the beach. I mean, they go to school after they finish their school, they go to the beach. It was normal day for them to go to the beach. The people who was playing rackets, they remember the names of them. They have special names for any sides of the beach. They call it Kunos beach, which means Kunos, it's the person that doesn't do anything. OK, so they named this place Kunos Club because the students they used to go there play volleyball but they don't go to school. So they said now this is Kunos Club. The ice cream man who was with the bicycle and walking the beach and they remember what and how he was screaming the ice cream. They remember the people who was a Turkish Cypriot guy, he was selling a gulluri, and every afternoon he comes. So they remember everything. They remember who was sitting on the coffee shop in Democracy, who was sitting next to them at that day. So there is no specific special place that they remember they remember all the time, they remember all Democracy. They know the names of the owners of the workers of each shop you walk. It's amazing. It's unbelievable.
- Where did you say this Guno's club was?
- It's where Erdogan had a picnic. There is a building with the UN is, under this there is a net, volleyball net. Next to them was Guno's club.
- And if you like, I know you said that they remember everything, but if you put it to numbers, isn't there a place that was the top of the list?
- No, no. All of them. They know all the place, all the place. That's why I can't tell you, this is most important for them. The beach was important for them. Anything that was

playing football and suddenly they go steal orange. It's not like us to how we live now. I mean, you go to study, you go home, you go home for a coffee and at home. For them, it was it wasn't like this. It was school, after school all around until the night, they have time.

- And if I asked you what does the name Ghost Town mean to you? What? Would you say?
- I will tell you, the ghost town, it's wrong. You can call it a town with future. I have a sign on my Facebook for me, it's a future, for our youngers. I mean, like you. If Famagusta opens, it's the future. I mean, we have the chance to make it unbelievable things. So I never believe it's a ghost town, it's a future town. We have to work to make free this town. Because it has all the things to start and continue.
- And I know you said you went to Varosha after the opening couple of times and in the first time you said you tried to capture all of the buildings because of the fear of it being closed the day after. But did you not have a like favourite place or some place that you were so excited to see?
- I have I have one. I will tell you it's a personal. Where I'm working, there's a a guy, he's from Famagusta. His house is where the garden is. Also, at the summer he had an apartment Serenissima. We talk, he told me, we have to go to my house, not the Serenissima, under the stairs we used to put, his father, he put it. So, he said when I was young, I have a Matchbox cars. I have 48 cards, was a big pack, the cars inside. So before the war I was opened the wall and I put it and then I close it. And I believe it's there. I have to go and take it, he said to me. I said, you know, I would take you, we went there, but it was very cameras on it, policeman, so I said to leave it. One day we will go. So one place I have to go is to take his car and took to him.
- That's really an interesting story, I hope he will be able to find the cars.
- Yeah, I mean he lived with his memoirs. You imagine now, why for me, it's very important to go there. Because I want to satisfy him and find it.

- So apart from this, did you not have any other place that you wanted to see in person?
- Maybe there is more places that they are very interested to find out. For me because I am friends with them. Most of my image is the humans. Well, it's the telling secrets that they give it to me, and this is the things that I have to find out the secret. What they want to find out. It's not the building, it's not the area.
- So, then I will change my question. Because of these stories and memories, which places did you wanted to see the most because of the memories?
- I will tell you what I want to do, one day. I want to organise them, I have friends, they used to play music that days, there was very famous. There was many groups in Famagusta, music group. Students made groups, I met most of them. So I want to tell them and go to the beach. As they do that days afternoon because I have stores also and the police comes and throw them out from the beach. But they six 7:00 o'clock at night because it wasn't allowed to move. So I would I want to organise them. The musician, the boys the girls, they used to love them. Listen to them. So I want to put them on the beach and make one beach party.
- So when you went inside, was there a place that strike you the most? That you were so surprised to see.
- The buildings. I have the architects from outside before it was open. Remember, there Dherinya was big houses like that. So I knew it, but I didn't believe that it was like this. When I was walking, if you see the building, opposite the garden, Lykeion Ellinidion, if you see the big buildings, you see that after 50 years and they want one paint and you can stay there. When I was walking in Democracy, I saw many nice buildings, very rich house. It wasn't normal how that we used to have in 1974. The rest of Cyprus the houses was with the dust and they make it and they put it like this. The people used to live with the animals. We used to have the toilets out of the houses, we used to wash the clothes out of the house. And you walk there and you see these houses and say, what is this? That's what was interesting for me and also you can find out,

Bandabulya, it was very big, very big for this town and also around the Bandabulya, from another villages, they used to come and sell the things, chicken, eggs, clothes, olives, anything you can find it over there. So if you go and walk and you think about all these things, now you recognise what was Famagusta and what people of Famagusta used to have. Maybe I have many feelings about Famagusta but that's what I believe. Because I work as a cameraman, not as a feeling and I can see the difference. Suddenly, when I see two pictures, I can understand the difference. They walk in democracy and they make selfie, but they don't know the background, what is the background? You have to respect them, you have to know what this is. Because it's good for you to know the stories about. I'm not walking to make a selfie, pictures because I am walking to see, that's the difference between me and normal people that used to go there.

- And if I asked you what do you think are these places that has sentimental value for the Famagustians, what would you say sentimental value like importance but personal importance for all of the Famagustians?
- The values for all the Cyprus, not only for Famagustians. Famagustians, they don't have time to live now anymore in Famagusta. To see Famagusta grow up because they are old now, old men. The youngers, the children of them, they don't know anything about Famagusta, that's the bad thing. The young kids, they don't know what is Famagusta? They don't care about Famagusta, ask their fathers. So they don't have anything to go against global level. The same happens to Famagustians, but I believe, the value of Famagusta if opened, it's good for all sides, jobs, incomes for Cyprus, for everyone. The bad thing about the Famagustians now is that, the fathers of them, they have a house, belongs to the father. Father has three kids, two girls and one men, let's say. Firstly, they have four children, 15%, have to get this house one house. So the value for them is nothing, that's what I want to tell you to understand why I said is not Famagustians the value because the value is it belongs to big building. It's a good value. But if it belongs to me 100% of this one, there's nothing.
- But that's not in the money value, but as in historical importance. What do you think are the places that has historical importance for Famagustians inside of what?

- I was telling you, most of them goes to universities to high schools, all of them. They are writers, the only thing that I believe historical for them is these kind of things I mean varosha is not very old Town. Varosha starts from 1960 and 1974, finished. It was a town for 14 years. It's very young to have historical value. The old one in the in the limani, it's historical. There you see the story before 1000 years but Varosha doesn't have.
- But from the perspective of the people that lived there, which places are the most important to them?
- The houses, the houses, the houses. I think they have 12 cinemas. And they have more than 20 nightclubs, discos. They have all the hotels. They have live music at that time. They used to be open until 3-4-5 O'clock in the morning. The rest of Cyprus was sleeping from 7:00 o'clock. They used to have life there. All of the people, they have stories about their everyday life, it's not historical for them.
- And what was the places that were very important in this daily life? What was the main things that was the same for everyone?
- Bandabulya, the garden. Some place on the beach. Each one has their place, Faliro. The rich people, used to go to Glapsides. They they didn't go to the beach near the Faliro.
- I didn't know this.
- Were your family going to Varosha at the time?
- I remember I used to go with my cousin and they took me inside, was a big place in in the sea and they will leave me there and they start going and I was tried and I was crying because I couldn't go. I remember this but nothingelse. I never walked in Democracy. I never went to Bandabulya so for me its nothing at that time.

- And if I asked you, do you see a future for Varosha?
- Yes always.
- And what kind of future do you see?
- It's the future. One day it's coming, and they have to open this town. One way or the other way, it's going to open, so when it's open, it's the town that can have a future, for everybody.
- What kind of future? What do you think it will happen?
- I thought that these kind of people I used to talk to them, my age, 60-65. How I told you before, they don't have time to see Famagusta or the opening. Maybe the day that the solution about Famagusta, but they don't have time to live the solution to see Famagusta grow up, because of the time. I believe your age, they're going to live with future Famagusta, I mean your age, they're going to have the opportunity to make a future, to make a job, any job. When Varosha opens, let's say one year, the beach side, in one year it's going to work. Youngers, they have time, the tourists coming for I'm sure about it. Not only from outside but also Cyprus. Most of the people you can imagine to go to the beach in Famagusta, it's 10 kilometres beach. I go there and I walk until and then I come back, I mean, it's fantastic place. The money that is going to be there, all the money. I believe in your age is going to have a future for Famagusta if they want.
- Did any of the things that happened after the October 2020 changed your mind about future?
- No, no. That's why sometimes I'll talk to them. And the thing that I'm going to say, John Lennon, imagining of that all these things. Because I used to go where all the talks about Cyprus and now changed 6 presidents Cyprus. I met Denktas, I met Talat, I met Akinci, I met Erdogan. I know the games, I know politicians, how the reactions of them, I know it's picnic was a party, nothing. He has to do it because he wants to support

Tatar. He has to show to take something happens here. Anyway, we are not going to talk about politicians now. But I believe if the were going to go into Famagusta, Turkey in six years after 74, couldn't go inside. After 2020, he can go inside. He did it. He opens two roads, democracy and Kennedy, nothing else. He didn't do anything else. If there was one to do it, it was them, something hold them back. Also from us. There is some economical things, Agia napa, Limassol, people that they don't want to find the solution, not only for Famagusta for Cyprus problem. Because it's good for them to be like this. Also on the outside, there are some people like this it's normal to me. That's why I mean, I'm not talking politician, I'm talking realistic. So I believe one day Famagusta goes back to the normal people to normal citizens, Turkish Cypriots, Greek Cypriots, doesn't matter. They are coming back, if they wanted to steal it from them, it was easy for them years ago to open it. That's why I believe it's going back to the people. It's a shame to see this town to be like this both of us. For this town, it gives many things to our parents. Because this town makes Cyprus to be how it is, gives too much money for us, the new generations.

- And do you think any of the places in Varosha should be protected as how it is right now?
- Yes, yes, there's many buildings that they have to protect.
- And what are these buildings?
- Some buildings like the front of the garden, the school. Bandabulya has to be. Like as mosque, they make it, it's nice. I mean it's a part of this town they have to recondition and don't lead them to destroy them. The water pump, there is tanks. Because they have two communal ends. It's a part of the town. The story of the town let's say. We're talking about the big areas with oranges. There is no oranges anymore, nowhere. They destroyed. This is not good, because it is the historical part of this town. Cinemas many cinemas, old ones. It was the first cinemas in Cyprus was Famagusta. One of them is in Democracy, Hadjihambi. This building must be recondition. It's historical building. You can you have something to talk about. I don't have something to talk about George's house. I mean, somebody who's living there, I don't have to say anything.

But Hadjihambi, I have to say that. There is a story. There is another cinema behind, Heraion, this is historical things, they have to find out solution to find, make something for them.

- Is there any other place that you think should be protected apart from the things that you said?
- No, nothing interesting. I will tell you something. The Faliro, fell down, shame of them. Because I used to, I have video from there. That's why when I walk in there, I'm walking like a cameraman, watching. So I have video, before the throwdown, instead of this building, nothing happens. Okay it was old one but it wasn't in the situation to fall down. No, they did. They destroyed, I believe they destroyed just to make a straight line for the beach. When there is going to open to be a straight line from Constantia to King George of this beach to be straight. But Faliro was historical for this town, not historical value, historical for this town, they used to go, ABBA used to go there. Very famous actors they used to walk there. I mean, Elizabeth Taylor or what's his name? He was living in Constantia. They made the film exodus. Anyway, those buildings they are not historical value but historical for the town. Now, if you go there, they don't know that Faliro was there. Because they don't see. And when you want to make somebody to forget, you have to destroy the memories. That's what they did. The schools because there is a story about the schools. Any school you go, you have memories. It is a story for you, not for other people. For the town it's good to have good schools.
- Used when you said the mosque. They preserved it. I have a question for you because you did lots of research. Have you come across that about this mosque before the opening? Did you heard about it before?
- No. Well, I didn't know. I was talking with Famagustians about this. It wasn't a normal mosque. It was was a place that they used to go the Turkish Cypriots to pray, it was a small room. But there wasn't any minaret on it. And it was behind the shops of the Greek Cypriots. Nobody knows. Nobody knows about the mosque. And the other thing, to be surprised they didn't care about, they don't have any problem with the Turkish Cypriots, if they have a mosque there. It was normal for them. Normal for them to be

with Turkish Cypriots. The young kids, they didn't know that was a mosque. I asked them also, because nobody knows about.

- And during your research, did you ever did you talk to the Turkish Cypriots that were working in the town?
- No, no. Because I couldn't find. All of them want to be how it was before. From with the bad and the good things, they don't care. They recognise that, we have to live together. I did once with the guy in the hotel with the bombing, the salamina. That guy I met, all the people that was working that day in the hotel and there was waitress cooking and everything. I met them. We had a nice discussion. I find out about this young guy. And I have to tell you something to find out. Some of them, they used to work in the hotels in the tourist area working. Most of them, they are rich men. I mean they get nice future. McDonald's owner, he was from Famagusta, he was working as a waiter in Varosha. I met him and after the war he went to Germany. He was working because of the hotel. We had a very nice school of hotels, factories. I mean, waiters, cooks, chefs. It was a very famous the school in Cyprus, so most of them they go to the school and they start working in Varosha. After the war, because they knew about it they go out of and they won't get good salary. He was talking that day English, Greek, Swedish, German. Many languages. So this guy Mihalios he goes to Germany, suddenly he owns the McDonald's in Cyprus. And also some, how you call it, let's say Marks and Spencer, they are there everywhere in the world. Most of the chains and the restaurants in Cyprus they are Famagusta the owners.
- I didn't know this at all.
- And also very famous Taverns, they are from Famagusta.
- Did you know about that there was a Co-housing project, not project. They were living in a Co housing living by the Agios Memon. It's really close to Golden Sands hotel.
- No, what is this one?

- It's a cool housing place where they would eat together, grow their own vegetables, share everything, but they they were living different families living together.
- You mean that they are now?
- No, during 1970s.
- No I didn't know.
- Those were all of my questions. Do you want to add anything to any of the answers that you have given me? Is there any? Question that you think I should have asked you but I didn't.
- No, I don't know.
- You know, the thing is, Varosha was the first town, the municipality build houses for workers. Near the Agios Memnonas, there is groups of houses that belongs to municipality of Varosha. The big business houses, so the workers were coming from the other village, to live there with the rents very low. And were working to the orange groves or to the hotels or everywhere in the Varosha, they were working, so they give the chance to have a low monthly pay forthe houses. So another thing that Varosha was in front 50 years old.
- Do you have anything that you want to add?
- No. Anything you remember, you want to ask me another day, you can ask me.

E21 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- I refer to Varosha as Famagusta and yes I certainly feel connected. My parents and other family stayed in Famagusta when visiting Cyprus. Famagusta was the main town when my family were living in Koma tou Yialou in the Karpas Peninsular. My step father came to England in 1938 and subsequently married my mother and legally adopted me. On his return to Cyprus for a visit he stayed with my mother in the Constantia Hotel ,which was one of the main hotels of the time. On my first visit to Cyprus I stayed at the Constantia Hotel in 1969 (other hotels in 1970 Florida, and Esperia 1971) Once it was possible to visit the Karpas Peninsular in 2005 I again stayed at the Constantia Hotel (renamed Palm Beach) in order to facilitate a visit to Koma tou Yialou (renamed Kumyali)

- It was at the Constantia in 1969 that I was first introduced to the love of my life. For this reason I particularly remember the Constantia especially with its iconic design . The hotel itself featured in the film Exodus and I recognised the flower pots as being the same as when mum and dad stayed there in 1954.The rounded widow I am sure was the dining room in 1969 and in 2005 I think it was the casino. I returned with a boyfriend and we struggled to find our way to a church which had been turned into an icon museum. The old city was more familiar although I had only once visited once previously.

- Another vivid memory is a visit to the Marangos house (sometimes referred to as the house belonging to Sophia Loren) which housed a private library. I visited it together with a number of Cypriot Librarians as part of a conference. I must therefore have visited Famagusta library but I don't remember that! The photographs which I took in 1970 were sent to one of the Cypriot Librarians not long after the invasion but I did come across the negatives many years later so I was able to share them on Facebook. I was invited to lunch at the house on another occasion. The house and its terrace was quite impressive. I also arranged for one of my bosses to visit Mr Marangos as well.

- My most recent visit to Famagusta was in 2005 and I remember all the barbed wire especially that in front of the other hotels notably the Florida Hotel .I remember my stay there because my passport was returned to the wrong family (in those days passports had to be sent to the police station!)I have since met the owner's son and his wife whilst visiting Larnaca.
- Ghost town is a description to which we have all become accustomed. Heart breaking to see photos of how it is now and to see photographic evidence of how the buildings have been left to collapse or taken over by nature. I have not considered returning to Famagusta since my last visit in 2005. I regularly visit Larnaca. There is no point returning to see tourists gawping at how things are now.
- I cannot see a future for Famagusta unless there is a settlement . I doubt if there will ever be a settlement . I would possibly return to the village and the graveyard of Koma tou Yialou while I can still see the oh so familiar names of those who have died.(Photos available) My father's family house was demolished before the occupation but there are others which I would still recognise.

E22 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yes, we're always there. Mentally, we live in Famagusta. My wife is also from Famagusta.
- Can you tell me your relation to Famagusta?
- Yeah, I was born there and I lived in Famagusta until 1974. And we left on the 14th of August, to escape from the bombing like, what's happening now in in Ukraine and we never went back, we left with no clothes, nothing.
- Was your family living there before as well? For years, the generations before you?
- My father's side was all from Agios Memnon, which is a suburb of Famagusta. My mother was originally from Nicosia. She moved to Famagusta in 1953, I think, and she got married, she had a family there. The family from both sides was from Famagusta.
- And do you remember living in Varosha?
- Yes, for sure. Yeah, I remember there. I finished primary school and the first two classes of secondary school, gymnasium it is called. And for us, the time zero is 1974. It's everything is related to that year.
- And you said you finished primary school, which primary school?
- Christi Akti, Golden Sands is the translation.
- Is it the one next to now high school. Or is it the Famagusta College that is now?
- Christi Akti is in the enclosed area in the restricted area, it's at the height of the Sandy Beach Hotel where the military hotels are. The hotels where the military is based. That's the golden beach.

- And you said you got the first two classes of gymnasium. Is it the one that we see in the open streets now?
- Yes, yes, it's right next to the stadium there.
- Were boys and girls mixed in the gymnasium. Or was it only just boys?
- It was only boys up to 3rd Class, the gymnasium. The Lyceum was mixed for 4th, 5th and 6th class at that time.
- And was your wife, also a teenager at the time in Famagusta?
- Yes, my wife is the same age as I am and she was going to the girls school in which is it's not in the first area, its near Agia Katerini church, it's being used by Turkish Cypriots.
- And if I asked you what is your most remembered memory from those years, what would you say?
- Yeah, all the years were memorable. I'm going to school parades in the streets, going to the football matches, the orange festival. Countless hours spending on the beach in Famagusta. Yeah, we have so many memory memories there.
- When you think of Famagusta, what comes to your mind first?
- My house is the first.
- And what does a ghost town mean to you?
- It's not a ghost town. We can see it now, it's real town. We cannot see our House, It's right in the, even now with some streets which are open, we cannot see our house and the school I used to go. For us it is not a ghost town.

- And did you visit before the opening of the streets? Did you go to the surrounding of the fenced off area to look from the beach or any part of the town after the checkpoints opened in 2003?
- Yeah, we went the very first week that 2003 we went to Constantia, just outside the fenced area of Famagusta. And we visited a few places up to Apostolos Andreas. And the last summer, last June, we visited the part of Varosha which was open for the pedestrians. It was a big shock for us. We saw it for the first time after so many years and everything looked very small compared with what we had in mind, probably because we were young. The scale is, it was a real shock for us, I was expecting everything bigger. And it looked all very small. The distances were shorter than what I had in mind. And the buildings were in a better condition than they expected from the civil engineering point of view I was expecting everything to be deteriorated but it was a very small minority of these buildings which were in very bad condition. Most of them looked decent, repairable.
- And before the opening of the streets, when you were looking from the outside the fences. Was there any specific thing that you were looking to see inside?
- Yeah, I was trying to see, if we could see our house. And the football club of Anorthosis. I was hoping to see it from the streets, but we couldn't. It was just that the edge of the streets, which we are allowed to walk. I wanted to see this as much as we could but it was very restricted area which we could access. I wanted to go to see the school, the gymnasium, but again, we couldn't go inside the school, just from, we could see it from the distance. And all the shops and everything we couldn't go in and it was not allowed. Something which I wish I could do.
- And after the October 2020 opening was last June, your first time going inside. If I'm not wrong, last June was 2021, so why did it take you a year to go?
- I wasn't feeling ready to go. I didn't know what to, I had mixed feelings even after I went, I was not sure if I wanted to, but there was a strong feeling that let's go and see

what's the situation in there. And they wanted to go and swim in the sea, which when they opened, it was too cold to go. And it was a real pleasure to go and swim again in the sea, in the summer.

- Did you have any memories coming back to you when you went inside and walked democracy and kennedy avenue and the beach?
- Yes, I was there for. One or more weeks after going there, my memory was still over there, although physically I was in the South. Emotionally, I was in still in Famagusta. Yeah, it was. Every time we go there, we get very upset and emotionally stressed.
- And what was the memories that were coming back as you walk down the streets?
- Yeah, I was remembering. We were young and walking there and going with the parents. You remember your neighbors, your friends. Really you go back 50 years, when you walk there. There are people we haven't met since 74. We don't know where they are. And you could see them in their houses. Think deserted there. And you remember people who died and never had the chance to go back.
- And you said your house, where is your house?
- It's in the fenced area, the Silver Street. It's located in the fenced area. Behind the Anorthosis football building. I wish I could go there.
- So I'm guessing because of the location of it your whole life was on Democracy Avenue?
- I was too young for that at that age. We were going only with my parents. I was not walking alone. And I was just playing football in the neighborhood. Democracy Avenue was considered far away for going on our own.
- So what would a normal daily life would be for you during when you were going to school?

- I used to go to school by bicycle from house. And during in the afternoons, we were playing in the neighborhood football or basketball or with the bicycles going riding. There was not much traffic at that time. I used to go play basketball in the afternoons and going to Boy Scouts on Saturdays. It was an easy, peaceful life at that time.
- You said you were playing football in the neighborhood with your friends in the afternoons. Was there any place that you would go with your friends? That was specific for just for you and your friends?
- Not really. We were going to Anorthosis, for playing basketball in the basketball yard. That was the meeting place. It was very close to our house and it was a ground for basketball and volleyball. And at that time, we were very young. I was only 14 years old, less than 14 and we were not going out for cafeterias and this is for all the people.
- And what about with your family? Was there any place that your dad or your mom would take you?
- Yeah, we were going to my grandmother's place because my father's family was very large, my father was ten siblings, we were gathering every Saturday afternoon at my grandmother's house and where were were 30 cousins together. My grandmother had a an orange grove in Agios Memnon and we will go there with the family.
- So would you say that most of the orange groves was in Agios Menon side of Varosha?
- Agios Memnon and Kato Varosha. Where the two places with a lot of orange groves.
- Most of us, apart from your grandmother's house, was there a place that your mom and dad would take you for weekends or food?
- Yeah, we're going to and to other family houses and also for restaurants. I remember a few restaurants, Avenida, that was my favorite restaurant, when I was young. This is on the main Street now on Miaoluis Avenue which is used as a cooking restaurant

for the military, I understand. And one next to Agia Triada church, which had a steakhouse. And we used to go for excursions to Salamina was a frequent place to visit. My father was helping with the archaeological excavations there as an architect. We were very frequent visitors there. And Apostolos Barnabas, my sister was christened there. Lykeon Ellinidon, I remember we visited a few times for some cultural events, like poetry and piano concert.

- Was this prepared by your gymnasium or was these events apart from? You were just going with your family to these events in the lyceum of women?
- I think it was with family. I don't remember going with the school, I don't remember events with the school.
- How was the school life in gymnasium. What was it like to be a teenager at the gymnasium?
- The first two years, it's like an all-young student. Because you're going from primary school to secondary school, it's different way of teaching. We were obedient. There was a lot of discipline. We were always with the proper shoes and trousers and shirts, the uniform. I remember more about the primary school, which is, we had a different way of life, they are very more casual. At the primary school, we had both morning and afternoon classes and we were going home for lunch and then going back to school. I was playing in the basketball team of our school and we won the Pancyprian Championship in basketball. And we used to have many out of school activities like taking part in athletics. And the Anesthesia which was something to do with flowers, with the Orange Festival taking part with the scouts.
- You said you were taking parts in the events like Orange Festival and parades. How was it? How was Orange Festival and the parades?
- Ohh, it was very enjoyable. We spent time, many hours for the preparations. The preparations were more enjoyable than the actual event. Especially collecting the oranges, peeling them, sticking them on the, how do you call the statues. Practicing

how to walk with them for the parades in the Boy Scouts we were practicing for the parade many weeks in advance. Going early in there on the day in the evening before the parade to prepare. Yeah, they were memorable times.

- So you said it would take many hours for the preparations. Where would the preparations take place?
- I remember it was on the Boy Scouts, so I think it was in the School of Christi Akti, I think we did the preparations the last year. I only remember once taking part, the previous years, I wasn't taking part for the Orange Festival, I was only attending it.
- What was it like to attend to the Orange Festival? What do you remember the most from it?
- We were watching. The statues going around in the stadium. So many years ago, the memories are fading. I remember the Dolphins and in the park, being decorated with oranges. In that park we also used to have once a year, we called it like popular festival which we were cooking and selling food on the spot and people were buying around for charities. And I was remembering I was helping my mother cooking hot dogs.
- What was the name of this event where you were selling for charities?
- In English, it's like always popular for the people, it is a festival, it was being held at the municipal garden which was in front of the gymnasium. Between the lyceum and the gymnasium.
- And did you have any favorite shop inside of varosha where you would get an ice cream or a coke?
- Vienna was my favorite place to get cheese pies. We were buying ice cream from Agios Memnon, Hlrakli, next to my grandmother's house. End of Esperidon Street. And my uncle had a toy shop, Panayidopullos, in the Democracy Avenue which was my favorite shop.

- And before you went inside, I know you at first you weren't ready, but, when you decided to go was there a specific place in mind that you wanted to see inside?
- I wanted to see everything that I could see. We walked all the, the whole Democracy Avenue, the whole Miaouli and Kennedy Avenue up to where the point we're allowed to go. I even tried to walk towards the Christi Akti and the police came and stopped us from going there although there was no fence, it was open for cars to go and we couldn't go even on foot to just see. Which was very annoying because we were on foot carrying nothing and they wouldn't even let us walk on the streets. Something we cannot understand why they are doing this to us.
- Is there a place inside of Varosha, where you feel connected?
- Yeah, yeah, for sure. It's our house is. The place I would like to go and stay. Yeah, I feel very connected to my house. My neighborhood.
- And apart from a place that carries the sentimental value, which I'm guessing it's your house, which places do you think carries the historical importance for all of the Varoshaians?
- I think everybody connects to his own house first and then his school, football teams, playground.
- During the school years, was there a place that you would go and get books from, or the school would give it to you?
- Yeah, the school was providing the teaching books. There was a favorite bookshop near our house which was called Politis. I used to visit often by story books and some cartoons like Mickey Mouse. Fiction books I was buying from Politis.
- And earlier you said your dad was taking part in the excavations of the Salamina and at the beginning of this interview you said that your dad is the architect of some of the

monumental buildings inside of Famagusta. Did he ever talk to you about how he came up with the ideas or any of the process, that's what made those buildings?

- Yeah, yeah, I liked working with my father. I was always going and working at the office during the summer holidays, I was like helping and he was teaching me how to draw by hand with pencil on this transparent paper, the tracing paper. His first award was for the municipality building, it was an architectural competition back in the late 50s, I think it was finished in 58, I think, or 57. And he was very proud of this building, had pictures of this building in his office. And I used to visit municipality building when I was working the summers, taking architectural drawings to the municipality for building permit. He studied architecture in Sheffield. And during the late 40s and he had financial problems he had to work to cover his expenses. And he got a scholarship, and he managed to graduate. And then he came to Cyprus. And worked with his father, who was a civil engineer. They started their partnership, Pan and Toumais, they were one of the first architectural offices in Nicosia and probably in Cyprus as well. And The Lyceum of Women was a private project, unlike the municipality, which was a public building. And this was a cultural center. Which was characteristic with the classical architecture, Greek Roman style architecture. Another landmark building is the Anorthosis Football Club building, which is in Evagorou Street. Again, it's a non-government organizations, a building organization. Anorthosis is the main, institution which keeps Famagustians tied together. After 74, I don't think there's any other institution which is bringing so many people from Famagusta together. And my father also did a lot of other designs for hotels, multi-story buildings, houses. And in 74, he lost everything and he moved to Nicosia. He was unemployed for a few months. Then he worked as an employee for another architectural firm, and then he set up again his own business in Nicosia, but he lost his clientele, his background.
- You said you used to work in your dad's office during the summer. So where was the office?
- It's located in Apostolos Varnava Street. Which is perpendicular to Evagoras Avenue. It's behind the Electricity authority building, if you know the area. Turkish soldiers can

pass along the Evagorou street and they can see the office, as they drive through. As you can see from Google Earth. It's right next to the street which is used by the military.

- So when 1974 happened, did your father had any chance to get any of the drawings or the feasibility plans for any of the projects that he did from the office?
- No, no, we couldn't go back with. Yeah, nothing. Nobody, at least as far as we know got anything from their offices. Probably everything is there if it was not looted.
- So all of the these landmark buildings like the lyceum of women, Anorthosis club, none of the these projects have their plans right now because they are left.
- Yes, I hope we will find them when we go back. If they're not rotten, not damage from humidity. I don't think they have any value for thieves.
- Did your dad try to draw any of the plans again later or?
- No, no. Not as far as I know.
- And you said he did. Some of the hotels as well, which hotels did he do?
- The ones I remember when I was in the office Margarita Hotel, Artegon, which is next to Lyceum of Women. It's a multi-story building on the east side of lyceum. Amaryllis, I don't remember the hotels.
- And going back to the monumental buildings, one of them is a public project. So how did your dad's take on this project? Did they reach out to him for it? was any of these projects had competition? Like competition or the project to be chosen?
- Yes, the municipality was competition, architectural competition. He got the first prize, yes. For that one.
- And the others?

- I think that this was direct appointment because he had the reputation from the first one.
- Do you know when did he take on the Lyceum of women project?
- It must have been early 1960 because I remember it finished when I was, I have memories. I can look it up and check must be written somewhere. The date of completion.
- You said you have memories from it. What do you remember?
- I remember the big. What do you call it? A big? Where the performances take place. I only remember the ground floor. I don't, I haven't been upstairs. I don't remember being, going upstairs. I didn't take part in any events. I was only attending as a spectator.
- And Anorthosis club. Do you know when your dad's took the project and when it's finished?
- It was finished when I remember going there must have been early 1960s again. It was finished.
- That has an interesting architectural feature. Do you know what was your dad's inspiration for it?
- The emblem of Anorthosis is that the Phoenix as the bird which rises from the ashes. It's decorating the entrance of the building. I remember the staircase leading up to the first floor. And it was decorated with cups that Anorthosis won in football and basketball and volleyball. I was very regular visitor there because our house was right next to, in the same street as the basketball field of Anorthosis. We were going there playing table tennis and flipper, flippers, that game which you play with, it was very popular early 70s. Almost every day I was there after school. It was a meeting place and

Anorthosis was very famous for its volleyball team in 1973 in 74. It was a champion in volleyball and we used to watch the games and even the team practicing there.

- Is it true that it wasn't only Sports Club but they were also teaching language inside?
- I don't know. I wasn't having any lessons there. Apart from football, it was a gathering place for, it started as a reading place. I remember attending, watching, chess Championship once in in the building. Exhibition of table tennis from some Chinese people came once I remember.
- And you have given three names for the hotels there. That's your dad's designs. Do you know when they were finished or?
- I think my sister, who's an architect and she's a bit older than I am, can help better. She is the mother of Ireni Lochary. Do you have her telephone number or contact details?
- No, I have. Ireni's, but not her mom?
- Yeah, her mother is an architect. She's older than I am two years, and she has better memories than I do, and she worked more years with my father. I worked for 10 years in in England where she was with my father. And she knows more about architecture than I do because I'm not an architect. I can send you her e-mail address and I'm sure she can talk to you.
- Yes, of course. Were you visiting any of these hotels with your dads?
- No, not that I remember. I was not visiting hotels at that age anyway.
- Do you see a future for Varosha?

- I hope. I dream of going back, but the dreams are fading. There is not much hope nowadays. I'm sure Varosha will be there, but we will not be there forever and this is what is worrying.
- Did the things that happened after October 2020 changed your mind about the future. Like the opening of the streets?
- Yes, before October, I was hoping that sooner or later we could go back with any solution of the Cyprus problem. But now it seems that we will not go back. It's sad. If the city is settled like Kyrenia or Omorfo or other places and then other people live there. You will not go back. I hope that the city will not be settled like the other cities. We might given the opportunity of going back, even under Turkish occupation or the Turkish rule. But we don't know what happened to that small area, that they said that it's open. Nobody has gone back and we don't know what's going to happen with the, it's a pilot case. I don't know if you heard more about this personally I haven't heard anything since they said it's open for the Greek Cypriots to go back to their houses in that area.
- And they have been silent. Do you think any of the places inside should be protected as how they are now?
- Yes, I believe that there are many places have to be declared as listed buildings before they are being demolished or fall apart due to time effect. All the schools, the churches, the important buildings have to be declared as listed protected buildings. So that the character remains there. Many buildings are collapsing by themselves, like my grandmother's house is half collapsed because it was made of clay bricks. And we can see it from Google Earth, that half of it is gone. And you can see from the Google Earth a lot of houses have no roofs, just vertical wall standing. I don't know for how many more years before they disappear. Time is killing many things.
- You said some of them should be declared as listed buildings. You said the schools, churches and important buildings, which ones will be important buildings for you?

- Yeah, for sure. Buildings like the Lyceum of Women should be there forever. Anorthosis, historical buildings like buildings of painters, poets and these kind of buildings have to be preserved.
- Which buildings are the buildings for poets and painters?
- Paul Georgiou is one famous painter his house is right next to the beach near Constantia, near King George Hotel. Proper listing for those buildings that have to be preserved.
- These were all my questions; do you have anything to add to any of the answers that you have given me?
- What is the topic exactly? For what are you trying to compile together.
- Trying to mix architectural values with the intangible values which are the memories and the social life connect them together so that it will be a framework for the heritage of Varosha.
- Yeah, the thing is what I realized now I'm 61 years old. I left when I was 14. There is a gap in my life. Which is, now you are taking interviews, you will not interview anybody who was at my age in 74 nobody is alive anymore, after so many years. And we are missing, we lost two generations or so. All those memories have gone and now I have grandchildren. There is no sense of home for these young generations, even I cannot return to my house. I cannot return with my sisters and live in the house of my parents. And we're losing the sense of home, of the roots. The time is affecting everything. I don't know, probably it's the same for you. Are your parents from Paphos or where are your parents from?
- They are from Larnaca and Celya, but the situation is totally different for them and for the Famagustians. And I never noticed this. But like, there's a huge difference between the Famagustians and rest of the Cypriots. Because my grandparents, they never think about ohh what we left Larnaca and they don't try to remember. But for Famagustians, its different.

- Have you interviewed many people from like me?
- I did. I did almost 30 interviews and for me it has been so amazing to be able to speak to all of you.
- Yeah, there is a Greek Cypriot doing exactly the same thing as you do. He interviewed me last month with my mother and he's asking more or less the same questions in Greek.
- I didn't come across his research, is it PhD research as well?
- No, it's not a. It's a. It's a project to record and keep memories for future reference. They were, they say, he said that. They're going to have a website with all the interviews and that people can go in the future and look back and hear stories.
- I think that's really important, and I think it's a good way especially for the generation after to be able to feel connected to home.

E23 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yes, directly, it's a connection that I could never get over, and due to the occupation issue in the city and Cyprus in general, I could never get over the city itself.
- Were both of your parents from Varosha?
- Yes, both of them were.
- Do you remember your life when you were in Varosha and did you have any specific memory of it?
- Absolutely, every detail of it. nothing really vivid comes to mind, in fact everything is still pretty vivid, it's something that I never forgot about and can still remember all of the details of my childhood and our daily lives in the city. The only thing that I forgot about is the people of the city, the neighbours, I remember them solely as names rather than their faces, and since then I have never seen them before.
- Could you describe your life in the city, where you used to hang out at for example?
- Basically since the design of the city was such that it allowed us to live social lives. It was a really developed city and we had a lot of things to do as children on our own and with our families. Our daily lives revolved around going to school, we used to do a lot of activities in the afternoons at school, and if we didn't have any activities, we used to go to the city library to study. We used to also hang out in the neighbourhood and play with our bicycles, any game you can imagine that children would play we would play. It was a normal childhood let's say, but because we were at the age where you begin to learn and recognise and get to know a lot of things, we would absorb everything the city had to offer. It was also around the time that Cyprus as a country began to develop quickly. Famagusta was already really developed so we were essentially being taught by the developments happening in the city. It wasn't us that developed the city, it was already very developed when we were there.
- You mentioned the school and the park, is it one of the things that you remember vividly?

- Apart from I remember it a lot, because it was opposite my house and because my house is in the closed area, and I frequently go there. I go there at least 2 times a month sometimes even 3 times a week.
- What does the name ghost town mean to you?
- That word that they have literally given to the city, to me has the same meaning as the phrase “Δεν ξεχνώ” (literally meaning “I will never forget” and refers to the attempt of all refugees in Cyprus to remember their ancestry and place of origin before the war). I was always curious to see how the city is after the war, but the word “ghost” seemed to me as a scary word, which for me was not fitting at all with that city. “Empty city” or “deserted city” would be more fitting. “Ghost” to me refers to a city that was deserted on purpose, while we, the people that used to live there didn’t want to leave the city. They have used a lot of terrible words to describe it while I personally could never refer to the city as such, I could never say I left now so this is no longer my city. It was the place that I’ve always been trying to return to. So it never had a scary or terrifying meaning for me.
- Does that have to do with the fact that the city was very developed?
- Definitely, the city was very developed for its time. It was a very lively city. We had a shop in Famagusta, in Kennedy Avenue which was the central avenue in the city, that belonged to my mother. My father used to work elsewhere, while my Aunt also had another 3 shops in Famagusta. So we were really organised as children, and we would go there and work. It was a part of our lives.
- What more can you tell me about your work there?
- It taught me to be very focused on my work, I currently work as a saleswoman and my first sales took place in our shop in Famagusta, and it was that which allowed me to become really good at my job today. I remember this one time when my mother was ill, and could not work because she had to be carried to the hospital and instead of me feeling sad for her (even though I was), I was always thinking that I should go to the shop, because I wanted to be the one working it, so my dad having no other choice, gave me the keys and he took me to the shop and I worked by myself for the whole day during the summer. And today I work in the same way.
- Did you visit Varosha when it was closed before it opened in 2020?
- Yes, continuously since 2003, it is a part of my life now.

- What could you see from where you were?
- It depends on the location. My house was just 40 meters from the closed off area, so I would go all the way up to the wire mesh. My house was completely visible from there, all of the rooms inside were also visible. The whole house was visible, but I was just unable to enter. And then I went to other places around the city.
- How did this visit make you feel?
- It was a really weird situation, as soon as I went there the first thing that came to my mind was "I'm back home". I didn't have an emotional reaction where as soon as I saw the house and started crying and thinking how much I missed it and everything, it seemed to me as a normal outcome, it was as if I was away for a long time and then I returned back home. And I feel this way every time that I return there.
- You mentioned that you went frequently after the opening as well, did you have any specific memory come back to you?
- I didn't have anything specific in mind. I can't say "Oh, yes this specific thing happened to me" because I do not consider memories to be what's keeping me close to the city and what makes me wanting to return back. I consider my return to the city to be a normal outcome of the situation, I am just currently "on hold".
- What were your impressions from the area?
- The closed area seemed like a devastated city, due to the damages from the passage of time and as a result of the war, as the city was looted and destroyed and then it was left as it is now. The passage of time was the final blow to the city that essentially "finished it off". For me I can't say for sure. I feel fortunate that I can't see that every day, even though it pains me. I feel as if I have a constant pain inside me, which I used as motivation to start getting involved with activism and to help me do everything I can to return back, or to at least allow me to create a more peaceful environment that would allow me to settle down there even as a "foreigner".
- Is there something in particular you expected to see in when you visited Varosha?
- Yes, my shop and the kiosk that my grandfather used to own outside of the stadium. I was one of the first people to go back when Famagusta reopened.

- Would you say that you feel connected to your shop?
- Definitely, that and the beach. Especially a specific part of the beach that I actually had to walk 4 kilometres to reach.
- How did seeing the shop make you feel?
- I couldn't really get really close to the area because it is a closed military area, allocated for military personnel. The shop is within that area. I can see the shop when I get there but people are not allowed to get any closer to the area. I get a very weird feeling. I cannot really describe it with words. It's one of the things that there are no words to describe it in any language of the world, and they are not really mixed emotions either. I sometimes think that it would be enough for me if I could just live there.
- Is there a specific place in the area that carries a lot of value for you?
- Definitely my neighbourhood, it has the greatest value. Whenever I want to go to Varosha or Famagusta in general the first image that comes to my mind is the one of my neighbourhood. My house is in a sort of privileged position. It is located on a sort of hill that allowed me to look deep into the surrounding fields, and it is also located into a sort of crossroad between Deryneia and Famagusta. It reminds me of all the relationship we had built as children when we were there, and it makes me think that that's how the situation should be for human relationships.
- How did your neighbourhood change over the years?
- It is deserted, it has fallen victim to the looting that happened after the war, as well as the damage caused by the passage of time. Just like the church and the shops that were there, and the Byzantine school that for us it was wonderful just passing outside and listening to Byzantine music being played inside. We had magical experiences from our lives in the city.
- What can you tell us about the church?
- We in a sense grew up in the church. We were always present for the rituals that took place we were there on Sundays, evening prayers, memorials, baptisms, marriages. Easter week had a very significant meaning for us because when it was time for the decorating of the epitaph for good Friday, we would all go out into our neighbourhoods, into our gardens to gather flowers to decorate it and we would fight at night to see which girl would be the one that

would carry the perfume around. After everything that happened though I do not really believe in God anymore, I just believe in the human spirit.

- Could you describe your neighbourhood?
- The neighbourhood was urban. Most of the houses were newly built, they would have two or three floors, and some of them would have just one. They had beautiful gardens. One person was the richest of the neighbourhood, so when they organized birthday parties in the garden, they would set everything wonderfully with umbrellas and benches and prepare really nice food, we would have a great time and then he would call us back the following day because there was a lot of food left still. Most of us were generally well behaved because people would visit each other's houses all the time not just the men or the women, but the families would visit each other's houses. They would for example come to our garden, they would sit down and chat, have a little drink as well. We were one of the first to have a TV in the house too so the whole neighbourhood would gather to watch series that were playing, which were mostly westerns and some old Greek movies. I even remember the city's priest coming over with his wife occasionally.
- Would you say that those things came back to you when you went back?
- No, not really, the memories that I have from Varosha I just have them really well kept in my mind and I also managed to write everything down around ten years ago so that I can keep them just in case so that I can remember them forever.
- What does Varosha mean to you, what does it represent?
- It's basically my identity. I've always considered that the fact that I grew up there was what made me feel different from the rest of the people. This comparison started occurring after the war, when we came in contact with a lot of different people, when we were forced to live all together in provisional settlements. I never managed to get integrated with those people, even though I have the utmost respect for them. I could never bond with them; we didn't really have the same way of thinking or the same way of acting.
- How exactly do you mean that?
- I mean there was a huge change in my life, not financially but mostly socially, with the types of people that I came across.
- Do you see a future for Varosha?

- Up until 6 months ago I kept believing there could be a future, but I no longer believe that.
- What changed?
- I prepared my application to return back, I even paid for a lawyer to take care of the legal matters for the house. I paid for everything as well, but I didn't go through with it. I was ready to go back, I had decided to quit my job, maybe even leave my family, I searched for people that would repair the house, how they would do so and how it would end up looking like. I also contacted my siblings because it was a family house, to determine how we would handle everything. Eventually I realized that all of that was just an illusion and that I could never just go back. Then the war in Ukraine started and reassured me that this is the case. So I cannot see a future for Varosha with me in it, and I say that being fully aware of the situation.
- How did the war in Ukraine change your view?
- It made me realise that if people want to take something, they will do so by force if they have the means, and it will happen with no consideration for human life. Since there are still such inhumanity in the world I have ever since stopped trusting humanity. What can I do as a single person in that situation? Nothing, we no longer have values as human beings.
- Did your thoughts change at all with the opening of the city?
- The city is definitely going to change. It will be "colonised" in a sense. There are already contractors, sponsors and real estate agents in the area planning what to demolish, what to build, how to change everything, etc. I can't picture a future for Greek Cypriots at least in the city.
- Do you think there are places in Varosha that should be protected?
- There are so many places. There is the stadium, the school, the lyceum, the Byzantine school, the museum. There are so many places that should have been protected. They are the identity of the city. If those buildings cease to exist, it means that there's no longer any history left in the city. I believe that the historical significance of a city should be protected by everyone even if it's conquered.
- How would you describe a normal day in the city before the war?
- One memory that really stayed with me, I remember that a lot of cars arrived in the city, I was around 9 years old, and I wanted to get inside one of those cars

and roam around. As luck would have it my aunt just happened to be in the city at the time, and she gave me a small amount of money. I didn't waste any time and I just immediately went to the cashier, gave him the money and went into one of the cars. I remember it was driving so quickly that I felt like Schumacher. A normal day was still really good, we would finish school and there was this classroom we would go to for studying and then we would have afterschool lessons like English lessons, for example. We would also attend Sunday school every week, but if it was a weekday, in the afternoon we would go out in the neighbourhood, and play. During the summer we would spend the whole day by the beach with the whole family, we would gather around with friends and everything. During the winter there were football matches every Sunday that my father used to go to, and he would take me with him because I was a huge football fan. I remember watching a lot of great matches, like Anorthosis VS Bristol City for example, and after the match we would always go to the Famagusta nautical club, where the men would gather and discuss about football and everything else that was going on, and the women would also gather and talk as well, while we were usually outside playing. There is not a moment of my life there that I don't have memories of. I remember everything very vividly. we had very lively lives, we had so many things to do, I can't remember a single day where I felt bored.

- What could you tell us about the museum?
- I only barely remember the museum to be honest. I can't even picture where exactly it is. I remember all of the ancient vessels it had. I probably visited there during a school trip, but I could be mistaken. I cannot remember a lot of stuff about the museum.
- What about the lyceum?
- That I remember vividly because it was directly opposite my grandfather's shop, and we would also go there for ballet lessons. It was a very cultural place, probably one of the most cultural places in the city itself. It was a neoclassical building, it had a lot of columns, with a large door, and there was this vast room inside. I remember some vandalism that also took place before the war where they would write nationalistic slogans on the walls about EOKA B etc. Nowadays the name of the building is covered so that it wouldn't seem like Greek school.

- Would you like to add something else?
- The whole situation is really traumatic, mostly because I feel like I should have been living there, that's all, I never got over that fact.

E24 Transcription

- Lived in Marash in a flat on the beach and then had a house on Miaolou Street. You know Mialou street? It was just wonderful. We joined the Sub Aqua Club on the camp. So we dived all the waters around Cyprus, which is amazing just, the fish is nothing like now what it was then. The fish life, they would aim, they would come up to you and things. Now they run away from you. The first flat was in John F Kennedy Avenue on the beach. That was an army, army hired flats out and the landlord was the Lordos and then he wanted flat block back. So then we moved, that is when we moved to Miaolou Street. We thought that he was going to knock it down and build a new one. Well, he hasn't yet. It still exists, although we couldn't look into it. We went last year, because it's open, so we went and have a look.
- Before coming to your recent visit, you said you served in army from 1960 to 1985 and in Cyprus it started in 1967. Very directly serving in Famagusta?
- So in 67 I was in Episkapi near Limassol. It is a Turkish village, isn't it? Then in October/Novemberish, I was posted 9 Signal Regiment in the north, what is now in the north in Famagusta, Agios Nicholas. Which is we used to call it Four Mile Point, which is just outside of Famagusta.
- And was it from the same year?
- 1968, we got married in February. An order came out in the April.
- 1968 you got married?
- We're just gonna get engaged then but Ric was expecting to come to back to England in 1968, 67 even. So that the army changed his posting to Famagusta instead of England. So he came back and we got married and then I came over a few years. An interesting point that we realised when we lived there, we never knew we lived in Varosha or Maras, we knew it as Famagusta and everyone else was the same. So I don't know if it was, obviously it was called Marash of Varosha,

but nobody used it. And then the old city of Famagusta was the Turkish part, we called it the old city.

- And when you came in 1968? I'm guessing you were allowed to go in the Old Town, so would you say you were visiting the Old Town frequently?
- Yes frequently. They had a couple of night clubs, outdoor disco type bars. We used to go there. Turkish Cypriots didn't really join us there.. This case it for us. The Brits would dance and Turkish Cypriots would stick around and walk, just have a drink and chat, very friendly.
- And do you remember the name of this outdoor disco?
- No. There was one, quite a good one because. It was near the gate to the port, not far from there. I would say it was the premium type. I mean Hotspur Football Club, been to Cyprus and we were in the disco there and they came into the disco, it was open air, and we were there with them. There was we used to go. There was that one near the port. There was a bar at the other end of the old City, the other side of the cathedral. And then there was an open area like a square, with chairs around and that. I remember going there once that time when I was rather neat, we used to get quite inebriated in those days we used to drink quite a lot. There was an occasion where I was up once in the square, dancing to Turkish music on my own.
- And would you say there was a huge gap between what was happening in the Old Town and Varosha?
- We noticed that the Turkish Cypriots were not seen, they were allowed to of course, we never saw. On the beach we spend a lot of time on the beach sunbathing and there would be no Turkish Cypriots except the boys might come down and start doing handstands in acrobatic, the teenagers. But apart from that we didn't see them outside the Old City, did we? To be honest, because we were quite young, I was nearly 21 when I came over, came over in the March and then

I was 21 in the April. So Ric was 23 and we just got married. So we didn't really take much notice of the situation. We didn't really, we knew there was a situation because we, I then got a job on the camp at four mile point, and we had a lot of Turkish Cypriots working on the camp, living on the camp, because they were wanted outside, they didn't travel backwards and forwards everyday, they stayed there because they were frightened. Even though we knew that they stayed there because it was dangerous, we didn't still connect it as being that dangerous. It was still not long after Enosis, before Makarios, he declared independence and they were shooting British soldiers, 450, I think. Need to check that, but it's quite a lot. So we were, really, more interested in the situation in Cyprus. Are they 100% for independence and we didn't think they were, to be honest. People used to talk about restrictions, but we never found any in Famagusta, we just go wherever we wanted. I think our next-door neighbour took us into the old city once as well. In Mialou Street, there, the landlord. And he was young and they took us to in, the nightclub, the Paroquete. They took us there, one time. So yeah, really we never noticed any real problem between the two communities, although there was obviously they didn't mix very much. We were told that if we wanted to go to Kyrenia, we had to wait and go in a convoy, which we know not to be true. It's just them, pumping up the situation. There would be convoy of cars with the UN land Rover front and rear and that was to protect them when they drove into the villages, load of rubbish. We went in the end, we just went on our own. We didn't go in a convoy. There was a Turkish Cypriot checkpoint at the bottom of the road up. There was a check point and we stopped and have a word with them. St Hilarion, Turkish Cypriots took that as a barracks for them from the troubles. We just went. We saw the staff on the camp roll because Cypriots like, and Rick was a sergeant so they had like sergeants mess. And one of the barmen, we went to Cyprus when we bought our house, we went to, my sister has a house in Colossi, in South Cyprus. We went through Agia Napa because that's where we used to go swimming a lot and there was nothing there then. There was no houses, nothing. One little man with a little hut on the beach. Anyway, we went to Agia Napa just to see what it was like now and this man was coming out of the water and it was quite early in the year we started talking to him about swimming in there, and turned out to be we knew him, he was one of the bar stuff at the sergeants mess,

he remembered us. We did have Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots working on the camp.

- And when you were visiting the Old Town, would anyone from the local Greek Cypriots tell you to be careful when you were going to the old town?
- No. Not that they would tell us, we didn't even tell them. Because the British military community is like a lot of places, you tend to sort of mix with each other. And we were friendly with the landlord, but he lived above us, in Mialou Street. We did socialise a little bit but they are always round the corner to us, so we didn't sort of cross paths.
- And in terms of the social life, between the Old town and the Varosha, obviously there is a big gap. So what was the things that you would notice more when you went into the Old Town?
- I know the story, I can't remember the detail, the Cypriot police will patrol areas in Land Rovers and in uniform. And one time, the Land Rover went through across the, you know the gate to the old city which goes across the, went through in the gate and the Turkish Cypriots inside. I don't know who fired first, but there was a gunfight. I think they expected, they could just drive in and not be challenged. They were wrong. We never knowingly knew that there were any Greek Cypriots going inside the Turkish City. And we didn't knowingly know that the Turkish Cypriots weren't coming out that much. No, we didn't know. There was lots of graffiti with Enosis and even Sampson was a name, that they've, Samson who you know when they had the coup from Greece. So there was that sort of, Enosis was, because we thought all that was finished, it's sorted. So it was a bit alarming really to see that.
- And you said your first flat was on Kennedy Avenue and the other one is on Mialou Street. And that is also on the side, like close to JFK right?
- It is the next one back over.

- So where would you say you would spend most of your time on a daily basis?
- On the beach. We would go to the water ski club. Well, we used to work from 7:00 o'clock in the morning till 1:00 o'clock. Then in the winter we had different hours, but in the summer we only worked 7 till 1 and Saturdays. So every afternoon, we used to go to the beach.
- And was there any specific places that you would go frequently to enjoy your time other than the beach?
- Well, we did. Apart from the diving, we liked snorkelling, so we would go to Cape Greco and Agia Napa. There was nothing there then. So it's mostly just a few military people who used to go and you have to take your own drinks and food and everything. There was a little guy with a shack and there was a toilet, one toilet, but on the beach they would sell some Greek kebabs. We realised later on that the Greeks had pork in their kebabs, which we favoured, and the Turkish, who were also evident on the beach selling kebabs didn't have pork.
- And during your time, was there any difference between the local Greek Cypriots and the tourists, or was it just everyone mingling with each other?
- There was no animosity that we saw. It was fine. Although we had neighbours who were the same as we, they were military, when we were on the beach we were just ourselves. When we lived on JFK, the whole block was military. One of the flats was Romanian embassy but we never saw anyone. That was when the old Soviet Union was in place. We were at the end of Mialou Street, then there was a walkway, not a driveway, through to JFKennedy. And between the Mialou and that walkway was the grocer shop. But I thought his name was Ali and I thought he must have been Turkish Cypriot, but I don't think he was.
- What shop was it?

- Grocery shop. We also had, there's a shopping organisation called the NAAFI, which is NAAFI. Which is Navy, Army and Air Force Institute and they have grocery shops and, so the cigarettes and alcohol were people for us, so had English type food and stuff. So generally we would go there once a week and get our shopping.
- Where was this?
- Well I can't remember where it was we used to walk to it sometimes. I've looked on the maps and I can't locate. It was just a house converted to a shop. From Mialou and John F Kennedy walking to the town, it was before you got to the time. I can't remember exactly.
- Would you say you were spending most of your time around JFK or would you go to the town as well?
- For entertainment, we would go to the camp to sergeants mess. But special occasions like Aubrey's 21st birthday we went to the Grecian Hotel on JF Kennedy right at the, it was them. Used to play darts, in the Lantern, where the UN used frequent as well. United Nations were there. Peroquet.
- Where was the Blue Lantern?
- It was on the way into town as well. And in the town as well, there was a little British, there was a building called the Lion House and had a library and newspapers and a café. And you could get these supplied all the precision provisions, all the bedding and stuff for the houses.
- Were you visiting the lion house as well?
- That would be like during the day. Pick something up, magazine or a book. I used to read a lot, used to go to the library. Because I didn't start work until six months after I arrived in Cyprus. So I used to read a lot then.

- If I'm not wrong, Varosha has a library as well, municipal library. Have you visited that as well?

- No no. I am sure I did, it wasn't a big building, which was also the. But that was the courthouse, and I once drove my car into shop called, into a street in the shop called Solomonidis. Some reason, but I parked, double parked, I was in the middle of the street and there was a car beside me, which is quite everybody else, did it. But when I was in Solomonidis, the person between me, moves. I was in the middle of the road and got a ticket. And I got a ticket as well, because the Greeks we had this, we had on the windscreen of car we had the pass, so we get into the camp. So the policeman saw the pass no doubt and gave me the ticket. But then I got a summons to appear in court, I was away. I was going to be away in North Africa. So I thought, well, I go down to the court, see what the problem was. See if they could sort me out. And then so, when did my way into the courthouse and walked along a corridor looking for any indication of, you know, and there was an office at the end and knocked on the door. Open the door and then told him what I was about. I got the summons and I wanted to see if I can sort it out now, he says, you just go through that door there and you will be okay. So I went down the corridor, into the first door, opened the door and in the courthouse, he was the magistrate, he had a door into the court, there he was and me. I pleaded guilty and he fined something like 250 mills. I said well I haven't got any money with me and the court had people in as well. I said well I can go away and get it if you want and then the bloke in the public said, I will lend it to him. It was someone that used to play darts with.

- And where there was the courthouse?

- I don't remember it. But it's a very quick start putting, you know with columns and stuff. I did try to find it but I couldn't find it on the map. Cause when we went in there, we could only go on the route, you're allowed in, you are not allowed to go wandering all over.

- And do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Yeah, we do. Recently, where they opened it up, we could get in. We tried to, find our house, but we couldn't. We weren't allowed to because it's dangerous there. We couldn't go to Mialou street. Have you been in since it's been open?
- I did, yes last summer.
- You have to just stick to the route. We got the bus and when we got to the bus stop at the other end and where the cafe and that is and we look where's our block then and then it was right beside, it was where we stopped with that where we used to be.
- So your house is right by the...
- Not the house, the flat was right beside next to the cafe. Where the cafe is now, Yeah, it is the block next to that is where we use to live in the flat. It was always in my mind to go and try and find it along the. Everything is very much overgrown. But I asked one of the Turkish army sentrites, spoke perfect English, they always do, don't they? And he said it's because it's overgrown, it's dangerous, the building is dangerous and there's rats and snake. Didn't advise it. More than that, he was going to prevent me.
- Did you have any memories coming back to you when you went back inside?
- No, no more really than we always have. We often talk about it, you know, with all our children about it. We've got photographs and things that we showed them so it did a little bit, the locations because you haven't been somewhere for a long time you lose perspective. And even now, we don't really, can't really remember how we got into the Main Street in the town or I cannot remember the directions. I didn't realise it was so close to John F Kennedy. We were going a long way round. And the pass, you know, go into the town so you couldn't get orientation.

- And you said you would talk to your children a lot about Varosha, what do you talk to most about?
- Since we left, and recent happenings afterwards, we studied what one studied, because we mixed with Turkish Cypriots in the north. And we know all the history, all the bad history. And the travesty of justice, how it exists the way it is. And the Greeks get away with it. And he has a tendency to. Do you know the expression get on your soap box? It means you get a box and you stand on it so that you can talk to a crowd of people. Ric used to do that. Yeah, he does that when he gets onto the subject of Cyprus. They don't know the truth. Because of the Greek propaganda, people don't understand what happened to the Turkish Cypriots. And as we said, even when we lived there, we really weren't aware of it properly. But we were young though. Intelligence core friend we had, and it was he that took us into the old city, but he was very much involved in anti-Greek.
- What does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- That's what it is now isn't it. It's Varosha. It means derelict city, and it is a big tourist attraction now. Well, ever since, we bought a house there in Karsiyaka about 14 years ago. And because ever since we bought it, we've been expecting that there would be reunification, but as the years have gone on we've realised, you know that, the Greek Cypriots just keep on obstacles in the way. I mean in a way we would like it, but on the other hand, I think the North would get spoiled like it would become like the South more quickly. Because when we lived in South, the South was more like the North is now. Which is what we like about it. My sister who lives in Colossi, when she first bought her house, which is about, 15 years ago. You could see Colossi Castle, well, now she's just totally surrounded by houses. They just crammed in, whereas the North hasn't reached that stage.
- And after the 1974 have you left Cyprus?
- Yeah, yeah, we left in 1970. Yeah, but one of Rick's sisters was there because her husband was in the army. But she hadn't been there very long when the occupation happened. She was living in Limassol. But then, a few years after that,

after the troubles, when did we go again? In 1985, we went and visited his sister, she was there again. So that was after the occupation, but obviously we didn't go anywhere like Famagusta. But then it was all, the Turks were the outlaws, they were the baddies. We took that with a pinch of salt, I've gotta say. Things felt we didn't, really to be trues.

- And did you visit Famagusta before the opening of the streets?
- Yeah, just gone and have a drink on the beach and have a look. Yeah, we did and the Old City. And the mosque in the old city which is open to the public, it used to be cathedral and they changed into the mosque.
- And you said you were looking to Ghost Town from the wires, was there any specific place that you were looking for?
- Looking for our flat because it was directly on the beach from, you could see it from, what's it called now, it used to be the Constantia Hotel, Palm Beach Hotel. We could see our flat from there.
- And you visited after the opening of the Streets as well?
- Yeah, last year.
- What was your first impressions when you went inside?
- Yeah, we were quite sad, really, won't we? That everything's been spoiled. Because we had such happy memories. Because the Greek Cypriots that we knew when we were there, you know, they were just like normal people. They weren't anti British or anti Turkish Cypriot were they? Just normal people. Which is why we can't understand how they let the politicians, you know when the Annan plan was, I mean we get really cross about the Annan plan and the voting because, the Greek Cypriots voted against it and then they got allowed into the EU and Turkish Cypriots weren't. And we find that very unfair. And we get very annoyed because

they keep vetoing everything, the Greek Cypriot veto everything because they've got the right to. Private consultations, Denktas couldn't go because he wasn't allowed into the meeting. Speaking selfishly, the only thing that would worry about us is, the moment we fly into Larnaca and then we get a taxi, comes over and meets us and takes us back. Because obviously if we go to Ercan and we've got to go via Istanbul or no direct flight. So selfishly, we would prefer if you still free access North and South.

- When you went back when the streets opened, apart from your flats what in particular, did you expect to see?
- I think that's what we did see, we did expect it. Because before it was open, we have been to Famagusta and look round, so we could see what was the other side of the fence. Also, there is quite a lot of YouTube videos of people who have been inside. We have watched a lot of those videos. So we did, expect to see it. Told to, the North, everyone to our friends that go over there and that's too. Just totally impressed with everything in the north. How friendly the people are. And cheap everything is. Not a good thing at the moment for the Turkish Cypriots, necessarily.
- You said you were going to town when you were living in JFK as well. You said you would go to Lion House. Was there any places that you would go specifically on Democracy Ave?
- The Main Street?
- Yes.
- No, not really. I used the dressmaker there a couple times we had our photograph taken in Christy, Christy's Studio. We had a formal photograph taken of us. Haven't been married very long. They didn't have shops like, they're like Marks and Spencers or anywhere where you could just go and buy dresses. So couple of times I went and had dresses made from a dressmaker.

- At the time that you were living, there wasn't any Marks and Spencer?
- No, no shops like that. No British type shops. And then after that, I bought a sewing machine at the electrical shop that Rick was talking about. I can't remember if he remembered the name or not. That was a shop where he got the parking ticket and then I made myself some clothes after that. I think they were the main places we went to.
- Where would you get your? I don't know how it's called fault for tailoring. Where would you get your stuff?
- Fabric. Shops in the near nearby there, there were shops there as well.
- Is that the photo from the Christy's? (timestamp:39:53)
- This is his army kit for when you're in the sergeants' mess, when you have to dress up. If it's a formal occasion. In the summer, that's the summer uniform.
- You both looked lovely.
- Thank you. Long time ago, married 53 years now as long time ago.
- It must be so nice to be able to look at the memories.
- Yeah. The materials I bought, I don't know whether the dressmaker was attached to the shop or not. Cause that dress was made there by the taylor. I had a couple made before I bought the sewing machine.
- Do you still have those clothes with you or?
- No, I gave it away, actually. Well, it was a few years ago, but I did keep it for a long time. We lived in Gibraltar for a few years when Ric was still in the army. And we had a friend who was Moroccan and he had lots of sisters in Morocco, so I gave him the dress for them to make something else. We used to go to the shoe shop

as well, didn't we? The cobblers in those times were really good, so we had shoes made in Varosha.

- Do you know the name of it?
- It wasn't really a shop, it was just someone on the street. But then we went, before we came back to England. We went and I had some leather boots made and I had a leather coat made with fur inside. Sheep skins. Yeah, they were like touristy shops, camel stool. We didn't have many households, the Army used to furnish the place for you, so you had all the sofas and crockery and cutlery and everything. So we only had a few things of our own that we had in the house for decorations, didn't we? I can't remember buying anything specific? We had to buy a heater for winter.
- So you said, did you say you were visiting the market as well?
- Yeah, I remember but not necessarily on a regular basis as they mostly went to the NAFI and they sold everything. So just occasionally we have a trip into town. We were young or interested where else. I been to the Bandabulya in Nicosia, when I am over, I take myself on my own and I go to the, you know, where the border is, the Ledra crossing, on the Turkish side, buy Pashminas. I have been there so many times now, they say hello to me. One of my friend she was, she's got a shop and she always kisses me hello.
- The scope of your work you're doing for the university, for your publication, is it on Varosha? How life was in how it is now?
- Yes, I am. I'm trying to make a framework for the heritage. And not necessarily just the architectural values, but also the places that was important for the people, and not necessarily the people that lived there, but also people that visited for few weeks or just for work? So I'm trying to identify the locations with memories.

- Not very good with names of places are we. Talking about visitors and when we were there the you know the UN has been there for a long time, the United Nations and when we were there, was the Irish and the Swedes, Swedish and they had to wear their uniforms everywhere they went, the UN. But a lot of the Swedish soldiers, they used to bring their wives over for a holiday. And we would go to the peroquet, coz we used to go there quite often, didn't we? And they'd be there and they'd be dancing around the dance floor, you know, like this. And he would have his army uniform on. And they used to have different prices in the bars for the UN. They had a display, a billboard, with all the prices and there's UN prices. And then there's local prices and UN prices are doubled. Because the United Nations, the soldiers used to get paid from whichever country they came from. But then they also got paid from the United Nations, so they were getting like double salary. So, the barkeepers knew this and they couldn't hide because they had to wear their uniforms when they went out, so they had to pay extra. You can see the logic and their prices.
- That's really interesting.
- We did get a little extra pay, but it wasn't all that much, was it? No. They call it local overseas allowance. When you used to go abroad, they used to give you a little bit extra money. And because we had to use a fan, we got an allowance for electricity to use a fan. Electricity allowance. Too hot in the summer.
- Other than Peroquete, was there any clubs or pubs that you would go?
- Well, the Blue Lantern, but that's just a pub really. There wasn't any dancing there. We used to go to the paroquete because there was dancing. The Blue Lantern was just a bar really, and Rick was in a dart team. There's another place we used to go to on Mialou street, go and get mezes, but that was somebody's house, wasn't it converted into restaurant?
- Is it on the streets that is open right now? The English name would be the Goldfish?

- No you wouldn't know it was a kebab shop, would you? It might just had his kebab sign. That's all. It was like a bungalow with a veranda, raised up veranda. Unusually, we sat on the veranda and get a meze. It was the first time we got a meze, we didn't know what it was and we still have ate all meze things. And then Big Plate came out with all the meat. We were already full. But we used to have to pay, 12 shillings, wasn't it? 600 mills. Do you know whats the currency it was then?
- Shillings, I heard.
- If you look at, the post that you saw that I put on Facebook? My memory and also look, I had planned to work it all out, because we rent a car as well so the cost of petrol, cost of drink in town and all those costs are there, all in mills and how many is thousand mills to apply for, etc? Cypriot pound wasn't the same as our. It wasn't a pound sterling but equated. It was a pound for 600 Mills was a pounds. We used to pay 12 shillings, which is about 60 pence. The whole meze each.
- Were you going to any of the cinemas?
- Yeah, we did in Varosha. Yeah, there's two wasn't there? I can't remember the name. What film did we go to see? We went to see Lawrence of Arabia. We also had a cinema in the army camp. Ah, so we would go to that quite often as well.
- And would you go to the hotels in after hotels?
- Grecian. There's another new one, was not on JFK, where was it? What about the King George, we used to go there. We used to park towards the sea, outside in the sea by the King George Hotel and we had a shed there with the keys and I had the keys to boat. But generally we only went there, but it's like a special occasion, special meal.
- To where?

- King John George and Constantia.
- And you celebrated your birthday in Grecian Hotel?
- Right on the top.
- Do you have a highlight from that night?
- Yeah, because in those days, people didn't go out to restaurants all that much, we didn't. So it was very popular to have prawn cocktail. And so we were going to this meal. And so I had a, in my mind, I wanted to have this lovely prawn cocktail. When we got there, they didn't have a prawn cocktail. So, I ended up having red mullets and I didn't realise that it came with the head on. Cause never had a fish like that before in my life. So I in order to eat it, I had to put some lettuce over its head so I couldn't see it. I think I was the first time I had a whole piece of fish, you know, that looked like fish.
- And if I asked you, do you have any place in Varisha where you feel connected to apart from your flat?
- The beach. I would say the beach and the old city really. There where most of our memories of going out and mixing with our friends.
- And a place that carries a sentimental value for you?
- Well, that would actually probably be sentimental, where probably more likely to be in Limassol because that's where we met. Because Rick, went Cyprus in 1967 and then my father was also military and he got posted to Akrotiri. So Rick was in Episcopi and my father was a Akrotiri. But when my dad got sent to Cyprus, I was already had started work then and I was working for the government in England. And I didn't realise that I could have worked for the government in Cyprus, I didn't

know you could do that. So when they went Cyprus, I stayed behind with my grandparents. But then in the summer of 1967 in the June, I went to Cyprus on holiday for one month. And then that's when I met Rick and we went out and then he took a week's leave, the last week I was there he took the whole week off and stayed at my parents house and all that. So we went out with each other. Actually the first week I went out with someone else, his friend, who ended up being the best man at our wedding. And he got sent away on a course. So we were out having a drink and dancing and he said to, and Rick was there and I went to the toilet. When I came back they said we've been having a talk and we've decided that while I'm away on my course, you should go out with Rick. So I said I quite like the look of Rick, so I said, oh yeah, alright then. When the other guy came back off his course as it happened, he then got sent back to England. So Rick took leave and suggested we would get engaged when he came back in the February. But then they changed his posting to four mile point, Agios Nicholas. So he rang me up at my work and said, in those days, telephones were not very wonderful, there was one for the whole office, and you had to book a call from Cyprus to England and Audrey receive the call at her work. So, I'm phoning everybody knew what I'm phoning for and Audrey picking up the call and everybody knew. Cause Rick had written me a letter and suggested that we got married instead of getting engaged. And so then he rang me. He's got everybody listening in his office, and I've got my friend and others listening, he said, did you get my letter? I said, yeah, he said what you think then? I said yeah, okay. So when he came home in February, the wedding was all arranged. He came home for the, so we went out for three weeks together. Then we wrote to each other for seven months. And then he came home when it was for the wedding. And then, a month after that, I went to Cyprus, didn't I.

- Really amazing and romantic story and I can see why Cyprus holds its special place for you.
- When we first retired, which was 20 years ago now, we took early retirement. Rick did suggest then to go to Cyprus. But I said no too far away. So we actually retired to France, we went France for six years and we went to Holland for year and in

the mean time my sister had bought her house in Colossi. But then we decided we would move from Holland and Rick suggested Cyprus again. Because my sister was there then, I felt happier, far away from the family, you know. But then, after about three years, we realised that the backwards and forwards all the time was a bit too much. Because when we lived in France and Holland, we could just pop backwards and forwards. But then we bought a little retirement place in England. So that's how we're not in Cyprus all the time. That was three houses ago. This is the 7th house we've bought since we retired.

- Where does it feel most likely to home for you?
- And this is a nice little house, but. It's a small village outside of Westbury. You know the horse Westbury Horse on their side. Did you mean England to Cyprus which one of those feels like home?
- Doesn't matter.
- This is a nice little house. We're not going to be moving again now. When we first got the place in England, we used to do like 3 months before July and then three months after August. We don't think it was hot then when we were there before.
- No, The global warming.
- Cars didn't have air conditioning largely there, our car didn't and there's no problem. Now, you gotta have it. And we only had small fans that you stand on a table. We didn't have ceiling fans or anything, no air conditioning. Windows open all through the night. Windows open, you could hear the dogs all night long. We throw taters out the window.
- Because you married in Limassol it carries a sentimental value for you.
- That's changed a lot. We wouldn't be able to find the places that we knew.

- But your first house as a newlyweds was in Varosha as well.
- Yeah, yeah, yeah, that was our first. Kennedy was our first home. Yeah.
- What was the first place that's Richard took you out on the date in Varosha?
- Probably to the local pubs, I think the Blue Lantern was the nearest place to us. Cause we didn't have a car for the first six or seven months either. So it wouldn't have been too far away.
- Do you see any future for Varosha?
- I don't think the future we want to see for Varosha, will never be what it was. So I don't know. Who can say which way it'll go? Will they do an agreement and share it? I don't think so. I mean I know there are a lot of Greek Cypriots who want to be back there. They are very selfish and they still are with the way they kept it to themselves when they had it. And now they're not being there. And we did think that it was always kept as a bargaining tool. I think they were offered it as part of an agreement. Montana, nearly came to an agreement.
- And if we be optimistic and say that Cyprus problem is solved, what kind of future would you imagine or picture for Varosha?
- I think it'll become, when we left in 1970, it wasn't as built up as it is now, when it was in 1974. It's quite a lot more buildings there than. In that four years the beach crowded it with all those hotels, hotels in front of hotels, starving the other hotel on the beach. I think that's what it will be like then, I think it would be too commercial. It wouldn't be for local people, I don't think, not really.
- What was the buildings that were in the beachside when in 1970?
- Not much. The Grecian, was the end of the hotels. We had quite a space between our block and the next one along, there was quite a big gap along the beach. But

now when we went. That was all filled in by we had a garden, didn't we? With plants and everything, before the beach.

- After you left did you kept checking what was happening in Varosha or did you just last contract?
- We maintained an interest but there was nothing, there was no information. We didn't have youtube in those days. Any information we got was for my sister when they lived in Limassol and they didn't know very much. They just said that because they the army they could cross the border, didn't they? But it was quiet, it wasn't easy though. And it wasn't until, we bought the house really. We went to the South first of all, and we were looking in the South. But we decided we didn't really like it. It was too commercial. And then we went back again on another holiday, but we went to the north and then we found this house that was in our price range and we liked the north better than the South cause it's more like how it was when we lived there. It wasn't until we actually moved back there that we got to hear of all, about the occupation. Turkish Cypriot people, they don't talk about it much. Even people that we're friendly with, that we've known for a long time. They don't really talk about it. They'll tell you where they came from, family was but that's that it really.
- That's the biggest difference between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriot refugees. Because Turkish Cypriots, when they moved to the north, they accepted their place as a new beginning and they forget everything that's happened before. So you wouldn't find anyone, even my parents, my dad doesn't know anything about where he's from. And my grandma, she wouldn't speak if I don't ask.
- Do you think Varosha should be protected as how it is right now?
- No, I don't think that would, I mean it is not going to last much longer is it. It wouldn't be of any benefit anybody to leave it the way it is.
- Do you think any of the places should be rebuilt as how they were before?

- Our house on Mialou Street, that would be nice, I think, if it was put back how it was. But I should imagine that developers won't let it. It would be nice if it was, in our opinion, but realistically, the developers will want to create. There might be an opportunity to make a unique place in that this world make the community as it was, or try to because they got a well ain't got a blank canvas its half already isn't it? That would be good wouldn't it? What an attraction. Even the way it was now, it is now, it's still built up more than we would have liked it, when we were there. We envisage that when they rebuild it, they'll just build it just be like one big hotel strip loan checker.
- And at the time, which places would you say was really important for the locals?
- We don't really know where the Greek Cypriots went. No. They didn't really like the things we do. Young Brits, just like having dancing and drinking and eating, but nothing the Greeks really didn't eat much, not in the evenings. Well they did, the meze place we used to go to, they did. They did go to places we used to go to, but we didn't mix with them.
- Did you attend to any of their festivals like Orange Festival?
- We didn't actually. We know of them but we didn't.
- That was all of my questions, do you have anything to add to your answers?
- Apart from, we might have said that, we found both communities were very friendly towards us. We didn't see any particular animosity between them except that we knew there was Turkish Cypriots that had to live on camp because they have been damaged, that they didn't. We knew there was sort of segregated that there were only the Turkish Cypriots is in the old city but when we were in either places, when we went out, there were always very friendly with us, so there's never any animosity left over from Enosis or anything like that with the Greek Cypriots.
- Is there a question that you think I should have asked you but I didn't?

- I think we covered everything, if you think of anything just give us an email. I mean we obviously the British community were just on the peripheral really, weren't we? We will mostly, all of the time doing our own thing, especially as we both worked. So our out of work activities, a lot of them were involved with the British weren't they? There was one thing that might be interesting that we, from work. George, I can't remember the surname. I was quite friendly with him, Audrey knew him. In the summer, July, August, when it was very hot. Their community, the Greek community would move out onto the beach. Where was it when we stayed in that hotel, Iskele. In summer, they would move out, the community and camp on the beach and go to work. If they were still, they might be on holiday as well. And we were invited on one occasion to go up.

E25 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Maraş?
- Myself?
- Yes.
- Obviously not.
- So, do you have any connection with Maraş? Or with Famagusta?
- I have a connection with Famagusta, since I have been studying in Famagusta for about nine years, so I already stay in Famagusta on weekdays, I am on that side on weekends, I can say that I am from Famagusta.
- And you said that you have been connected to Famagusta for these 9 years because of school or something. So, do you have any connection with the surrounding areas of Varosha?
- There are so many. I wandered around Maraş a lot during high school because I had a lot of interest in Maraş.
- Then I'm guessing you're from Famagusta too?
- No, I was in Namik Kemal high school.
- Well, if I ask you to explain a little more about your connection at that time, you said, you were interested in Maraş, what was the reason?

- I am very interested in such old antiques, and I am very interested in such old buildings in terms of history. That's why when I first came to Famagusta, even my father used to tell me that he did his military service there. At that time, my interest was born, the first week I went to high school, I even went directly to the wire and walked around, just to see the buildings, how it was inside. It was always a curiosity, I already spent a lot of time there just to see those buildings. I mean, I've always been interested in all of this, even before there was a soldier on the side of the wire, it was a soldier, it was a policeman, something like that. While talking to him, we had such a conversation, and I said, brother, let me skip a minute or two, let me walk inside the wire. And he told me to be late. I said, I'm going to jump in and I'll be at night. No, he said, they will put you in jail, don't be crazy. In other words, I was very curious just because of my interest in this old and antiques. Frankly, I may be one of the people who are most happy that it is opened. Because I entered it before it was opened, I went to this army house there, through the side streets, and I liked it very much.

- You said that your father went to Maras during his military service?

- He used to tell me that my father did his military service in the closed maraş, that this is how it is, this is how it is, and so on. I used to ask because I had a lot of interest. The room used to talk about such a small thing. I was born in a lot of love at the time. When it opened, probably no one went more than me. I went maybe 20 times or so after it opened. And I'm thinking about going back this week, just to go and take a picture.

- What would your father tell you, for example? What's going on?

- In other words, it is not like the stories that are heard from the outside, in fact, the inside of Maraş. Actually, I have heard from people from outside. I love to ask, like, what is it? People hear stories, like golden sands and so on. Inside the buildings, things sit and so on. All of them, they've actually learned about bragging about it,

by this time. Because all the buildings were evacuated, I mean, when it happened, when the landing happened, in 74, a few months after the landing, what I heard was from Turkey, for example, five or six, I'm not sure of the number, but I hear it differently from everyone else because the ships came and all the buildings, vehicles, things in the house were always emptied. I mean, I've heard of them for the most part. They put the plugs in the wall and so on, the tiles and so on, so it's a completely messed up, it's a ghost town.

- Well, you said, you went in before it opened, when did you get in?
- If I am not mistaken, I entered in 2013/2014.
- And what streets did you enter?
- There was an entrance from this thing, there is a road that goes from there to Palm beach, so when it goes straight without turning palm beach, there is a place where there is a driver's license, I don't know, when you pass there, there is a military entrance point, when you go in there, when you go straight ahead, it goes to the thing, even on the side of the current open street in the same way. From there, they would go to the army houses. They used to serve in the army houses there, and I got on and went through acquaintances. But it was beautiful.
- So what does he remember most about his introduction then?
- The one that sticks in my mind the most is the state of the buildings, frankly. I mean, it's not like it is now, I mean, there are a lot of streets on the streets, for example, in the open part, I was there the first day it opened, I went in as soon as the door opened. Nothing had been touched, there had been books on the side of the road for a long time, so even when it first opened, there is a book store in the current open place, there were books and so on in the book store there. Inside the shops there were beer crates and old glass bottles. But when I went three or four

times after that, they all disappeared. So up to them, people took it all even after it was opened. When I went in 2013/2014, everything was in place. There were no cars or anything like that, you know, as it looks in the galleries, but the condition of the buildings is just like that, there were houses with open doors and never entered, but now it has changed a lot from time.

- Well, when I ask you after you go inside, remember that you walked by the wire before that. So, for example, when you walk by this fence, what would catch your eye the most when you look inside, or is there a building that sticks in your mind? Not only by the wire, but also by the sea, for example, when you look at it from Palm beach.
- The big buildings that I can think of are usually like this, I try to look inside the window so that I can see if the items in the house really stop or not. For example, while walking by the wire, I think it was the Derinya public beach, the open beach, there were back roads on the way to that side, there was a gas station on the back road, which attracted my attention. Even on the wall, no matter how old it is, it is always marble. I mean, it's a gas station, but what a luxurious building it was, so I'll never forget such a bluish thing. There were cauldrons and so on in front of it, it was one of the buildings that attracted my attention the most, and there was a church, so it looked very beautiful, so it still exists.
- For example, walking by the wire, then you got into it in 2013/2014, how did that make you feel? For example, seeing these streets?
- I mean, frankly, it's a very sad thing that people have left their homes and been displaced from their homes because of such a war situation, that they haven't been able to come back for 48 years, I think it's been 48 years. I had it in my mind from that time, so my problem was that people left, they didn't take anything with the expectation that they could come back. I've seen photos of some of the rooms, and even some of the people walking around inside, people would have their

clothes hanging in their closets. His glasses had never been washed in the boat yet.

- Before you go inside, did you try to find out what a building or street you saw before this October 2020 was?
- No, there wasn't much communication. I used to hear from my grandparents that they used to tell me that we walked down a certain street or something. It had a cinema, a hospital and so on. I think my uncle was sick before, Maras was hungry at that time, they went to Famagusta, Maraş to take him to the hospital, etc. But I didn't do much research, I didn't do much research on the names of the streets or anything.
- You talked about one of your soldiers from the wire, if I asked you, was this the memory that sticks in your mind the most, or did something else interesting?
- I mean, it was a funny speech, of course, that's what I remember, but the one that sticks in my mind the most is the first church I saw. At that time, I was very impressed by Maraş, and I said that if there are such things on the edge of the wire, how beautiful things are inside. For example, the church next to the football field used to be used as a museum, for example, the room, I am very curious to see the inside of it. I'm still curious, I wish it was urgent. There was an incredible tablator inside.
- So what does a ghost town mean to you?
- What does a ghost town mean to me, that people are displaced from their homes due to the war and cannot return to their homes, what can I say, I can't quite make a sentence, but I can say that it is a bad remnant of the war, frankly, it was a pity that such a thing happened.

- So what would you say is the remnant of war that it is now?

- A bad remnant left over from the war, I mean, when Varosha was opened, then when I was walking in it, I met a Greek Cypriot, that is, a person living there, and I listened to the story he told, he told us about his house or something, he said, I fled here at the time because of the war, he was about 14 years old, I think he had to leave his house and so on, and that time, Well, he used to tell me a pain inside me, he said will I be able to go back to my house or something, when it was opened, he told me on my chest, he showed it with his hand, he couldn't speak, he said it was very good English, he said there was a pain here, he said there was a pain and he said it has subsided a little now because I went and saw my house, he showed us his house, even directly by the sea, he said, this is my house. Now he said it opened up and I came, I saw it, he said he was a little relieved, he said I had hope to go back again, I had hope to be able to regain my home, he said to me like this. The man was quite moved, he said, "I spent my childhood here, but he said that he was leaving my house. I stayed. After that, he said that I will wait now, maybe I can go back to my house when it is opened again. We can't understand this pain of people without experiencing it, I realized that people were already displaced from their homes that day. It is sad how difficult they went, that is, they fled from there for fear of their lives.

- Well, you said that you visited at least 20 times after October 2020, so what were your impressions in general?

- Every time I went, I noticed that something changed, frankly, I have photos from the first day I went to the last day I went, and I also love to take photos. I mean, maybe this will be a bit of a political answer, but I think the emphasis on nationalism is very wrong, people have been displaced from their homes and it is not nice to use this as an advertisement to promote the TRNC. Frankly, this is what I saw, I mean, when there was no road in our country, they poured a road into it in one day just so that they could advertise. I don't think they should have done that, they should have left it as it is, at least if it was going to remain a ghost town.

- Every time you go, you say that something has changed in Maraş, what else has changed besides the road?

- They cleaned the inside of the buildings, so there were ruins and so on, so there were some that looked bad to the eye and some that didn't look visible. They have changed. There was one park, they renovated the park, it was good, it was good, but it was good. I am in favor of restoring it as it is, in fact, it is a complete innovation, I think it is not very nice. In other words, they made a place by the sea, they say that it was as if they came to the beach of Bafra or something, tea garden, huh. I don't think so, I think it's good, I'm against it.

- Was there anything you expected to see before you walked in?

- I was very curious about the cars, there are so many videos on the internet, there were these Toyota dealerships or something, there were even vehicles inside, I would have expected them a lot, but I mean, there was only one under the golden sands right now, and if there wasn't one, they said there was a gallery, there were only a few cars inside. There were a lot of luxury cars under the Golden Sands, but they couldn't get them, so they stopped.

- So where did you hear that?

- This is it, there is one bank inside, this is rich, it is not rich, there is a bank on the street where there are famous brands, I don't know if it is still counted. It has to be Barclays, the bank that is the census there has guards there, I learned from one of those guards when we were talking, after being intimate.

- Have you heard any other insider stories like this?

- I've heard other things, he was a policeman, if I'm not mistaken, the story in Golden Sands, golden sands is already weird, I'm curious, these cutlery inside him were made of gold or something, the paintings said something they were no longer inside or something, he said there were 1-2 people, but 1-2 people said there was no end. What the person who said no, said made more sense to me because he said, well, there are 2 army houses, they were collected from there and all of them were used to build that army house, they used to use it right now.
- Have you heard any stories about buildings that are open right now and where you can walk down the street?
- About those buildings, I learned one, well, there was a house like the Lefkara house, a man told me, an old man, I heard him talking on the side of the road in the room, and I asked him. He said that there he was, on the long way, when we went to the sea to the beach. He said that this was an antique shop, the sign was broken, it was not fully legible. In the past, I mean, it wasn't old at that time, you know, people who wanted to buy typewriters or mobile phones like that, the guy said that there were old models and the first models there, so I learned about a building where they were sold. Here is a foreign language school, I learned a language school, not a foreign one, there was there, the man told us.
- This foreign language school was also located in the lefkara house?
- No, there is a place with a big garden, it was on the left when we passed it. They blocked the sign in front of it, and now that building.
- And the people who said these things were the people who used to live there?
- The man who told me about the house of Lefkara was from Famagusta, Famagusta used to stay in the castle at that time, he was a resident of Famagusta at that time, he used to say in his childhood, I mean his childhood, his twenties or

something, he would come and visit his family and so on. I heard it from him, I don't know who I heard about the language school from, I just chatted with him, I didn't talk about where he was from or anything.

- Have you heard that way about any other building?
- No, I learned that this Lordos hotel has a lot of buildings in it. In fact, after that, I saw the guy, he was giving an interview on TV that day, I didn't go and talk to him, I wished I could go and talk. On the Greek side, they still continue these hotels, I saw it, but I wish I had spoken. I didn't know, I didn't know, I found out later from the interview.
- So, for example, which or which building caught your eye the most inside?
- Golden sands are number one.
- But the fact that you can't walk to him, you didn't see him
- A certain distance until I went, even the soldier of the peacekeeper started to look at me, I had a long lens, I zoomed in on the long lens and looked at it, even vulgarly. It was the one I was most curious about, the buildings I wanted to go into, I mean, I could go into all of them. I would be very curious to go inside the foreign language school and see those lesson desks and how they train the boards and so on. When I first entered, I saw him and I was very curious about him.
- Is there any other building like this that catches your eye?
- The building that caught my eye, I mean, it all caught my eye, there was one at the bottom left where we walked to the beachside, to the coastal road, there was a house made of la marina, just made of full iron, I mean, the inside of it, what was

it, was it a house, was it a barn. There was a Famagusta tavern on the road in that corner, for example, I wondered if there were still glasses or bottles of liquor in the bar corner, that was in my mind. On the way down, there was a house like a circle, it was very different, its architecture, how was the shape of the house from the inside, how was the layout of the house. I mean, when I think about all of them one by one, I would think of all the buildings, in fact, I was already wondering how the big school at the back is inside, it's an extremely tall building, we have never seen cinemas, for example, but what were the cinemas like, do the pulley systems still stand.

- How did he get overlooked? In a democracy, when he walks in and walks to the right, there is a ruined yellow stone building, and that was the cinema. In the early days, there were direct movies on the floor, when you look to the right of you, you can see the ticket office.
- Every time I go there, I notice something. Well, there was a building on that road, I think it was the exit of the stairs, there were windows that opened like this, upwards like this, there was an old photograph of the windows without stickers at that time, even though the windows were open, and the windows are open in the same way, it caught my attention a lot. Everything was left as it was in '74.
- Have you ever tried to find out what a building is after you get inside?
- I didn't know about that tall building at first, I was told by the court or something. I mean, I heard a lot of false information, actually, they called me that tall, big building court or something, as it could be, and then I found out that it was also a school, I was very curious about it. The house where Marilyn Monroe stayed with someone, the place where that soldier was on the first pass was even open, they took us there for the first day, I think about half a year on the first line, while I was passing there before the other road was opened, how many times did I stop while passing, I even heard scolding from the soldiers, I was held while I was going to take a picture. They got angry and told me, "Don't stop, don't pull, keep going." I

was extremely curious about the interior of that building, I was very surprised when I first learned about it.

- What house is this?
- There was this full military passageway, there was a place like a gate, there is a road from there that turns right and goes straight, the soldier goes towards the army house, on the way there, a green cloth on the left side of the road has already closed it, before you come to the park, there is a park in between, when you look against that park, the building on the left was their building, the building where Marilyn Monroe stayed. It has an incredible architecture, its columns and so on were very beautiful, its balcony is directly close to the sea. For example, I am very curious about the interior of that building, now everyone knows that your photos are famous with those white famous dresses, I wonder if the dresses are still inside.
- Have you tried to find out what any other building is? Or you said you heard lies, what did you hear?
- In other words, in the lies I heard, for example, people would tell the names of the buildings as soon as they knew, and out of curiosity, I would go to the bottom of every person I saw, the person who spoke, let me hear what he would say, that is, if he knew anything, etc. I've heard a lot about the buildings, I've heard about the tour guide once. Oh my God, this was written, this September. The tour guide walks behind him a group of 20 people, they came from Turkey, he said, well, they made a circle in this middle place, they planted olives or something, when we go down to the left of it, there is a corner where the buildings of the whole Maraş coast are visible, there is a nose, he said, oh look, here is the point where you can see all the buildings, he said this is the most extreme point of the island. I turned around and looked at it like this, I was shocked, he told me like this, so you are a tour guide, if you don't know, don't say such a thing, I think all of those people

know that now, that is, those who do not know. It went to me very strangely, for example, tour guides say things they don't know.

- Do you see any future for Varosha?
- I mean, I wouldn't see it in the near future, maybe in the next 5 years.
- What kind of future do you see?
- I mean, I'm saying what I dream, frankly, the buildings that are solid in my dreams, that is, the buildings that have already been completed, are very solid even though they are this old. I've seen some of them from the outside, I've seen them from the inside, so I've heard them from people who have gone inside. Frankly, it is my wish that they be restored as before. In other words, it can be left as it is, the ruined ones can be demolished and a new one can be built, but the old ones can be restored as they are and brought back to life. I dream of such a future for Maraş.
- But have the changes since the streets opened in October 2020 changed the way they think about this future?
- Frankly, it didn't scare me a little bit.
- Reason?
- In other words, there were innovations that were made in a hurry, the road in the old road was very bad in certain places, the road was not very bad in certain places, frankly, even the sidewalks are in very good condition than our newly built sidewalks, because it was closed in 74, let's say it was a pavement built in the fifties and forties, they are still in very good condition, but they cut them down and cut them down and they dive into the streets to clean them. I saw him cleaning a

street, and he grabbed the tree, uprooted the tree, and dragged it directly to the middle of the road. There is no cleaning in such a hurry, you can prune that tree so that it stays in place, for example, it is a wrong move, they got up and poured a road in a hurry so that it would not advertise, the roads are now out like this, they burst and cracked, there are places that rise and fall, buildings have been damaged by such situations, they will see. They poured concrete or something like this at certain points, they built toilets and so on, when you look at it, it is actually the property of a certain person, if there is peace after 2 days, I will throw it away, but you built a structure there and then created a formation. So it's like a sign that you're not going to give these people your property, your property or your place, for example, you've occupied it.

- So, do you think any place inside should be preserved as it is now?
- Golden sands should be protected, obviously. That church was closed in 2002/2003, I think if I'm not mistaken. I'm not sure about the exact year, that church is still preserved, for example, so it should continue. The Lordos hotel had 1/2 hotels inside, they are in really good condition, they can be preserved again, for example, a very big advertisement, frankly, it can be put into service again as it is a finished lordos hotel built in 74, it does not need to undergo any heavy restoration because most of its buildings can be made of solid workmanship. Marilyn Monroe's house, she is the largest, or any other of these car dealerships, which we don't see inside, can be kept for advertising purposes. This foreign language school should definitely be opened and protected.
- Reason?
- Historically, you've probably seen the exterior architecture.
- Is it the white building you call a foreign language school?

- The white building, in front of that big school.
- It was not a foreign language school, it was a girls' high school.
- By the way, I heard this from about 10-15 people, saying that it is a foreign language school. Here's another lie we learned.
- So why do you think the Lordos hotel should be preserved, because of its architecture or because of it?
- There are too many of them in Maraş because of the architecture of Lordos, that is, because there are very large-scale ones, there are also large areas, and there are steep ones such as apartments. I don't know what the interior is like in terms of such an eye-catching hotel image, but I like the architecture of that period very much. Even in the current period, there is still no such architecture, when we look at it in many different ways, they are all in harmony with each other.
- Well, there is a modern church towards the beach, there is a hotel in front of it, what do you think about it?
- The hotel that was bulletted? There was something for him, even in the elevator shaft, there was anti-aircraft and he would go up and down, so they bombed him, you know that?
- No.
- I know that too. When they set up an anti-aircraft gun on top of the elevator, they would raise the elevator and shoot at the planes, so I know that building was shot and hit.

- Those were all my questions, is there anything you would like to add to any of your answers?

- So no, I don't have anything I want to add too much, I hope it's what I said, so if you can underline it, I think it would be nice if it was restored as it is, not by changing it, that's my wish. I hope that there will be peace as soon as possible and that we will get rid of this bad period and situation as soon as possible.

- Well, you said inside, you tried to find out what the buildings were at work, and you tried to find out what the buildings were from anywhere?

- There are people I follow on Youtube, I tried to get information from them, so there is a youtuber who is interested in airplane science, has a lot of curiosity about this closed Maraş, if you know, I will follow him by the way. There was one lying youtuber who was very big, I saw his video and I followed him. He also has 1-2 friends, they even took videos when he came with him, I looked at them, apart from him, I usually ask old people around.

- Is there any question you said you should have asked me this but didn't?

- Obviously, there isn't.

E26 Transcription

–So, do you feel connected to Maraş?

–Do I feel connected to Maraş?

–Yes.

–Of course, Maraş is a part of our land. It is also a part of Famagusta. You're probably going to ask about the pre-74 era. I will tell you about Maraş in that chapter as well.

–So what is your connection to Maraş, what is your connection?

–After graduating from university in 1970, I worked in Maraş for 4 years. I'm a civil engineer, I've done engineering. At the same time, I am an interior designer, I did both my engineering and interior architecture in Maraş. That's where my connection comes from. There are buildings that are still standing at the moment, for which I have done projects. I was the engineer of the building of a famous company like Abbey Gate, an Irish company.

–Well, let me ask you before the projects you came and took part in after graduating in '74. What was your connection with Maraş like in your youth before you graduated in '74?

–Of course, we had ties with Maraş. Especially now we are in April. April 1 was the day for us to escape from school and go to Maraş and swim in the sea. That's why it was the part of Maraş that I liked the most. Every year on an April, we would break the school and go to Maraş and swim in the sea.

–When did you leave Cyprus for university?

–I left in 1966. I turned in 70.

–So, where did you live in your life until 1966?

–Our house was in the castle in Famagusta, I lived there. Of course, another memory about Maraş, I don't remember the exact year, but the first Russian cosmonaut to go into space was Yuri, Alekseyevich Gagarin. We went to Maraş to see him. He addressed us. He called out to us on the balcony of the building directly opposite the zoo.

–Is it a Savoy hotel?

–Savoy is not a hotel, I won't remember the name exactly. I think it was a small yacht house, but since it's balcony overlooks the zoo, we gathered in the square there. And from there he addressed us.

–Do you remember what year it was?

–I think it could be 62, I'm not so sure. Well, I have to look at the internet. In what year did Yuri gagarin go into space? I might even look at it now.

–So what was life like within this wall? In the year up to 1966?

–Of course, our life within the city walls was very bad after 1963. In particular, the attacks of the Greeks are such as the lack of electricity, the lack of water, and the fact that food is very limited. My memories between 63 and 66 are not very good, of course, we experienced a genocide and we were under its influence. I was going to Namık Kemal High School at that time and we went out of the Famagusta Gate and ran out of the Famagusta Gate and went to Namık Kemal High School in January 1964, if I'm

not mistaken, until January. The events started in 63, and after January, a place was found in the castle and we continued our education there.

–But did these situations return to normal later? After 63-66?

–When I arrived in seventy, it was a little bit more and a little softer, but of course the Greeks always martyred the Turks when they found them in the field on the road. But there weren't as many attacks as there used to be. Since I worked in Maraş between 70-74, I was working by hiding that I was Turkish. I used to call it a foreign name antuan because my English is very good, my name is because it looks like my last name. I was working that way by saying Anthony.

–You said that you worked in Maraş between 70 and 74.

–Yes.

–Between the years of 63 and 66, did you ever run away to Maras?

–No, we didn't go because we thought we would probably be captured and killed by the Greeks.

–Yes, you said that life inside the walls was very bad, but I guess this was not the case before 63?

–It was better before '63. It was much better, much different. Because before '63 there was no death or threat of being killed. There were no energy restrictions, no water restrictions, no food restrictions. But 63-66 is a genocide you know.

–Well, in 60, the Republic of Cyprus was formed. What was the connection between the city walls and Maraş between these 60 and 63 years? What was the connection like?

–The Greeks were free to enter the city walls until the events broke out between 60-63, and the Turks were also free to go to Maraş. So there were no problems. It was only a question of finding a job for the Turks. Because when he realized that he was Turkish, his chances of getting hired were down even at that time.

–So did some things change after '66?

–No, it was worse, it was worse after 66 because the Geçitkale events in 67 and the Erenköy clash in 64 made the events a little more electrified, increased the problems a little more.

–So what was the social life like within the city walls?

–Life among the Turks was very good because it is very psychologically very natural, when there is an attack from outside, do you all come together, you all come together, there is no hostility, there is no resentment, you know how to share, and football matches and competitions between us. All of this was happening among ourselves. On special days such as October 29, May 19 and April 23, there were meetings and dinner meetings. It's like people were dancing.

–At that time, it was both forbidden and better for the Turks to go outside the walls due to fear. Where did people go within the walls?

–There was nowhere for them to go. They went to whatever was inside the walls. Of course, outside the walls, there were police stations and Sakarya areas. Karaolos, spelling karakol in Turkish, but there were Karaolos and Sakarya regions. Turks also

lived there. Of course, since they were unprotected areas, they were always in danger under all circumstances.

–For example, were there any events within the city walls?

–Of course, it was happening. For example, on April 23, children gathered at the Canbulat Stadium and here are the April 23 celebrations. Every Saturday, the flag ceremony was held in Namik Kemal Square, and the mujahideen came accompanied by a marching band, and the flag was hoisted on the flagpoles in front of the Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque. These, of course, brought excitement and happiness to the living people, to the living people. There were such activities, on May 19, when young people demonstrated at the stadium, again at the Canbulat stadium, physical education demonstrations, which you must have participated in when you were in high school. Like April 23, August 30, here are the collective iftars during Ramadan, as is the case now. There were all of these activities, such as going to the mosque every Friday, the mosque being open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and worship without interruption.

–So, what kind of economic interaction was there, for example, where did economic activities take place within the city walls?

–Economic activities were very bad compared to the Greeks. If I'm not mistaken for a while, salaries were 30 Cypriot liras until 1967. Everyone was getting a salary of 30 Cypriot liras, so of course, as far as I remember, the most expensive house rent was 5 liras, I think it was 5 Cypriot liras, at that time, the rents in the castle, in the city walls. As far as I remember, it was possible to find a house with two rooms for a little lower in Karakol and Sakarya, that is, for 2 Cypriot liras. The men of Famagusta worked in the port, mostly in the port. Because it was not possible to kill the Turks in the port. There was already a need for workers. From there, if I remember correctly, the diaries, because I worked a few times, was 35 shillings, that is, 1 pound was 15 shillings. It was a good amount of money, because when you worked for 30 days, you were paid about 50 Cypriot liras, which was almost one and a half to 2 times the normal salaries.

That was the economy. Of course, there were grocery stores, there were small taverns, people went to the tavern from their efkars. They drank more cognac. There was no other drink. As far as I remember. That was all.

–In terms of sports activities, were there sports?

–It was very good. So there were different football teams among the juniors. There were seven players, the football teams were 11 players, there were teams of 7 people. In this British habit, those kids were playing football, they were playing basketball, they were playing volleyball. These volleyball competitions were basketball competitions. At that time, if I'm not mistaken, Masgusa was in the league between the Turks after 60-64. Once a week, there was a match in the Canbulat stadium every two weeks, there was a football match. These, of course, colored our lives.

–Were you visiting Varosha before 1963? Or do you remember that?

–Yes, of course we were visiting Marash, we were going to Marash, although I was a child. I mean, I was a 13, 14-year-old kid, but I mean, we were going, we were walking around, it felt different. We mostly went to the sea, of course, the ice cream shops were at the top of democracy street, on the westernmost side, we used to go there and buy ice cream. Because it was a little different from our ice creams, their ice cream, we were going to buy peanuts. They were making very good peanuts in our country, but here was the neighbor's chicken that looked like a goose to the neighbor, we would buy the peanuts from there again, sometimes of course we would go, there was no problem then.

–Well, the one that sticks in your mind the most from those times is ice cream. Do you have any other memories of ice cream shops?

–The thing that impressed me the most was Yuri Gagarin's address to us, the Russian cosmonaut, but I don't remember the year, I think it was 62 or something. So I think

so. We used to go to eat corn, we used to go to buy corn. Of course, what does the child like, there was a mars on the stick. Marses, you know, are shaped like bars, wrapped in paper, but there was also a stick on them. We were going to go and buy it, of course, I'm not sure if it was the anthem we knew or the imitation anthem.

–Was there a place where you specifically got them?

–Of course, we were going to the nearest grocery store in Famagusta, because of the fear of life.

–Were you visiting with your family or friends before '63?

–I usually went with my friends, from time to time with friends of my age, my father and my mother would sometimes take my brother to Maraş for dinner or a restaurant on weekends, but who we were going to, I think it was called Avenida, we would go to a restaurant called Avenida to eat, like Saturday evenings or Friday evenings.

–Was there any difference after I graduated in 1970 and came back? This is the Maraş you saw between 60 and 63, before 1960 and after 1970?

–After 1970 it was more developed, the construction of the buildings, the style of the shops. Here are the fact that 63 stores that did not exist before, that were in England but we did not have them, were opened in Maraş. When I say that the hotels have multiplied, many sea beaches have been enriched and enriched, I really noticed that the seating places and umbrellas of the sales places there have been much more renewed and modernized. For example, there were countless companies selling airline tickets on the street of democracy. They were the most. It would have caught my attention a lot. Because all of them had airplane models in their showcases. For example, Poland and Polish Airlines even had an office in Maraş, which still seems very illogical to me; Who comes from Poland? Who goes to Poland? But you see that we are talking about that period, of course, Poland is a communist country, it is not

possible to exit, it is not possible to enter, but Polish airlines had a ticket sales place. It was very interesting to me. Of course, there were other places that sold small toast, especially toast, which we did not have, they did not exist in the castle. Of course, what else would interest me at that age? They are ice cream parlors, toasters.

–How did you start to take part in the projects in Maraş after 1970?

–I started working in an architectural office. I was the only civil engineer who was the only civil engineer, there was no other person besides me, the civil engineer was the signatory, and therefore I was doing all the construction work of that office. I can even tell you a story if you want, i.e. on-topic or off-topic. In 1972, Famagusta Greek Municipality opened an exclusivity, that it was looking for a civil engineer, that he would be a local, that he would know English, Greek, Turkish, etc. In 1968, after the Greeks attacked the Turks at Geçitkale in 1967, negotiations began in 68. The Turkish Cypriot leader and Greek Cypriot leader were conducting the negotiations. I applied in 72, I think it was the beginning of May, I applied to the municipality, there are no engineers other than me, there is another one, that is Konstantinos Lordos, I don't know if you have heard his name, the richest family in Cyprus, here are the ploughmen in Turkey like the coaches. His child was also a civil engineer, Konstantinos Lordos, and of course he had no opportunity to apply because he employed more people in his company than the municipality. Anyway, May is over, I went to the mayor, they made me wait at the door for four or five hours, because I am Turkish, they don't let the Turks in right away, when I entered, the mayor at the time. Assuming that I was hired directly, I said to the mayor, I came, where is my room, what will I do, what will my salary be? He got up from his desk, came towards me, spread his hands to the side, said, will we find a better one than you, you are the best, you have all the conditions we are looking for, I will be very happy to work with you, but he said, wait, let the leaders of both sides agree, then come and start working, the negotiations are still ongoing. I spoke in 1972, and negotiations are still going on for 50 years. I couldn't get to work, but if the negotiations are over, I will go to the mayor's grave and say I came. If I don't die, I'll say take me to work. I mean, I'm telling you the difference of being Turkish, if I were Greek, I would start working right away.

–So where was the architectural office you worked for?

–The architectural office was located in Maraş. It was somewhere in the middle of them, and the main street is democracy street. From north to south, it is the main street that divides Marash into two parts, it was a little further east than that, it was not a side to Famagusta, but a side to Agia Napa.

–Who did it belong to?

–It was a rum. He was a Greek architect named Takis Panayiotus. He is a famous architect, I think 6-7 people were working in his office, inside the office building. When I came, we were 7, 7-8, but they had things working outside, they had staff. It was a big company, I think it was the one who built the Famagusta town hall. Many buildings, that I call Abbey Gate, is now 10 floors across the sea, John Kennedy, formerly John Kennedy Street, is now Semih Sancar Street. It was on the top of the street. I used to work there.

–So how did you get hired or how did you get the job?

–I didn't have an alternative anyway, when I heard that you were looking for a job, I was reading Cyprus mail, every day when I saw the job posting on Cyprus mail, I went and applied. He hired me before the conversation was over. Because he needed an autograph.

–Which projects did you take part in?

–After that, I took part in many other projects. Of course, I also received a project on the Turkish side because I was also registered on the Turkish side. I signed there as well. My brother was an architect. In other words, between 70 -74 at that time, we drew a lot of projects on the Turkish side and we were coming to our office after leaving

work, after leaving Maraş. My brother was also working in an architectural office in Nicosia and after he came, we were doing our own work at night.

–So, which projects did you take part in Maraş?

–The name I remember now was a very large building with 10 floors. Asteria hotel was drawn by my brother and me. It is very close to the palm beach asteria hotel. We drew it, so I drew maybe 40, 50 two-storey villas as large constructions. I engineered and drew it in Maraş. I drew a building in Bandabulya, of course, it all belonged to the Greek architect. As a name, of course, 50 years have passed, it is difficult to remember their names.

–Was Asterias a hotel?

–Asterias Hotel means star. I can hear you the code ASTERIAS if you want.

–Do you have any plans for any of these other projects?

–It's not possible because all the projects we drew were staying in the office. After that, he went to the municipality, got a permit, and the municipality was left in a copy. In other words, there was no question of me being taken into the project. The layouts are big, you know, each one the size of a table.

–Well, the architect you work in this office has built a lot of important buildings, such as the Town Hall, the girls' high school, and then in the anorthosis club, if I'm not mistaken, this architect drew it, right?

–It could be, I mean, I don't have a finger in it, but he could have drawn it. Because he is a famous architect.

–Did you take part in any projects at the girls' high school?

–I only worked as a control engineer on that project. That conservatory you are talking about is actually a music conservatory. I was the only one there, I worked as a control engineer. I remember it was above the main democracy. As you descended from the sea, there were white columns in front of you on the left, there were Hellenistic columns in front of you.

–Do you have any memories of the beginning and end of that project?

–So I don't know when it started. When I arrived, because it had started when I got the job, or rather it was about to end, I was very interested in the finals. There was no garden, there was a pavement in front of it, as far as I remember, there were gaps on the sides up to the main street. I think we had trees on the sides. So I remember that much.

–Well, the Asterias hotel with your brother...

–We drew together. Of course, he was the Greek architect in Nicosia, he was his architect, I did his engineering because my brother worked there, and I did the engineering. A famous hotel in Asterias, on the seashore of the camel harbor, between the street and the sea, means star in Greek.

–Is this the Hotel with a church on the Hotel parcel?

–No, it's a different hotel, it's another hotel. It was just built very close to Palm beach, I have worked very little on it and it has a very new style. It is a post-modern church. For example, in Orthodox churches, bell towers are square. The bell tower of this one was very different. Its dome looked like the dome of an opera house in Australia, it looks like a roof on top of it.

–So, when exactly did the major changes in Maraş start in terms of urban and architectural terms?

–I think it started in 1964. Why did it start in 1964, because after the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960, 70% of the loans given by the World Bank and IMF to the Republic of Cyprus were for the development of the Greek Cypriot region and 30% for the development of the Turkish regions. However, after the departure of the Makarios government in 1963, Maraş suddenly exploded because it gave the amount sent to the Turks to the Greek investors for 20 years without interest. In other words, the money spent in Maraş is the money we deserve, but it turned into Greek investment under the control of the Greeks.

–So, how did the process work in these projects you took part in between 70 and 74?

–For example, in Abbey Gate, I said that there is an Irish company. Before the current buildings there were 2-storey old stone buildings built in 1945-47, 1950-52, there were very typical Cypriot stone buildings. First, we demolished them, opened the land, it was two lands, we combined these two lands in the title deed, we made it a single land. Because if there are two lands, it is necessary to withdraw ten feet from the border of the land, according to the laws of Cyprus, 3m 05 cm. To get rid of this, in order to save 6 m 10 centimeters, which is a very important area on 10 floors, the plots were combined. After combining the land in the title deed, we did our excavation and the new Maraş had a unique architectural style, architectural lines. I have never seen those lines in Nicosia, Limassol or Larnaca. In other words, the architects working there were always using the same lines and the same beauties, as if they had either collaborated or copied from each other. After that, the excavation is done. Molds are being installed, foundations are being poured, columns are coming out, beams are being made, concrete is being poured, floors are being poured. In other words, you know the process, concrete walls are made after the carcass is finished. After the walls are finished, the plastering begins. Ceramics are laid on the floor, marbles and ceramics are laid. While this is being laid, power lines are being pulled into the walls. If there are water pipes in the ground subfloor, they are being laid. We go step by step. So that's how it ended.

–Well, you said something very interesting. The architectural lines of Maraş were unique, who do you think this architectural line started from at that time, who do you think was the pioneer of the beginning of this tourism?

–Of course, it would probably be the Greek Cypriot Ministry of Tourism that started tourism. Because Maraş suddenly gained a lot of fame. By the time it was the seventies. It was very famous, Cannes of the Eastern Mediterranean, Cannes of France, you know, it was defined as the Cannes of the Eastern Mediterranean. He was very famous. Therefore, as he became famous, investments were increasing. For example, Elizabeth Taylor and Sophie Loren at that time, the building they used was right across from Abbey Gates, so those celebrities came a lot. Because it was very popular because it was a place where you could swim almost 9 months of a year. The service was very good. In other words, the Greeks are already very famous in tavern management and restaurant management, so it became very popular. Of course, I don't know who discovered those lines, who created those lines, but when you come to Maraş one day and walk around, you will agree with me. A different architecture, different lines. Different structure of balconies, different facades of buildings.

–Well, if you know who were the architects who were constantly doing projects with you in Maraş at that time?

–I was a civil engineer working in Maraş, there was no architecture. He was my only brother, my brother passed away. I wish he was alive and would give you information. He also worked in Maraş for a while. He was also very famous, he graduated from London. He drew many projects, he was a very sought after person. Of course, since I was also an engineer, the construction and the work he took fell to me, the engineering part was going well.

–Well, from '70 to '74, you worked in this architectural office. Were there other Turkish Cypriots like you working in Varosha?

–For example, there were constructions, I will always give the same example, 80% of the workers working at Abbey Gate were Turkish, because you go up one floor and you have 20 people, you go up 2 floors and you become 30 people. Because on the lower floor, plastering starts or different works begin. If you go up one more floor, it was 10 floors, if you go up one more floor, this time 40 people are needed because 80% of them were Turkish, as if the crates were placed on the bottom floor and the ceramics were laid. One day, the EOKA leader of Famagusta and Maraş came to the construction site, I guess he heard that he called the owner of the construction and walked around. At the end of the day, he said, "You are terminating all Turks, we don't want to see Turks here again." That 80% was fired in an instant. I was among those who were fired, of course, the architect liked me very much, so he immediately put me in another job. He transferred me to another building. I didn't get unemployed, but other guys were unemployed for a while. Then I placed them one by one in various places.

–So what is the location of this Abbey Gate?

–Look, Abbey Gate's location is exactly what I can tell. It is on John Kennedy Street or Semih Sancar Street in Maraş, directly opposite the military army house, on the opposite right side. A 10-storey building is currently in use. It is used as a dormitory for students studying at EMU.

–What other projects has your brother been involved in?

–These are very difficult questions, it is very difficult to remember the name. Of course. He has many projects in Maraş, my brother has many projects. There are many on the Turkish side, if you ask about the Turkish side, I will remember 3-4 names again, but you are studying Maraş. I know you drew Asterias. Lordos has a half-demolished hotel, right next to Palm Beach. Half of them were destroyed in battle, destroyed on purpose. Because there was the fifth tactical command above it, the Greek Cypriot National Guard. Salamina tower Hotel, my brother who also drew it.

–Are these drawings of your brother still there?

–No, we don't. You know the enlargement of Palm beach, Palm beach is in two parts. There is an old palm beach hotel, there is a new palm beach hotel. The architect of the new palm beach hotel is my brother, and the engineer is me.

–So, what was your daily life like when you worked in the office in the 70s and 74s?

–I didn't have much of a life, I came to work in the morning. In the evening, when work was over, I would return. I wasn't going home at noon, you know, my wife was making me a sandwich and eating it, that was my life. I was trying not to go out too much anyway. Even if I did, I was going out in the company's car. I wasn't getting out of my own vehicle. Just in case.

–Well, you said in Maraş that you were trying not to go out. Have you ever been to restaurants or movies or whatever?

–No, I can say that I almost never went between 70-74. I mean, discos were very popular at that time, I was of a suitable age, I was very young, of course, but the truth of the matter is that I never went, I didn't want to go. I didn't go to the cinema, I went to the cinemas on the Turkish side, of course, because of the fear of life.

–So, for example, I guess the people you worked in the office were also Greek Cypriots?

–They were all Greek Cypriots, men and women, of course, it was not only women, but also men, women and men. My friendship with them was very good. My friendship was very good. I couldn't be bad if I had to be good, I had to be good whether I wanted to or not. They were very nice to me. They didn't discriminate at all.

–Is her daughter an architect?

–No, she

–wasn't. I think her daughter didn't have any profession.

–So what does a ghost town mean to you?

–The ghost town, of course, is still as if the ghost actually stopped in 1974. Because I don't know if you've been there. Have you ever been? Have you visited Varosha? The signs are in place, the names of the shops are on them, only the streets are empty. It would be a very nice plateau, a cinema plateau. Very nice films from the past can be shot there. Does it make sense to me? it doesn't, because I know the reason because I've lived through the war. It's no surprise to me. From the very first day, when the Turkish soldiers came, I was at the forefront as a guide, I put the soldiers in Maraş because I knew street by street, they chose me to guide them. Nothing happened to me, there were no street clashes. When they heard that the Turkish soldiers were coming, the Greeks evacuated the city as it was, leaving it as it was, probably thinking that we would return in a week or 10 days. But they did not return. In my opinion, the reason for this is that the second peace operation started on August 14, on August 14, these boats carried out a massacre in Murataga Atlilar, of course, the news of the massacre came to us. On August 16, on August 15, Turkish soldiers arrived in Famagusta. We embraced them. On August 16, when we entered Maraş, the Turks could kill us, we committed a massacre, we left Maraş as it was, thinking that we would go and save our lives, we would come home on our return, as you know, the houses are empty, the shops are full, the doors are locked, there is no one inside, there is no one on the street.

–Did you enter Varosha after '74?

–Yes, I entered Maraş after 74 because a peaceful force came into Maraş after a while after 74, they set up a few police stations there, they set up a post, they set up a police

station. Since I know Marash very well, I entered Marash on the orders of our government, with a few officers with me. We identified the strategic locations of Maraş and military guard huts were set up there. Of course, there were interesting events that we experienced. We did booby trap research and mine research in Maraş.

–So did you go in after the opening of the streets in 2020?

–Yes, I went 3-4 times. I especially told people like you who do research about Maraş. TRT came, they found me while I was shooting, I informed them. I took all the guides of our Turkish Cypriot Guides Association to Maraş and gave information about Maraş, there is a church that looks like a pencil shaving. I told you, the dome looks like a thing, the opera house in Australia, the way it was built, the streets, democracy, buildings, I gave them all the information I could.

–Did you have any memories that came back to you when you walked in there?

–Will it happen or not? Of course, there were memories of the war and my civilian life. Let me tell you about one, it's a very lyrical, very beautiful memoir. When we entered Maraş on August 16, there are two regions of Maraş, one is where adjacent buildings are built, the buildings are leaning against each other, there is no garden between them, and the other is according to the new order, there are buildings side by side with gaps of 3 m 5 centimeters and ten feet between them. When I entered the old Maraş, when we went to sweep mines with a squad of soldiers, that is, 7 people, of course, we all acted with the idea that the Greeks were there, not that the Greeks fled from there, without knowing where to shoot at us. We were going through the streets so blindly, and when we heard a threatening voice in the distance, we said, oh, we are now trapped. Let's take a battle position right away, friends, some hid behind the wall, some took the position. So I slowly started walking towards the hidden, the hidden, the sound. They continued to call out to me 3 times. I hear the sound, I discovered where it came from. The sound was coming from the backyard of a house, from that house, there was a driveway next door to the house. It was walled off between the two houses. From there, I crawled with my rifle in my hand to the end. And I was raising my rifle

and preparing to fire over the wall to the other side. I didn't shoot because he was a retarded kid tied to a tree with a chain, but of course he was screaming to stop. I immediately called my friends, we crossed to the other side of the wall, and somehow we cut the chains. We slashed it with stones. The kid came and hugged me and said, "Dad, I want ice cream." Now we are in the war, think about it, the child does not know it, of course, because it is retarded, my poor thing, buy me ice cream, I want ice cream, he said, father. Of course, I had tears in my eyes, we hugged the child, his clothes were dirty, he was lying on the pitiful floor, he was rotten, we immediately took him inside, I delivered him to the children's kindergarten, they washed clothes there, they gave him away, I bought ice cream, I took him away, so a few of those memories are a very lyrical story that stays in my mind the most. It's good if you write it down, it's a very, very exemplary story in your research.

–So, was there anything you definitely wanted to see when you went inside after the opening of the street this October 2020?

–By God, I wanted to see the whole place because I knew its original condition very well. I went around every place that was open, the second stage was opened, I went again, I went around again, I went around again, the second stage. Of course, I went to the Abbey Gate building that I built, it was standing, it had never closed, I walked around it. Of course, my memories came to my mind, the work we did came to mind. I went to church, I went to church that looked like a pencil shave. In it, because I had labor, I went to Salamina Tower, and I had labor there.

–What kind of work do you have in the church?

–I worked there as well. There was nothing as a control engineer, as I said, there was no engineer other than me who could sign an accredited document. There were engineers, but they didn't have the right to sign. That's why I had to check and sign many projects. I caught the end of it, too. Then the daughter of our Greek architect, whom I told you about, got married in that church. I went and attended his ceremony. After that, for the first time in my life, I saw the wedding ceremony of the Greeks.

–Is there any place in Maraş that you feel connected to?

–No, there was no memory to bind me. It's just on the balcony that Yuri Gagarin climbed on top of it. Of course, at the moment, it is in the Turkish region, not in the Greek region, the zoo remained with us after the peace movement.

–So, is there a place that is valuable to you?

–The building that is valuable to me is the Bilal Agha Masjid. It is the northernmost part of the avenue of democracy. Bilal Agha Masjid is one of the first places I went to. The first time I went, it was ruined, the second time I went, it was very built. It was fine now. I prayed there, it is a building that has a memory for me. There's a fountain in the square, there's a fountain there, it's the Ottoman fountain, I went to it, of course. Like me, I am an interior designer like you, and of course, I know its value very well. I went there because I knew very well what it was. There is a place where Lala Mustafa Pasha set up his room, I tried to go there.

–So, for example, did you use this Bilal Agha masjid before 74 when you were working there?

–The masjid was open and well-maintained. But it would take courage to go there.

–Reason?

–Because Turkish Muslims, Turks, I think there were only a few things there, there were Arabs who used it, there were Egyptian Arabs, there were Lebanese Arabs, they were using that masjid, if I am not mistaken. I mean, we weren't going there.

–So what is the value of the Ottoman fountain in Bandabulya?

–It is a fountain built during the Ottoman period, because when the mausa was taken in 1571, Maraş was a small village, a tiny village, right where that fountain was. A fountain was probably built there in the intervening 300 years until 1878. Surely so that the people there can drink water. It is very likely that the Ottoman governor of Cyprus had it built, muhassil.

–Do you see a future for Maraş?

–Of course, of course, I think very much that Maraş will regain its old days and its former power, and in these coming years, Maraş will continue to open up step by step, region by region, little by little.

–So, do you think any place inside should be preserved as it is?

–Of course, some places should be protected. Don't think of it historically, you've seen Maraş too. Maraş is a city that developed after the 1950s. A village before the fifties, a tiny village, a place where there were two-storey villas developed after the fifties, where there were one-storey houses, but there were no historical buildings. It's a new city, actually.

–Well, you said that some places should be protected, which places should you protect?

–In other words, the place where the bandabuliya is, the market, the bazaar, the artifacts from the Ottoman Empire, here is the area where the Bilal aga mosque is located, the houses there are always adjacent to each other. They need to be protected, but if you want to protect the 1950s, you have to protect all of them.

–So what is the reason for this contiguous order?

–The reason why it is adjacent is because of this old village layout. The houses are next to each other, there is nothing between them, there is no gap. There are 196 of this chapter remaining from our Republic of Cyprus. That's why in chapter 196 it is divided into two as contiguous ordinance and normal order. It's an old habit as people live en masse. And there is probably a lack of land. Because during the Ottoman period, 100% of the island was Ottoman property. 80% was the property of the sultan, 20% was streams, plains, barren lands, carpet lands. For this reason, since the number of places where the Greeks could build houses and live was very small, they probably built adjacent layouts and saved them from the ground.

–So, what are the buildings that were valuable for the social life of those times?

–Of course, for the social life from that period. There were things in between, for example, there was a church in the open part of Maraş. I don't know his name. I don't remember. Well, it was bigger than the chapel, smaller than the church, it didn't have a tower, for example, it didn't have a bell tower. It had a round, elongated, cylindrical roof. So they were small churches from the 1930s, 1920s, or let's say chapels. They may be historical buildings, but there were no other 100-year-old buildings in Maraş.

–So, where were the most used places in social life for Greek Cypriots?

–The most used places are famous restaurants, famous taverns. You know, they are very fond of drinking, drinking, tavern life. They were the most visited. In the stadiums, there was one doctor Fazıl small stadium, high schools, if I'm not mistaken, there were either 2 or 3 high schools. There was a conservatory. Another social natural side, the camel port, he called the sea beach in Maraş a camel port, they must have washed the camels there. All the facilities along it were very popular. I had the famous ice cream shop.

–Those were all my questions, do you have anything to add to any of your answers?

–Let me put it this way, of course there is, if Maraş is to be opened, if Maraş is to be brought back to life. In my opinion, it will be 100% necessary to demolish all the buildings, rebuild the infrastructure, redraw the electrical system. Because the infrastructure has completely collapsed and trees have grown inside the buildings. In other words, the number of buildings to be saved does not exceed 10%. The remaining 90% will have to be demolished. This is what I have to say about Maraş. We say it will be opened, it will be opened, but it will be necessary to pay for it.

–Is there anything you say you should have asked me about but didn't?

–Let me put it this way, the population of Marasin was 35 thousand. Our population was 13 thousand. I mean, you didn't ask that, but I'll tell you. In 1974, the operation began on July 20, this is the population ratio on July 19.

E27 Transcription

- So, do you feel like it at all connected to Maraş?

- I feel it, because when I was born and I was 10 years old, Maraş was a Famagusta, whole. There were no borders, no wires. I don't remember any problems in Famagusta. In other words, those fasariya written in the history books, the periods of striking and breaking did not exist in Famagusta. Because Famagusta had a different atmosphere. When I was 8-9 years old, you know, how old does a person remember himself, how old did I remember myself, when I remembered after the age of 6-7, that is, after years 68-69, there was no incident in Famagusta because there was an economic unity in Famagusta. Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots used to work together in the port, they used to work together in Maraş as they worked in the port. Perhaps because of the dependence on each other, both in constructions and hotels, and due to the economic field, he does not want to play with the sustenance, bread and life of any other; In particular, this was a region in Famagusta that was far from such a conflict. The people I talked to, especially the one who ruled Famagusta, you know, before 74 there was a military administration between 60 and 74, called Sancaktarlik, the sancaktar usually came from Turkey, he was a soldier, and these commanders who came at that time said that if there was an incident, they would not take bread to the homes of thousands of Turks, so they worked hard to prevent an early provocation, any mutual jostling and an incident, Because imagine, if there was an incident in Maraş, if there was a bombing activity, if a tourism was interrupted, hundreds of Famagusta employees would not be able to take bread to their homes, and in the sanjak, of course, the administration that managed this place, I say this because it was the dream administration of that day, that is, not only in the sense of things, that is, in a way that could not be compared with today's administrations, they would manage the city both economically, military, politically, politically and municipally. In other words, everything would end from these, and in that respect, they did not want people to be unemployed here, without food or water, and in that way, they cared very much about the Turkish Cypriots working in the port and in Maraş, somehow protecting these economic relations, and therefore Famagusta was not a region where there

was conflict, and in this respect, in Maraş, perhaps it developed specially compared to other regions, and I do not remember a single bullet in this region or a conflict until 74. Maraş was part of Famagusta. In other words, when you crossed the main road that separates us, we were in Maraş, 100, 150 meters ahead of our school, even Namık Kemal High School was in Maraş. Our first school was 100, 150 m away from Maraş. It was Maraş just inside the city wall and outside the city wall. Everyone used to walk to the beaches in Maraş and go to the sea. At that time, there was a very famous beach, there was a public beach, in Maraş, which is called Develi faith. Camel port used to come from this, not from camels, but now, of course, we are mixed, and then I learn with people. There were rocks in the sea and a rock had a structure that looked like a camel's hump, when the water came down, the camel came out like a hump, they called it Kamilla, gamilla means camel in Greek, and now they did one last activity and we helped. So I took an ambulance or something, and they swam to this thing from the beach, and they swam to the Camilla, to the camel hump, to the rock, and they came back. The people who swam at that time, all of whom are now 65-70 years old. The people who were in high school at work or finished high school at that time are now 65 and older, and they had such an event last summer. From that point of view, my sense of belonging is very much related to Maraş.

- Well, for example, if I ask you, you were born in 64, what is the memory that has taken the most place in your mind in the time until 74, what is the first memory that comes to your mind when you think about those times?
- I only have one photo left. I have only one photo from Maraş, of course, the moment I took that photo is from the year 73. I was 9 years old with my brother. At that time, of course, there were no mobile phones like now. Even the families with cameras were respectful. There were only cameras from photographers. My brother received a plastic camera from such a gift. I'm not going to call it a toy. In other words, there was a camera that looked very similar to a toy. That road is currently closed when passing through Maraş. That's exactly how it was on the beach, because if you've seen it on the beach, hotels are built. In other words, they are always hotels by the beach. Only this road is Hippocrates Street, I think there was a public beach

between Kenedy Street and Famagusta, which we call this camel harbor after the sidewalk next to this road. We used to pass by that day. My brother had a camera in his hand, we jumped on the beach and took a photo from the beach. In other words, I have that photo in my hand, of course, because I transferred it to the digital environment as very valuable. I mean, I remember that moment very well. Apart from that, ice creams were usually the thing at work at that time. There was no ready-made ice cream as such. I mean, ice cream parlors used to make ice cream at home, and cars had ice cream in a cone. But there is a brand in the south. There's still regis regis ice cream, and these were not on a wand or a cone, but white milk ice cream covered in chocolate, in nylons, and the guys still produce it with that format. It is sold in a market here as well, I buy that ice cream in Famagusta just as I pass to the south, and because we used to eat that ice cream in Maraş as well. Sometimes it's not always the photograph that makes people look back, it's a smell, it's a flavor, when you eat that flavor, you say, look, I went back 30 years and bought that flavor there too. So when I eat that ice cream like this, I think of my father. I remember that we went with him and bought this ice cream from those kiosks in Maraş, where they had a buffet called Periptero. And most recently, a very large hotel was built, the Golden Sands Hotel, which was opened in April or May, at the end of Maraş, towards Derinya, and probably before July 74. So 2-3 months before the war, my father was also very curious. He said let's go to the newly opened places and see this hotel, and I remember very well that we went to the pool of that hotel with my family and sat next to it. It was the biggest hotel at the end of Maraş, which was always known as a hotel that belonged to the royal family, a partnership of the British royal family, a hotel with a partnership with British Airways, the Golden Sands hotel. I remember him very well, and of course, because my father was a lawyer, here are his lawyer friends. Because they used to be lawyers in the common court, I remember our visits to their homes because they used to work together, so my memories, after we entered those streets, it slowly comes to life and returns.

- So what does a ghost town mean to you?
- The ghost comes to mind of a place where there are no people and there is a combination of abandonment and ruins, and such a cold place. We have always

used it as ghost city, but what a heartbreaking word this ghost city is. I regret it every time I use it, I say I won't say it, here is the fenced area, that is, it is defined in several ways, here is the closed Maraş, here is the fenced area, the Greek Cypriots say and so on. I mean, newspapers use media called Ghost City. That's how it is.

- Would you have used the places around the fenced area around it before these streets were opened?

- Of course, we always passed by them. So of course, I mean, when we went to open maraş, we used to pass by the fences a lot, when we went to the beach of the palm beach hotel or the municipal beach, we stood up to the hotels a lot. From there, there was an orthopedic doctor at work. He was a very famous orthopedist named Hadjidakou, he was the only orthopedist in the region, maybe on the island, he had healed many Turkish Cypriots around here, and because I was very interested in the ball, a few months before the war, a ball hit my hand and my finger was swollen or something, he was an acquaintance of my father, he took me to him. It had a clinic like a 3-storey hotel on the beach. And people there used to look at Turkish Cypriots and so on, because there was no other orthopedist in the country, the only specialist who looked at fracture dislocation cases. Of course, we had a very interesting moment with him. Then the battle of 74 ended, troops arrived in Famagusta on August 16. And of course, many Marash residents could not escape or it was a great surprise. I'm going to get into politics now, of course, about those days and some people stayed in Maraş and they were either taken prisoner or killed. Of course, because my father's Greek was like his mother tongue, he had to take the statements of the people who were caught, he was assigned by the management here, and I would sit next to him. We looked at Hadjidakou came with his nurses and the vehicle with his ambulance, the man did not run away from Maraş and he believed that much, I think he helped the Turk so much, healed him and wondered how he would be treated, and I think he did not run away because he felt that his life was safe, otherwise if he was in danger, he would have taken his ambulance on August 17-18. He didn't go, it was August 17 or 18, a few days later, almost all the acquaintances there, especially my father, all mobilized. None of them took statements from him. He did not treat me as a prisoner. They immediately

ordered coffee, food and even took care of the patient, and in the evening they sent him back with his team, handed him over to the United Nations and sent him back to his home. So this is a moment at the end of that war. Then I became friends with his daughter, I met him, I wrote this memoir, it was published somewhere, he read it. He is a tourist guide, he always comes to Famagusta and loves us, and we love him very much.

- For example, when you were using this enclosed space, was there anything specific that you expected to see? My guess is that this is the Hadjidakou clinic.
- I always called him from the beach when I went. What building is it? What building is it? Then, when I came, the things that stayed in my mind were, of course, we would go by land. Which building is it when viewed from the sea? I remember very well that it had 3 floors. I remember it was a grey building. Then, in 2003, the doors opened. When the Greek friends came, I said, please show me Hadjidakou's clinic, because I went there, I remember him very well, I remember him too. I remember very well, they showed me that this building is his. That's what happened.
- Was there anything else you tried to see specifically?
- Another thing that comes to my mind is, of course, this specific camel port, I would like to go to that thing, it is still closed, I would like to go to the place where we took that photo. But I asked my friends, where was this way? Because on this road, the hotels would start on the road, that is, the beachside, the pavement road, and then the hotels and apartments. So the only such thing is a 300, 400-meter road that the hotels are not on the seafront or in the beach. They told me that this is Hippocrates Street, I told them what it was like, and I showed them the photo. They said okay, that's where it is, but it's not open to here yet, that road is closed. I'd love to go there too.
- And did you go inside after the opening in October 2020?

- I went, so of course I went, there are people who came. We even held protests, we have videos inside, we held hands, we held protests, we sang songs, we read press releases with the people of Maraş. So I went. A lot of media teams have already come, ATV, I think it's Germany, made a long documentary with us, with a Greek from Maraş and many television programs asked us for an interview. We went because they all want these interviews from the inside.

- So, did any memories come back when you walked on those streets?

- I mean, let me tell you, it came to you like this gradually. I mean, 48 years have passed, half a century has passed. I mean, little by little, the shape of those sidewalks, the model, the beachsides, etc., came slowly. Sometimes you think too much, I wonder if it was because I was dreaming or if I saw it and it entered my dream, sometimes I was in between.

- So where were these places specifically? Did you feel the same in a certain place or in all the streets in general?

- There was a brand called Zako, I think there still is. Such women or buttons and threads at work and you know at that time there were very few ready-made stores. I mean, there were very few stores where you could go and buy a ready-made shirt and blouse, and there was a magazine called here, and in this here, I would take out things for each size, molds, and they would go from Zako, my parents, and I would be with them, and I would buy things from Zako, and my mother and I would buy fabrics, buttons, threads, etc. I remembered the place very well, of course, it was in ruins, I went and stood in front of it, I took a photo, I came and showed it to my mother, and she remembered it too.

- So what was your impression? Once inside?

- Want to make me cry? If you ask me a little more, I'm going to cry about this now, huh. I mean, I don't know why this happened. I mean, why did we make these people, this city this way, I mean, what a great hostility, what a great hatred, what a hatred, what anger? I mean, it's all over, the war is over, it's been 50 years, it's been a city where none of them have lived, and they're still negotiating, they're playing on people's emotions. So they're playing with this city. They are doing a great disservice to this city. You thought that their owners were your enemies, and you were hostile to this city. Whoever made this decision, those who made this decision are doing the greatest harm to Famagusta, to this city, to this geography, to this Island.

- So, was there a place you definitely wanted to see and expected before you went inside?

- What I was most curious about was that beachside, I would have liked to experience the moment we took that photo again, but it turned out to be closed. I used to remember very well the store we used to go to all the time. I went there and stood in front of it. I took pictures. I remembered some ways. I mean, they were the ones who were left with my mind with that kid thing. Because, after all, we used to go and travel in the car. It was not a place where we would go down and go from street to street and neighborhood to neighborhood because we were children, that is, 5-6 years older than us, they would go back and forth freely like this, but we would break away from the neighborhood and stay in the Baikal neighborhood. It was almost 500-600 m to go to Maraş, and then it seemed long, of course we couldn't walk. We couldn't go like that when I was a kid. There were many people who said that they would scare us and kidnap us, take us off the roads and do it, we did not go out of the neighborhood much.

- Well, then, the relationship between the city walls and Maraş, when we first started to meet, you said that there was an economic dependency on both sides, but is it actually a social life? For example, how many days have you been going to Maraş with your family?

- Now I say in quotation marks the only place to visit in Famagustali, we used to go there to see people. Because everyone is closed within the wall, a population of 8000-9000 people, I don't know if there will be about 1500 people left in the city wall now, but at that time there were maybe close to 8 thousand people. Everyone lived on top of each other within the city walls, and here you see civilization, you see people, you see the beach, you see the sea, you see the beach. Everyone would go there after they had finished their work. Because it was probably one of the quietest areas. When we came home in the evening, my father had a car at work. Where to go? Let's take a tour, we would go from the front of the house to the deepest part of Maraş for 2-3 kilometers, we would get on the car, we would turn the coastal road we call Kenedy street. We would see tourists at work, we would stop on the sidewalks, on the beach, sometimes we would stop and eat an ice cream from a kiosk. Sometimes we would sit in the garden of a hotel or something, so we would go once a week in 2-3 days. Because where are you going to go, I mean, let me tell you frankly, I don't remember if there was a place called Kyrenia before 74. I heard about Kyrenia after '74. I've heard of Larnakayi, Limasso, I've heard of Bafida, but I've never heard of Kyrenia. In other words, think of it as a village, here is Altinova, freshwater Kyrenia. It was probably such a place that I hadn't heard of. Because all the activity, all the tourism integrity, the maritime activities were always in Famagusta and the port and Maraş, so everyone used to come here. The people who lived here did not need to go anywhere. Because the whole of Cyprus was coming here. People who worked from Karpaz to the whole of Mesarya would come here, they would work, and those who earned their money on the weekend would say, "Let me go and sit down, drink a Coke somewhere, sit in a buffet, and take their families and come. I mean, everybody would come here. Suriçi was a closed area. It had a bazaar and a road, and a bandabuliyā, and that was it. So people who had a little bit of money in their pockets that was good at work that people could shop for, if they were going to buy shoes at work, they would go to Bata. If the women were going to shop, something was fabric, that, that, and so on, the Greeks knew the trade very well. For example, I remember very well that if you were going to buy fabric at work, there were 500 different colors and different textures of fabric in a Greek shop. The man would tirelessly download 50 or 60 of them to you, open them, and if you didn't buy them, he would order a coffee and

send them away. You would go to a Turkish Cypriot's store, he would open 3 balls, because if you open the ball and then don't buy it, you will put it back in the customer's surround. If he opened the 3 ball, you didn't get something, he would act like he was going to hit the fourth ball on your head. I mean, people were not allowed to shop for him and there was a ban. So there was a Turk-to-Turk campaign. In other words, you will not buy anything from the Turks or the Greeks. So everyone would go scared. Still, he would leave, that is, people. For example, there was a waist-and-arm tansa bubble up produced by our Turkish Cypriots. I used to see the coca cola that loved me only in TV commercials. I would have loved to drink it or something, but I never did, but when we went to those kiosks, we used to drink. Because if you shop there and go into the house, a lot of people would buy and sell it to you, and then go to the bannerman and tell you; They would go shopping on the Greek side, blah blah blah, they would come and take them away, they would beat them and bring them back. So there was such a system. But despite this, many people would still go, shop, see that social life, see tourism activities there. It was a place of workers. In other words, the vast majority of people within the city walls worked in the port and in Maraş. The most interesting part, of course, in the summer, of course, think about 7-8 months in the country, it would start to work after 6 and a half seven, people would come early, they would come to Famagusta from those villages at five and a half six. After that, there were a lot of sandwich shops and kebab shops, within the city walls, they would eat something, those who were in a little better situation would eat kebabs. but maybe what I remember is that they used to call Namık Kemal Square a bazaar square, then Bandabulia was there, there were many kebab shops, sandwich shops, maybe 10 to 15 sandwich shops and kebab shops there, in the thing that went down to the port road of Namık Kemal Square, people would come into the city walls in village buses, they would get off there next to Gazi primary school. They used to start work at half past 7-7, either in the port or in Maraş, and the constructions usually ended in 2 and a half and three. At four, village buses took people back to their villages. In other words, Famagusta was a workers' city. But what I remember about tourism and brand shops was a ready-to-wear store called Zako, Jet. There was a shoe store called Bata. We used to go to them, and we did, so we were in good wealth. We were a wealthy family, we used to go and shop there and get dressed. I remember especially the bata shoe very well, but that road has not been opened at the moment, the road that

passes in front of the municipality of Famagusta and enters Maraş has not been opened at the moment. We usually used to use that road and go to Maraş. On that road, there was a Jet or something, and there was zako when we went down a little further. That road was not opened. In other words, the roads that I used a lot were not opened at that time.

- You said we used to sit in the garden of the hotel. Was there a particular hotel that you went to all the time?
- I remember we went to this Sandy Beach hotel and now they have built an army house. I remember very well that we went to the golden sands hotel. Other than that, I don't remember anything, so I remember those two.
- Other than that, have you ever been to any buffet or café, or if so, do you go all the time?
- At the entrance of Maraş, they call these evkaf apartments, Yıldız apartments, now that is their name. There was a kiosk in the corner, now they have demolished it, there is this Zagato there, if you know. Just like that, that little fishing port was the yacht club, the place on that islet that soldier was using right now, and there was a kiosk there. They used to sell ice cream there. I remember we used to stop and buy Regis ice creams.
- Is there a place in Maraş that you feel connected to?
- All of them, that is, I feel that I belong to Famagusta, they are a part of Famagusta. So that street is not this street. This is where I was born and raised.
- Is there a place for you that has personal value to the person?

- So it's not worth a person in particular, but so. And then I have friends that I got to know after these doors opened, and as I said, these are the owners of the Florida hotel, which is the second oldest hotel in Maras. We have very close friendships with those people, we go to their homes, they come to us. I mean, it's their hotel that is precious to me because they have memories and things they tell there. Of course, Turkish Cypriots worked there until '74. The hotel belonged to the father of a friend. He was 17 or 18 years old when the war broke out. He also used to work at the hotel. After all, their house was probably close to them. After a while, when his father got old, he said, "Take this envelope and it is the salaries of the people who work here. When the last war broke out, I couldn't pay. If they come, you give them their salaries. So that's why I see it as so valuable in my eyes.

- Well, for example, you did a lot of activities due to this Famagusta initiative before this opening happened, for example, were there any places where these people you met constantly told you and listened to all the time?

- Outside of their own homes, of course, the orange festival was usually held in the first, second, first week or second week of March. I remember very well, there were big models. On these models, they could no longer sell or what we call discarded, oranges that had no sale value, and those oranges that I put on these large models, took out fish figures, basket figures, orange figures. But these are such giants, such a size of 5-6 m 2-3 m. They were figures, made of iron. There was no monumental charade on this memorial circle at that time, it was a circle, of course. They would set up these models there, and we would rip those oranges from the models on the way from Baikal to the city walls on the way to school, and we would make wars and throw them at each other. Here is their high school, which they now call a gymnasium in Maraş, where models are set up, they say that gymnasium a lot because most of them studied in that high school. Behind the gymnasium was the football field, where they celebrated their official parades, ceremonies and holidays. I know he's precious to them. One of our friends said, "One of these irons is in one of these markets. One day we went and bought that model as a surprise for them. We took it to a beach in Maraş where the municipal beach is and we bought it from the orange, we put it on it, we made a model and we did an orange action, there

were very beautiful pictures, balloons, oranges in the action that day, it was a very nice action. That model sat there for a long time, we took photos, everyone's memories were refreshed. So?

- So you also participated in this orange festival then?
- We have always organized the initiative of Famagusta Our City, where the Greeks of Maraş are the largest in the south, we have done most of the actions together with them. We have done kataklismos many times on the beach, kataklismos is the sea fairs in the first week of June. We did it many times, we made a human chain on the borders of Maraş, we did an action on behalf of this festival of oranges. Our biggest action, of course, is the first thing, in these weeks, there was the church Agia Serino, which they used the most when they were living in Famagusta during the Easter period, in that church, we cleaned, repaired and called the first Good Friday again after 58 years. Nearly 5,000 people came that day in 2013. We celebrated Good Friday first in the north with the people of Maras, and most of the time, those who didn't come, those who never came, came for the first time that day. He came to church with his father at the age of 5. Most of them came with their memories, and she came with a photo of her father, the daughter of the priest who was doing the service. EU ambassadors, ambassadors of many countries from Europe came, CNN Greek did it live, it was a big day there, so we even received a lot of threats. We did it in spite of these nationalist fascist groups so that they would attack us because they would not do it. We said if you come, we are here. But they couldn't come, of course. Like this.
- Do you see a future for Maraş?
- Now, Maraş is a city with its people, a whole with its people and memories. In other words, if there is no one left in that city who does not have any memories, that is, if another 10 or 15 years pass, there will be none left. There will be no more Maraş, so there is no such thing. So in these 1-2 years, maybe there was a chance, here are their children, those who are our age, or a little more than us, that is, if anyone

has a memory, a memory, they are alive. Maybe something can give a soul back to that city, even partially, but they are playing for time, they are playing with people's emotions. Probably in a few years, and if this process continues, there will be no such thing as Maraş anymore. In other words, there will be a place consisting of stone buildings and abandoned buildings. Or there will only be a place with a property value. In other words, it is the people who give the soul to a city, it is the living. I mean, who's going to talk about what after they're gone? Maraş does not mean anything to my son, the owner of the hotel there, the owner of the garden, and the owner of the garden also had orange groves in Maraş, Maraş does not mean anything to their children, that is, to their children born in the south. You know, it's going to be a meaningless, expressionless pile of stone dirt. It's just going to be a piece of land that has a material value for children. So much so it won't have any other meaning.

- So, if we are optimistic, what kind of future do you see?
- In other words, if we are optimistic, there is now a war in the region, in Ukraine, and our opinion, of course, is the opinion of many people who are engaged in politics, if we catch the clues, a new energy line from the Eastern Mediterranean will be formed in order to save Europe's dependence on Russia's gas and natural gas, where both natural gas will pass and interconnected electricity generation will pass, Cyprus will remain on this line and confidence-building actions will come to the fore. At the moment, there is a suggestion from the south, they say give us Maraş, and there are suggestions that we should take a mutual step from Ercan to free the flights or something. Last week, the people of the United States who are engaged in these regional policies, Nuland came to the region. He held meetings. In other words, if a very rapid step is taken, we need to get rid of dependence on Russia in natural gas or energy as soon as possible. Because there is still a reaction against Russia in the West, if such a reaction continues, if there is no peace on the island on this natural gas or energy line, if there is no solution, maybe these confidence-building measures are the return of Maraş to its legal owners, if the lifting of the isolation on the reopening of the Famagusta port and Ercan airport to international use comes to the fore and if it happens in a few years, these things will happen.

Maybe it will be possible to bring this city back to life from its shores. I mean, right now, if I see it as a cadaver, I see this city as dead, but they find it in those cells of the deceased, and sometimes they create something out of their DNA. We have the opportunity to find the DNA of that cadaverized city, and if we capture that DNA now, I think we can create something similar to it again.

- So, have the internal changes from October 2020 to today changed your mind?
- Nothing happened so that they only paved the roads. They paved some roads. So nothing remarkable happened. It was also some roads. I mean, they couldn't even open all the roads.
- So do you think that any place inside cannot be preserved as it is?
- In other words, there are not many places of such monumental value inside, but in the 1920s, the British administration decided to build bandabulias on the whole island. The bandabulya of Marash was an important point for those people in Marash. Because Maraş is a new city, that is, it was a city that did not have such a historical texture, that is, if we consider that it stands out only with its new buildings and modern buildings in terms of tourism, that the old city is Famagusta, that Salamis is an ancient city, that is, a city where engomi and civilization were born, that is, it is the place where life first started in Famagusta, Maraş does not have much historical value, and there are no buildings in it. But here are the bandabulya from the English period and there may be houses or hotels that reflect the architecture of that period that is very beautiful. Of course, they can be preserved, but most of them are probably no longer in a position to survive.
- Well, should the places that you think are important for the people of Maraş and Famagusta be protected, although they do not have historical values? For example, you said gymnasium, you said football field.

- Yes, I mean, gymnasiums, bandabulya and certain hotels must be protected. In other words, they are some of the elements that give Maraş that identity. But besides this, many houses are now on the verge of collapse and there are many places that have become ruins, but everything that can be protected must be protected. There is already a big debate among themselves. So that's what we're talking about, and I think it's a bit of a fantasy because we don't want to get too much into that. Some people see it as a purely economic value, and the people of Maraş now say that we need to create a new city and a technological city from here. Some of them still dream of going and drinking coffee on their balcony. Now, when there is such a situation, I do not have the luxury of saying that this should be the case in Maraş. I can't interfere with the property, their lives, their memories, the memories of those people and say that this place should be demolished and this place should be protected. First of all, I wish everyone could enter a house, because they cannot enter their homes, people cannot enter their homes, barriers have been drawn in front of them, their ropes have been cut, etc. In other words, if the man to be destroyed is to be destroyed, he will be destroyed on his head. He wants to die there, maybe what do you interfere with, I mean, it has not been destroyed for 48 years, I don't know if it will collapse when the man enters, they don't even allow him to enter the street where his house is. People face their memories. Therefore, we cannot say that this should be preserved, but the structures that can reflect the exemplary architecture of that period must be protected. In other words, we should not look at it only from a physical point of view, this building is being demolished, let's demolish it. Even if this building collapses, it happens. I can't interfere with it, but there would be such a committee. It works and becomes a structure that cannot really stand physically. But it is decided after the people, the owners of that property, the people who live in that house, face their own buildings.
- Those were all my questions. Is there anything you would like to add to any of your answers?
- That's what I can think of.

- Is there anything you said you should have asked me but didn't?

- No, we talked about it, so Maraş is very special for us. Famagusta as it is, that is, to condemn Maraş, is to condemn Famagusta. Think about it, as much as Famagusta is a historical city, it is within the walls and I am a little interested in tourism, I am trying to do it in tourism. I'm probably going to give up being a doctor this year. I don't want to do it anymore. People come and say, where will we swim, where will we sunbathe, where will we bathe, where will we see the sea; There is no place for them to see in Famagusta? As I said in Famagusta, see the historical place, see it, see this, but not everyone is interested in the history of stone. When summer comes, he wants to take care of the beach and the sun, but we can't help him. One of the pieces of that puzzle is missing. In other words, it lacks a tourist area, a modern area.

E28 Transcription

- You can move on.

- Okay, let me move on. Now, my father, as I said, was a painter, his profession was working with my father and a Greek. He always told us something, here are the hotels built in Maraş and so on, we painted them, here they have golden fountains, I don't know, I am so modern, so modern, so on. He always told us about it all the time when we were kids. Of course, we used to wonder, what is it like? In the conditions of that time, of course, there are hotels that are in that position now, but think about it, you know, think about the situation 30 years ago, that is, I am 50 years old. My father told me about it 30 years ago. I said, "Oh my God." He used to tell us what it was like, we painted it like that, we did it like this. Such modernity and so on has always made me understand, there is such a toilet, such a bathroom. I mean, that's how we grew up in our childhood memories. Of course, when the doors opened 2 years ago, of course, like every Turkish Cypriot, we went to satisfy our curiosity. I've been there 2-3 times. Every time I went like this, I went with those feelings as if I had survived something like this and I would go and see it again. Of course, there is nothing we see. It's a ruin you know, so it's all around. I've always tried to imagine. In other words, we have always tried to imagine what they were like 40 years ago and what they have become now. Of course, we tried to look at the photos. If there are photos from that period, that's how it is. Of course, there are not enough things in the conditions of that period. I mean, we've seen a few videos that compare that period with this period. Of course, it's a very sad thing. I've always thought about this, so imagine a small island. If it were in use right now, imagine that we are all together with the people of this island, not only the Turkish Cypriots, but also the Greek Cypriots. I think that tourism was done there, I think everyone could make a living. They could have done a lot in the field of tourism without having to think about such different professions for our young people to look for another job. Because even in the conditions of that time, they say, I did a little research. It was built in a position to meet fifty percent of the island's population as tourism. I mean, dreams, dreams, I wish they came true, of course, I researched a little more, what is it, what is not? Frankly, I didn't get it. He brought it as waqf property, waqf property. I'm sure you did something about it, it was taken during the Ottoman

period, it belonged to the Ottomans at that time, they transferred it to the foundation as a foundation. Of course, it is said that the British bought it and the British sold these foundation properties to the Greeks and Armenians who were rich at that time and made that region that way. What kind of features do you probably know better? Because when I researched it, I experienced the shocks. In other words, the number of hotels in that period is now in a position to bring more income than the hotel of TRNC tourism in 2022. So it's just a shock in hotels, so for me, it's banks, theaters, movie theaters, schools. I mean, can you think about what happened at that time? But I think there were 1-2 shops belonging to the Turks, I thought it was just like this, and I even saw one of them. While we were talking, I heard from an old man, he pointed to the ice cream shop and said, I don't know what this place is, I don't know who it was, and I asked the man, do you know this place or something? He said yes, he said I used to go here when I was a child, he said I used to go here, where there is something, there is such a thing as a mosque there, I don't know, I should not call it a mosque like this, but there is such a small place where they pray. He said this is the next side of him, he said that a Turk used to run it, he said that the ice cream shop and we used to come and go when we were children. Of course, when I heard about the man, he is very old, I said, here is such a man, I mean, tell us about other things, what did you see? The man said, "How shall I explain it to you?" I mean, imagine that I don't know what 7-star hotels are at that time, car shops that you will never hear of in our lives, as I said, cinemas, theaters, churches. So he told us a little bit like that. We heard these things, and then, of course, when we think about our current conditions, it is very bad, that is, the Turkish Cypriots have nothing. In other words, what is already here will be a bit like politics, but how many self-organizations belong to our tourism, none of them, that is, all of them are made by businessmen from Turkey. I mean, will this situation be solved? I think it's impossible. That's how I see it. Because it belongs to them, how are they going to do it? Are they going to hand it over to them? No. Because this is where I didn't even know about it. At the moment, Turkish troops are under the control of the Cypriots and the United Nations. In other words, the Greeks have nothing to do with this place, but those hotels, workplaces and so on are always theirs. I mean, how is he going to solve it? I don't know if these will be solved later, so maybe if we agree to give something, they will accept the opening of this place in return, maybe something can be done in the field of tourism, so in this way. What else did I jump from where to where?

- I had a lot of questions to ask you, but you almost answered all of them slowly. I will go back, you said that you were born in 1974, but you said that your father used to go back and forth to paint the hotels in Maraş. Apart from that, for example, did you ever go to visit Maraş on weekends, for example, with your mother or something?

- He didn't. In fact, they couldn't even go. They're very old now, maybe we should have taken them away when they saw it, I don't know if my mom was able to go, but it's actually my dad's. I mean, I'm sure my dad has a lot of stuff and now how much have they seen that use? I don't know about it because it was built between 63 and 74, but it was very active in the seventies. I mean, I don't know if he knew much about that usage at the time. In fact, if you want to talk to my dad later, maybe or I can help you with his thing, you know, we didn't talk to you about something like that? But he would always tell you, as I said, I worked, but what hotels were there, blah, he would always tell you, he would probably go. Because I was born in Famagusta at the same time in the valley village, in Famagusta, close to the Famagusta hospital. In other words, it was a commute. For example, someone in Kyrenia might not go much. Since the village where I live is very close to Famagusta, you probably didn't have anything to go to in those times that were already described. My mother used to say, there was a cinema and we used to go there. A movie would come once a month. We'd pick you up, we'd go in their laps to watch a movie. Other than that, there's nothing he does. Think about it, such a life is also in Famagusta, for example, the Turks say. I also researched there. Where they live, they just say a few coffee houses, a few I don't know what it is, I don't know what such little young people can go to, and think about the life on this side, so many hotels, so much entertainment, so much. I think you can probably find a lot of people from Famagusta who went there at that time, so I, the one who was alive.

- Do you feel connected to Maraş?

- Feel. In other words, when you look at it as if it is a thing, it is said that it is a land that belongs to us. It is the property of the foundation, but I don't know what all the hotels

there are, I don't know what the workplaces are, government offices. For example, the church, if you think about it, I don't know of a mosque there, we saw a small place, but 8-10 churches. In other words, since there is nothing belonging to the Turks there, I mean, maybe 1-2 small businesses were assumed, other than that, I don't think it should be, because it is described in that way. So I don't feel like it belongs to us. I feel like it's a place that isn't ours. Well, how are we going to take that place that is not ours and use it, so I mean, that's how I feel.

- Well, for example, before these 2 streets were opened, you said that you went to the places around them and looked at them from the beach. For example, what would catch your eye the most before this opening?
- Well, ruined buildings. Of course, it is a very beautiful beach, for example, we went to the thing, we went, I can tell you, we have a friend, his wife is a policeman. Last summer, he said, Hussein was also present that day, he said, come and let me pass you. He said I'd take a leave of absence. Because I think I remember very well that the person in charge of the Armed Forces of Cyprus, who was responsible there, and even his name was the same as my name. He said I'll pass you by. He said I'd take a leave of absence. He is familiar. We passed, I mean, we went to the beach, you know, they bathe, of course, under the control of the military. I wouldn't say in a hotel, I mean, such a building is a dormitory in the army, or rather, it is a place where members of the army who come from Turkey, not from here, stay. Here we went, we entered the sea. There is no need to talk about the beauty of the sea. Because they even say that sand, they told me, they brought it from Egypt or something, it is a white sand, that is, the sea. When you look at it, it is the most beautiful beach on the island. Famagusta region. I mean, the beach is perfect, but when we look at it, you see that side of the wires, that is, the ruin. You don't look at the beauty of the beach, I mean, I went there that day, we stayed for a full day, I always look around like this, how was this place? Look, I was always asking myself questions in my head. Everywhere is in ruins, I don't know if you have passed but the soldier is holding it. Because they don't let everyone go. Need someone who is a member of the military to be an acquaintance. In other words, imagine a place like a hotel, where families of the army and a few acquaintances go. The beach is probably the most beautiful beach in Famagusta. I

mean, when you go this way towards salamis or something, it's also beautiful, I go there a lot, I mean, but I haven't seen it like this beach, it's very different.

- Well, what you say is that you see the ruin, not the beauty of the beach. How does that make you feel?
- Apart from being upset, I also get angry a lot, I mean, I always said it, I mean 50 years ago. In other words, I don't always blame the Greeks, I am a bit of a peaceful person here, something happened and happened. So this is going to be the case for years? An end had to be put to this. I mean, I feel a lot of anger, so people like this have always consoled me. They didn't do anything, and they didn't have anything to do. They offered it but did not accept it, it is the annan plan in the Greeks, this is what it is, for example, during the annan plan period, you will never remember them. I was very active, we used to go to all kinds of things. That 2013 was the year we had the most hope for for myself and my friends around me. It was the year we had the most hope for, we said, oh, I think something will happen. That's how I felt at the time. And if he didn't even have it, what will happen next? Apart from being sad, I constantly feel anger and anger. That's what they made us look like. They have opened it, the people go there and see it. A lot of people are going from Turkey, especially those who are coming. You will see more Turkish people than local people. In other words, it attracted my attention every time I went. Here's the narrative to them, and so on, I say to myself, okay, okay, this happened in '74, but you wanted it to be like this. I always get angry with politicians and so on, I feel very sad about all of them. In other words, they continue to work with all their strength to ensure that they do not leave a future for young people. Don't say don't be sad, call it angry because I'm getting angry.
- Classic is so for all of us. So what does a ghost town mean for you?
- The ghost town is the silence where no one lives, that is, not real ghosts, but no one. Dark. Without a future. It's a vanished city. It's already destroyed, I don't know what they're going to do next.

- You said you went in after the 2020 opening. Was there anything you expected to see before you went inside?

- Well, now, for example, you go along the road. You see a lot of buildings left and right. Banks, workplaces and so on, I don't want to make it too long. I wanted to see me in those houses. For example, you can still look at it from the window. We saw books, for example, in the library. It is said that most of the books are on the floor, that is, the furniture of the houses, of course, has been looted. I don't know about him, but that's what he's told. Because they say well. They left everything that way. They couldn't touch anything, they left abruptly. Everything was made a question mark by whom, by whom those items were taken in that state. Okay, buildings can get old with the years, but obviously what's there is that something has been plundered, so I can't find that word right now. My father had a saying. In other words, they entered and took everything in and took possession. I'd like to see it, for example. For example, when I look at a house, it's not just a hotel. For example, there were settlements, houses, because they were there. I mean, I would like to see it, I would like to see it inside, but there is nothing, but there is none, so everything is old, discarded, destroyed cabinets on the floor.

- For example, have you ever tried to find out what the buildings you see from the outside are or something?

- Certainly, every building I passed by, I read the top of it, and it was a bank. This place was a tourism agency. This was a church, this is a library, for example, we saw the library, there are still idle books in it, so I thought about what every place we passed was. I imagined the ones I couldn't find, for example, you can't understand them all. I wonder what this place was used for? You ask yourself questions, I mean, you don't understand some of them, it's hard to guess because most of them have been destroyed, but every time we passed, I wondered what this place was, who would live here.

- Where is the place you call a library?

- As a picture, he actually told us his story, I don't know where his donation came from. Wherever you enter, you see a place like this, not actually a church, but such a small temple. It was in an introductory part of such books, so it was always on the floor. Even in the videos, even in the videos, there were videos that were shared, you can see them too, but it was right at the entrance, not in the church like this, so you know, you pass through the police or you go to bike rentals. A little to the left, I don't remember right now. A friend shared his story about what it was. He sent me a video of it. I don't know where so many donations came from, of course, they couldn't raise it, I forgot to use it, but now.

- Whatever you call a library, photos have spread. There are always books in the middle, but there are also a lot of clothes. Is it? The white building in front of where they parked?

- Yes, yes, they say there is no library. For example, I don't know how many libraries we researched, I forgot about it now, I mean, there is not one, there are 8 schools. I don't know if they told you how many libraries there were? I mean, we've seen him. We are in such a dormant state as you said but I don't remember the story. I've forgotten about it right now. Because even though it is said that there are many lanes while walking like this, it is dangerous, I have always tried to approach and look like this. I mean, what they can see through the window or something.

- If you have a photo, can you throw it at me?

- Of course, I'll find him, he sent you a friend to me. In fact, I have a teacher friend who is also very curious. He's much, much more curious than I am. We talk about these things all the time. I'll find it, and I'll send it to you. He also told his story. It had such a very interesting story, I forgot where the donation came from and so on, I forgot it now.

- Well, you said that you came across an old man, you said that he told me about the Turkish Cypriot's ice cream shop or something. Was that person a Greek who lived there?

- No, he was Turkish. I said to the Turk who walks like this, I said, look, here you are, I said old man, and this is how he came here. Then I overheard. He was accompanied by his guests. I guess he probably brought it to someone and I heard him tell it, so I remember the shop right now, there is a place like a masjid, a masjid, so there is no door there anymore, it is closed. It was a shop right next to him, so he showed it to us.

- Did I tell you anything else?

- I mean, we heard him when he was telling his guests, I said, well, that's how much the man will tell you, I mean, have you been here or something, he said yes, he told me that way, he said we would come here, he said, here my parents said, he used to bring us here to eat ice cream on weekends. He used to bring it to eat dessert, he said it was a Cypriot shop, he used to tell about that mosque or something. Of course, I would like to find the address of that man, if those people told him, things are much, much different.

- What did he tell us about the masjidna?

- Here it is, he said. He said they would come here and so on. I don't know about our prayers or anything like that, because those Turkish Cypriots were free of faith and beliefs at that time. For example, my parents. They told me, "I don't know if we're from the village of Vadili." Greeks and Turks used to live together, and in that village, the houses of the Greeks were opposite our house. Of course, they are all destroyed now, but in my childhood, we used to play those houses as ruins. They started hiding and seeking in them and then they fed animals in front of my mother's house. And my parents used to tell me all the time, we said, we live together. We didn't have anything for each other. For example, my mother used to make donuts and give them to them.

They are them. I mean, imagine if they lived without any problems. He says there was no such thing as hostility. Probably because they were free in their beliefs at that time, that is, their own churches. Ours probably went to that thing there. I don't know, I think they'll probably do their prayers or something.

- So, for example, what caught your eye the most when you walked inside?
- It is full of prohibitions. Since then, it is impassable. From now on, it is impassable. Because how much is it that we are probably, that is, what is being told, what is what we see? You know, we haven't really seen it. For example, they closed it, for example, I went 2-3 times, when I went for the second time from the first time, we saw that different areas were opened, different sides were opened, the areas we walked before were closed, etc., but the prohibitions, that is, the prohibitions from the right and left. Just like other people, especially Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots who pass by, for example, I always look here, then look at what there is a traffic light at the entrance, there is no such traffic light here at the moment. I mean, no, how was the minister or something? I mean, I can't imagine what would have happened if he had stayed in this period. I think it would be the center of the world.
- Have you ever been surprised by anything you see, such as this traffic light, the buildings you see, or anything you see on the building sign?
- Don't be surprised, positive, negative?
- Matter.
- I mean, don't be surprised, for example, things are very interesting, the architecture of the houses, for example, I always say this, I say. Look, this is the creek bed, look, the men built the system under it, so they did it from the top so that the water would not come. When we think according to the conditions of the moment, for example, those who build a house, the name of the house, takes it in the flow, in the water, it steps on

the water. In other words, when you look at the structures of the houses, you will be surprised by all kinds of infrastructure there. I mean, you say, how could this have been thought of 50 years ago? These are not being considered at the moment. You know, I don't know what those private properties are? Right on top seating, everything. For example, there are those Rolling shutters, they even existed, so they were at that time. Can you imagine, if we didn't see it as a ruin, we would probably be more open-mouthed, we saw the ruin. I mean, what would happen if we saw the real thing? I can tell you that the structure of the buildings is very well thought out, very well made, the development for that time, probably because of course the people who are quite high financially built them there, I think that everything is perfect, that is, under the conditions of that time.

- So, is there any of these buildings that really catch your eye and are interesting?
- Well, I was intrigued by all of them. Like I said, I mean, I can't tell you one thing right now, for example, there are a lot of little models like that. And here's how my friend was done, all the way to the things I talked about, look at how even the toilets were made, that's how it was done. They came from the beach and thought of everything. I mean, I can't call you one building, everything is very interesting, so I'm not talking about those standard hotels. Nothing is visible in them, it goes layer by layer, that we don't see. But these are the types of houses that are small or the ones that are like motels, especially those that are close to the coast. They were probably like motels. I mean, even they are so thoughtful, I mean, you're going to get your shower when you get out. The sunbathing place is separate, I don't know if I just told you, but I can't tell you a single building, there are many interesting places for you.
- Ok. Do you think there is a future for Maraş?
- Actually, I'd like to think about it. The Cyprus issue is the same as I think of it, but you can get your hopes up. You get your hopes up for something, but someone is constantly destroying that hope. I mean, we always hope in that way, it will happen, it will do, then we have seen the politics of the existing state, then we have seen what

they have done, then your hopes are destroyed. That is, from the current situation. I don't have any hope for the current administration.

- So, did the decisions made after the opening of the streets at work in October 2020 affect your thoughts about this future?
- Well, when you look at it now, what kind of rhetoric did Turkey have, what are we going to do, we are going to make this place the center of the world, I mean, frankly, I don't listen to them much, because I often skip it because I get bored, we will make this place the center of the world, we will do it like that, how will you do it? In other words, this is not something that is in the hands of Turkey. The question was, so ask me again and I'll look at it?
- Last question: Did what was done after October 2020 affect your opinion?
- It didn't affect me at all because I don't think they're going to do anything. I mean, I think this was opened as a part of politics, let them come, let them see, let them go, I don't think this will go any further. In other words, I do not think in the current situation because in order for this place, Varosha, to be opened, there must first be an agreement in Cyprus. Without an agreement, this is not possible. In other words, with the initiative of Turkey, Turkey will say that it will open this place, it is impossible. So there has to be an agreement first. Because those goods are not ours. Maybe the land can be ours. I don't know how it's described. It's also very complicated, but the people who built those buildings don't belong to us. How is this going to work?
- So, do you think any place inside should be preserved as it is now?
- So the stuff there.
- Should buildings and streets be preserved as they are now? Anything.

- Should it be preserved in its current state or should it have been preserved in the past?

- Both.

- Now, in the past, it should have been protected in particular, it should not have been made that way. You know, we've been mixed before, so I'll go into it from there, when we lived mixed, we lived on that side and they lived mixed on that side. Their houses remained on this side. Our houses were on the other side. My mother's uncles, aunts, not my mother, but they always built their house and stayed on the Greek side. It is next to agia napa in a village called Celya. Anyway, let's get to the point, now they left it on that side at that time, we left it on this side. The goods they left on this side were never looked at, but changed from hand to hand. Think about whose hand, in whose pocket, to whom it was given. I don't know how true the Turkish properties on the Greek side are, maybe they are in what you are told, verify, maybe, the properties belonging to the Turks on that side were given on rent, you would not own it, so I sat in this house he gave you. What happened here? You own it. It was given to you, they turned it over and said that the land and the house were not like that on that side. But we went to the village of Celya, look, we went to him with my parents, my mother told me that it belonged to her siblings, look, her own mother's house was destroyed. Many years have passed, but people live in the houses left by their brothers and they say they pay rent. I think it's a very interesting point, I mean, we talked to people and they told us that these houses are not ours, we are tenants of this place. Therefore, when it comes to Maraş, those goods must be protected under the conditions of that time. And today, of course, there will be wear and tear in 50 years, but it should not have passed like this today. They arrived in a very bad condition. But can anything be done again? With repair, maybe it can be. I don't know how much it can be, because there are so many places that are standing. It should have been protected, but it wasn't, so in short, the situation is obvious.

- Well, for example, you said in yourself, just because the buildings of that time are modern, even the traffic light, should anything be preserved as a reminder of those times?
- Of course, all of them need to be protected. None, I mean, I can't tell you one, they should all have been protected. I'm not saying development. I don't need to say that it should have been preserved. Of course, even now it is not modern. Look, that's what I'm claiming. That level of development is not on our side at the moment in every aspect of architecture, that is, in the north.
- So, should one or two be left as a reminder, for example, and one or two as a reminder if a decision is made in the future?
- So should a few of them be left?
- Yes.
- I think it's not a few. If they get into something like this right now, which is a dream, how much of it they can repair, as a reminder, how much of it they can repair. I think there are many things they will do. So there's a lot of room standing. Halilenmore windows are intact on the handle. Hussein has already seen the structure of the building, and as a civil engineer, he says look at it. Like, how much did they do? They did it with this feature, they did it with this feature. For him, he has already stood for 50 years. I don't think it's a building. I think they should do as much as they can.
- Well, I asked this question, and I will ask it again. You said all of the buildings you saw stayed in your mind, but have you ever had one or 2 such really, caught your eye and said how different and how beautiful they were?

- I wish I had known you were going to do this interview so I could go again. I mean, because when you went there, I didn't look at it that way, because I was very interested in everything. Everything, everything and everything is very interesting, that is, in the houses, in the motels that are built. Here's the thing, for example, where the lights are at that entrance, it's Toyota. There were things like that, the place that issued tickets, the tourism agency, they were also very interesting. You can't figure out what most of them are anyway. We were able to figure out which ones, for example, there was a bank with an inscription on it, for example, there was a fashion house. Now I can think of a fashion house. For example, one of them, yes, I don't know what it is, I wonder if it was a restaurant like this, always with beer bottles and crates in it. What? I don't know. One of them was completely destroyed, and it was completely destroyed on that road, and it was blown off like this. I don't know what building it was.

- It was cinema.

- It was cinema? You can imagine that there are 24 cinemas and theaters. I don't know where they were. I'm in shock. But like I said, so? The solid ones that survived like this remained more in our eyes, or rather the ones we knew what was written on them, I remembered more, look, this was the bank. This is a fashion house, I was very interested in it. Or many brands are always on the author of the shops anyway. I don't know what to say to you.

- My questions, is there anything you'd like to add to any of your answers?

- It's coming to my mind right now, it's not coming to mind. I mean, if I thought about it, maybe a lot, or look, as I said, write it down to you, if I had known that I was going to tell you about it, I would have looked at it much more carefully. I'm going to go one more time.

- No, the important ones are, for example, the ones that stay in your mind even though you are not ready right now. So these are the ones that you are most interested in. Is there anything you said you should have asked me about but didn't?
- Now, as far as I understand, I have already researched your current situation and what is foreseen in front of us. When we look at his past, he was all like this, he was all there. These were the ones. We read them, they came and went. What happens next is essentially the point.

E29 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- I feel connected in a strange way. Not so much emotionally, but I cannot say that I am from Limassol, which is strange. If somebody asks me, I will say I'm from Famagusta. I would make a point to say I live in Limassol, but I was born in Famagusta, which is a bit strange because I don't have any memories of Famagusta. But I guess it's a way of preserving heritage or like for my parents, let's say? Because both of my parents are from Famagusta and my grandparents also. I mean my grandparents come from villages around, but their whole life was in Famagusta, and there's this big, I mean all of my life I had to carry this. So, I guess my connection is through my parents' memories in a way. It's a strange, it's also emotional, like unemotional because rationally I can say I have no connection. But I'm fascinated also by, I'm curious also about how this city was completely abandoned. So that's also fascinating for me. So I have an interest in it, in a way.

- And what is your relation to Famagusta? I know you said both your parents were from there, your grandparents. Can you open that a bit more?

- I was born there so I don't have a memory. We left when I was 11 months so I don't physically have a memory, but I think this, fleeing all of a sudden actually did do something to me. Because I'm a person who does not easily get, I mean, I can move around. I don't have this link, I mean I link with people not so much with place. So I think maybe that's something that made my character or maybe. So my connection with Varosha is mostly now intellectual and curiosity I don't have anymore, I haven't been now that it's open, to the closed city, because my grandfather's bookshop is there, people can go and visit it. I have like many photos from my friends who actually visited and took photos in front of the workshop, which is very interesting. I can make a collection of my friends sending me photos in front of my grandfather's book shop. But because my mom in the past year and a half when it opened, became extremely emotional about it, I want to go with her when I go. I don't want to go alone. I mean, I had many opportunities to go alone, but I didn't go. But I want to go with my mom

because I think it's going to be more of a trip down memory lane and I want to actually feel her emotional journey going back. I've been to Famagusta on the side that I was allowed to go before. I was fascinated by the church, Nicholas Church. I was also fascinated by, I haven't travelled to the north a lot. I've been to north side of Nicosia a bit and have been to Famagusta. Haven't been to Karpasia. Mostly because I don't drive myself so far away and I wanted company to go and it never, the occasion never rose. Not that I don't go. I'm very curious to go. But because I'm actually doing two jobs, I don't have a lot of free time because I'm a director also run the bookshop, so it's a bit too much. When I went to Famagusta first time, I was fascinated about how everything is a bit still in time, in a way, it felt like you were in a village. But it also felt that you are in another time. And I love that. I think it's something that, especially living in Limassol. I absolutely hate Limassol right now because it's completely full of skyscrapers and big buildings and it's horrible. They're changing so much, the landscape of the city. And it's horrible. I hate it. So going back there, I felt, wow, it's amazing because it keeps something that is very real, for me, I mean, I could see the tourist part of it, but it's not tourist part, modern tourist, you know, it's something that keeps at least an idea of the old. And I really love the old. I love the architecture of the old I love, how it combines with nature also which is something that I'm really interested in. I mean for example if you go to buffer zone, I love how the plants in the building's kind of become one landscape So for me that is very important which is something that we don't have now in Limassol everything is invaded, like the trees are torn down to build big buildings, the old houses are torn down to be built this big buildings and it really frustrates me so when I went there it felt calm, I felt really, there was an openness, which I really loved. So yeah, I think that is my connection now. I don't really have any other, it's mostly curiosity and I really want to go now to Varosha because I don't want to go after it gets spoiled because I'm sure if they start doing things like fixing, fixing in a way, they're going to ruin it, so I want to go now before it gets ruined. I don't know if that answers your question.

- Yes it does, there's a lot of things that you told me that I am already going to ask more on them. But going back, so in 1974 you were baby when you had to flee. And growing up, how was it going up with your parents? Were you hearing any of the memories? Will there a way for them to keep you connected to Varosha?

- Well, look, first of all, it was a big trauma for them because they just started their lives. They got married a year before they had me and they had to leave everything and I think their first instinct was survival and not memory. So, when I was growing up, I mean we lived in Athens for five years. My sister was born in Athens. They worked in a very big book shop there, both my parents. Sorry four years. In 1978, they came back to Limassol because my grandparents lived in Limassol and they opened the book shop here. So I think for my parents and for me, the memory of Varosha was kept a lot through the book shop because everybody knew the name of my grandfather. So the link was mostly made because of that. I don't have recollections. I have to tell you also that one thing I don't have is memories. I don't collect a lot of memories myself, I'm a person who doesn't remember a lot of things about my past. Maybe this is also something that is connected to that, but I don't know. I mean, if you ask me, how was your studying years, college years? I cannot. I can give you some moments, but I cannot tell you a lot of things. I don't keep the past a lot in me. I keep friendships and people, but I don't keep moments so much. Which is a bit strange because I'm fascinated with memory and how memory works. But personally, I don't have a lot of memories from my past. And I think maybe that's also linked to this travel, in a way, I never psycho analysed it, so I don't know, it's my way of thinking about it. But it's also intriguing for me to dig into it and see it in a more rational way and not an emotional way. Because if you don't live something, if you don't remember living something, you're not very emotional about it. So maybe it's like a defence mechanism, I don't know. But with regards to Famagusta, of course, my grandparents. My grandparents are the ones who kept because their trauma was huge. My parents had a big travel, but they were very young and they had to leave their family, so they had to make themselves from the beginning. So I think for them it was a struggle to create a good life for the children and for themselves and to work. My parents worked a lot. We lived in the book shop in away because my school was around the bookshop. I was going to the bookshop and coming back there from school, I did my homework in the bookshop. My whole life was around this book shop. And my grandfather was working at the book shop also when I was growing up. I think it's their trauma mostly, that transferred to me, in terms of Famagusta. Because they were telling stories, my grandmother told me a lot of stories. He kept saying stories. I don't remember all of them, but I recorded a lot of them. Because I did a performance with his memories

and it's a very interesting, now that you asked me that, I cannot really tell you because I never really thought about it, how the memory of Famagusta is transferred in me, but of course there were a lot of sadness because of this, my grandfather and my grandmother, both of them, on both sides, never got over this trauma and they all died without going back. So for them it was huge, that they died without going back. Because they all died also before the borders opened, so they didn't even have a chance to, you know? Also, my family, I have to tell you, is, they were never.. We are very left wing family. So cause both my grandparents, my grandfather's were founding members of the Left Party. So, we did not go through this nationalist narrative in a way. That's why we didn't have a lot of nationalistic, how do you say feelings about, we are Greek and you know, the Turks took over? I mean, of course. They will not tell you that we're happy about it, obviously, but my family acknowledged that also the situation was caused by our side, in a way. So we have this acknowledgement. So we were not raised to think that everything happened because of just Turkey. You see what I mean? So that actually made this trauma a little bit more rational. Because it's history and politics that brought us into this situation. And because I'm a very rational person, I was always thinking about it in this way. I'm not a person who will see a Turkish person and go like, mad. No, I'm not, because there are a lot of Greek Cypriots who are like that. That's why I'm saying because I'm sure from your investigation into this research you understand that is a lot of people who hate Turkey and Turks and everything you know. My family was never like that because they acknowledged also that they were, our side, made a lot of mistakes. The way I see this. I mean the way this was carried from my parents was very rational. I mean there was a lot of emotional every time, for example, the need to show me where they lived for example. This is a huge thing. You know I remember at some point there was, they started Google, Google started to have this, you could actually see this map. And I remember my dad zooming in and showing me this is our street. This is where we went to school. They were very eager to share this, because we don't have photographs, we don't have any sort of memory, like some photographs that we have are so cherished. So maybe if a relative at some point found the photograph and send it to us, it was a huge thing, you know, like to see come, come, come we all have to gather to see this photograph and this is how our house looked like. So I think my connection to this trauma that they lived was that they had a need to share this thing that I don't know about and to kind of make me and my sister. My sister is very detached from it. It's very different way of, because she's also

much younger, she's like four years younger than me. She was born in Athens. She lived her whole life here. I mean, she didn't have this, I don't think she feels the same way that I feel about this. I'm more curious about, my sister is not curious at all about. She would never say I want to go and see the North or you know. She would never say that. She's not really interested. She lives more in the now. But for me, I'm very curious. Also because I'm a director, I think it's this I have this curiosity of how this things affect us in a way. So, I don't know, maybe I talk too much. I don't know. Tell me, tell me to stop if I talk too much because its subjects that I am very interested about, I keep bubbling on. So yeah, let me know if

- The more you talk you remember more stuff that is why I don't stop. You said your dad would zoom in on Google Maps to show you the house, the house, the school. What else? Was there? Any specific thing that he would try to show you?
- I think you know even now when all this media came in and they were showing the schools and the streets and everything my mom was stuck to the TV for more than six months in the past year and a half when Varosha opened because she was like come and see you know this is where we used to work and go, this was a pervoli with the, pervoli is like an orchard with the orange trees and this was our house was here. I mean, I don't even remember the streets to be honest. I don't remember the area that they were living. I mean, she told me many times. But I didn't keep the information. Stavros, I think maybe. I'm not sure. But I can't remember and tell you. For example, this school that they went to Likeon Elinikon, or whatever that they went to and obviously all those Democracy, where the bookshop is because a lot of their life was there. My father, ah very, very interesting memory that actually triggered my first show that I did about memory. My father used to talk a lot when he was, when I was younger about this club that that he used to go with his friends. This club, we used to go to this club and it had like stalagmites, how do you call them? I don't know what you call it, like it was like a cave. Like hanging from the wall. And he was describing it in a very vivid way and at some point in 2008, somebody, I think she was a Slovenian photographer, went into the close city of Famagusta. And she took some photos. I think her boyfriend was UN and she sneaked, he snuck her in and she took some photos from houses and places and she put them on Flickr. In 2008 this happened.

She put them on Flickr and I think it went viral for 24 hours because she took photos also of some houses in some photographs and me of everything was like full of like pigeon shit and it was like very dusty and everything. And she took photos of this place that my father was describing to me. And it was August, I remember, because I was in the book shop. I was, my parents were in the summer house. I was in the book shop and I was, you know, like typing something. And I got this e-mail that said Varosha. And I opened it and there were these photos and I saw this photo of this club and I thought that I've been there. Because the memory was so strong that my father described, I thought then I called my dad, but I think this is the place because it feels like I know it. And I took a photo and I send it to him and I said this is the place. And actually 24 hours after the page went down, because they were not allowed, she was not allowed to go there. So I kept some of those photos. I don't know if I have them now somewhere, but I saved some of those photos, because those were the beginning of my performance that I did which was called, forgive me not. Because it was about how memory is transferred in to ours, like how my parents memory was transferred that actually became my memory because the moment I saw this photo I knew this place. So I think that's a very interesting thing and because memory is not just memory, it's also memory of others, you know transferred onto you. So I think that was a very interesting thing that happened with regards to memory and how things are transferred from my parents and I think I kept this a lot because my dad was always giving me this memory with happiness and not with sadness. I think I didn't keep a lot from my grandparents because my grandparents were always crying when they were telling me the stories. So when they were crying, I always felt as a child frustrated that my God, they're crying again about this and you know, because when you're a child, you cannot get connected to somebody's trauma. You don't rationalise it, you don't understand it. You just feel like it's a repetition of a feeling and it gets old, you know? But my dad, when he was telling me this, memories of his being a bachelor and going out and flirting, I always found it a very nice. So it's funny because I kept this memory a lot in me and I completely recognise this place, which was very, very interesting for me.

- So yeah. And did any of this happens with other places that you saw the photos of?

- No, just that that club, which was very funny.

- I understood which club is it, but the name is not coming. I'm going to go back again. You said in 1978 your parents went back to Cyprus because your grandparents opened the bookstore.

- No my father. My parents opened the book shop, not my grandfather. My grandfather didn't, was not working until then. They were old anyway, but my parents came back in 1978. And my dad, this was his work, so he wanted. He found the book shop with a nice spot, I mean a shop in a nice spot in Limassol. And he opened the book shop with my grandfather's name. My grandfather was helping. He was always at the till. My grandfather was very, very fat by the big, big fat man and he was always sitting at the till, you know.

- And the reason that he used the name, was it because everybody knew your grandfathers' name?

- Yes, it was. I mean, even the suppliers. It was because this is something that he told me, even because actually my grandfather, I have to tell you a little bit about my Grandfather and his background to understand a little bit how he built this book shop. My grandfather was from Vokolida is a village which is a bit more up more close to, I think, like a fishing village. And he used to travel to Famagusta and distribute newspapers. He always used to tell me that he put shoes on his feet when he was 12 years old. He was going without shoes, you know, he went only until the second grade of primary school. So he had two years in school, basically, But he started as a newspaper boy and he used to take the train. From Famagusta to Nicosia to get newspapers and then sell them in Famagusta, from when he was 12 years old he was helping I think some cousin he went to Famagusta to help, some cousin of his mother, I'm not sure actually, who but the family, a distant family, so he stayed with them. Because his family was like many, many brothers and sisters, so each of them had to work. So he started doing this back and forth, and then at some point he opened the small newsagent, you know, like a newsagent place and from the newsagent, he

understood that the British wanted pocket books, you know, like a Penguin pocket books. And he was the first in Famagusta to start, because my grandfather also when he was at some point in his life during World War Two, I think. He went to England. He boarded on a ship and he went to England and he was a chef somewhere in England. I mean he had a big life my grandfather like he was a bonviveur. He had like a big life that's why he was very fat. He ate a lot. He drunk a lot. So from his time in England, he realised that books were very, you know. And then he came back and he wanted, I mean in adult life now, because I think he was a newsagent, he was a paper boy as a child and then when he went to England and then he came back. And he opened the newsagency from the newsagents, he thought, OK, I can find a way to import this paperbacks. So he imported the Penguin paperbacks. I think he was the only book shop in Famagusta, a small shop that sold the Penguin Books. And of course this was good entrepreneurial move because of the British. And he opened the Bigger Book Shop, not the one in Democracy Street. It was somewhere else first. I can't remember to tell you now. I mean, my dad knows all this information, but I don't know them. He opened this book shop and he was selling paper bags, Cadburys chocolates, little match. This car's miniature cars like, I don't know the English really like, but it was predominantly for the British. It was not a book shop for the Cypriot, it was a bookshop for the British, basically. So he developed his business like that, and then he took the bigger book shop in Famagusta. Actually I have some photos of how it used to look like I can send you. And then it became the big book shop in Famagusta that everybody knew, on Democracy street and it was called Pavlos Kyriakou. Because when my father opened the bookshop in Limassol, it was Kyriakou Book Shop. It was not Pavlos Kyriakou bookshop, so he just made it Kyriakou because of the surname but everybody knew that it was that bookshop, because it was very popular book shop, it was a very big one and people from a lot of places came to this book shop. We actually had also Cadbury's chocolates in Limassol when I was young. I remember because my grandfathers said you have to have chocolate, so people like, you know, near the till we had some chocolate, so people would buy like chocolate also, which was very funny. This was from Famagusta way of thinking in a way you know. I mean, you have to think of very different times because it was during British rule. So was a very different way of. I mean the Cypriots were not so literary, in a way.

- It's amazing. And do you know when the shop opened on Democracy Avenue?
- I don't know, no. But maybe if you send me, like, some questions that you have, I can get my dad to answer them.
- OK, I will. And I was literally going to ask, was there anything similar that you were doing in the bookstore in Limassol that was the same in Famagusta...
- Cadbury chocolates.
- Other than that, is there anything?
- Well, we started in Limassol also as an English language book shop. We didn't have Greek books for a long time. Also we had stationary. My grandfather also had stationary. It was sorry, it was a bookshop and a stationary shop at the same time it had also things for the office, pens, pencils, wrapping paper cards, greeting cards. So actually, my father opened a bookshop exactly like that here. We didn't sell Greek books until maybe the 90s. We started selling Greek book so like 20 years after almost. And everybody knew our book shop as an English language book shop, so we served a lot of British and people who lived in Cyprus, who were not native Greek speakers, basically.
- So, what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- Well, it's Famagusta. It's synonymous for me with Famagusta. I mean, if I hear Ghost Town, this is what I think about and I think the images of the year and half ago when it opened are now linked with this because it's something that is stopped in time, time stopped completely so. It's fascinating from it's like a complete set design place, you know I mean the building was I mean you can see the grandeur of this city through even now after almost 50 years and it opened and you can see how amazing the buildings were because the modernist buildings, how preserved everything looked.

Actually, I have a friend who snuck into a hotel that was not looted. He's obsessed and he goes, he is very young but he's obsessed with Famagusta, he goes all the time and he snuck into a hotel, which he shouldn't go inside but he managed to go. And he took some photos which are amazing because the furniture, for some peculiar reason this hotel was not looted.

- Is it the Golden Sands Hotel?
- Yes the Golden Sands, he went inside. And he showed me videos and photographs and it's, Oh my God, the design. It's like a movie, you know, it's amazing, amazing, it's you wanna take all the furniture and bring it home. I just hope they just do something; you know? Because this is so scary now that all of this will get lost because it's like a treasure for me. I love things that standstill in time. I love this idea of a building or something, I mean even nature. Now I'm actually, I'm very interested because now I'm going to direct in an ancient theatre and I feel like the connection with the stones, with these things that were built like 20,000 years, you know, and this is something like that, because it's something that was built in 50-60-70 years ago. But they're there and they stood still in time and for me that is amazing. Because living in Limassol again. Actually, I'm looking out from my balcony now. There was a beautiful thing that I could see, trees. And now, like for the past six years, there's a building that is growing in front of me. I have a nice veranda, but I'm going to be looking at this building, and I hate it and I hate how contemporary world is making this invasive moves on the landscape and I think in the 60s, OK, you have to say it was the 60s and 70s. So the 60s and 70s were a time of modernism and but they had respect. The architecture had respect for the landscape. And I think now architecture has no respect for the landscape. And it really, it hurts me personally. I get really upset. I mean I start crying. I just get very upset. It's something that really makes me very. I could get really aggressive also, right? It fascinates me. So this ghost town fascinates me because it's something that was preserved and I love this. I love this idea of preservation of something in time, you know that it was unharmed. That's why I also love the buffer zone. Every time I go, I feel like I see this buildings, and I see nature around it, and I feel like everything just comes together in a very beautiful way. And I love that.

- And you said you visited. The closed off area like from the fences after the checkpoint opens, right?

- Yes, yes. And what was your first impression of the town?

- Look, I've seen so many photos of that, so it was not a first impression really, because this image you see it, from the day you're born almost, you know, I mean it's everywhere. So it's not a new image. It's a strange image, strange thing to see the hotels and the sand that my parents described as growing, like the sand in Famagusta. Also one thing I didn't tell you that my parents they never go there. They never go for example to Protaras, Agia Napa. We don't go there for holidays. We go on the other side, we go to Akamas, we go to lachy like these areas that are, they feel like, because they love the sea. This is a small brackets from what I was saying before, but I think it's nice to mention, that my parents, they got a house that is in a Turkish Cypriot village, Dera, completely Turkish Cypriot village and you know in this part, in the South part, these places, if you're a refugee, you can rent it and you can fix it. And also the family who lived there came and visited couple of times actually they came and visited my parents at the house. They saw the house and everything. So my parents were very much affiliated. They kind of adopted this part of Cyprus as their village kind of life and the sea. Cause they never went to the other side because I think this image hurts them a lot. This image when you see. I remember going as a child and then showing it to me as a child. But it's very emotional for them. So, they don't go. I mean we never had, for example, Protaras as somewhere that we go for the holidays, we always go on this other side from Paphos side, almost. So this is brackets. But yeah, this image for me it's a strange, it's a very. as Freud says unkindly, you know, it's familiar, but also it's not familiar, it's a very strange image and it's also very stereotyped image of the partition of how you know, it's also a very commercial image. So it doesn't make me feel anything, to be honest. What made me feel more was actually visiting Othello's palace and St. Nicholas Church. I found it so amazing. This Gothic church was like, wow, wow, so fascinated by that. And I was also fascinated by the, I don't know how you say them in English, it's places for the dead. I don't know how in the streets. Which I was like, wow, this is amazing, I mean this kind of things that I was

very fascinated for. I was fascinated also by nature the palm trees and this kind of nature. I loved it when I went. I was very, I felt great. I don't know how else to say it.

- It's really interesting that you talked about the Othello tower, the church in the Old Town, which are things that at the time your parents were not allowed to go in the Old Town. So did they ever talk to you about that?
- They talked about them, they talk about them, but they don't. I don't have strong memory. I mean I know that they are mentioned but I don't have strong memories of them. I think everything that came as storytelling through sadness, I kind of pushed away.
- And you said you want to go inside, but you want to wait your mom?
- Yes. Because I think it's going to be very emotional for her and I want to be able to live that with her.
- And from the photos that are coming out from everywhere right now, is there a place that you recognised or you try to find out what they are?
- Well, it's this Likeon Elinikion, which I think it was fascinating. Also, this photo of all the clothes inside which was amazing. I always think about things in a performative way and I found that fascinating. And also, for example, the book shop obviously because I saw photos of the bookshop before because we had some friends or on the other side and they were sending us some photos also. I mean, I saw a photo of the book shop before it opened. But the whole street was fascinating for me, the whole Democracy street with this, the architecture. I think this is what fascinated me, the way it felt like watching an old movie. But it was familiar because I watched also lots of videos from older Famagusta and everything. From the 60s and 70s. Because of the research that I was doing, and it felt like, they felt very familiar. But in a in a state of, when something disintegrates, for example.

- And is there a particular place that you want to see when you go inside with your mom?

- Maybe, I don't know, I don't think we can go to our house because we're not allowed yet. But I would like to see at some point the house that I was born in, you know, I mean, it's, it sounds strange, but it's interesting to see. It was very interesting because in the interviews that we did in 2012, a person shared the memory, which actually I kept in my head a lot, she said, when I went with my husband for the first time, when it opened and we went, I saw the house and I kept telling to my husband, it cannot be our house, because our house was much bigger. Our kitchen was huge, and this is a very small kitchen. How is it possible? And I found it very interesting how memory and this romantic idea of something that you lost translates into something big. And then this other guy in the interview said, I think we Famagustians, all feel that we lived on the sea, with all our houses around the sea, they are not. But it is this memory and how you embrace this loss, makes you make everything bigger, makes you make everything that is something huge, but actually your house was quite small and everything kind of comes reality bites in a way you know. Things are more grand in your memory. So yeah, I would like to, I mean we have photos of the house. I have photo of myself with my mom and my aunt in front of the house, but it's nice to see it and see maybe we can find something there. This is what I'm interested in, to, if you can find something that was from there. I'm obsessed with vintage clothes and I always say, like my mum never gave me anything, you know, because she never, this is how did you not like take something with your, and she is like are you crazy there were bombs coming down. The only thing I took was your bag with your pampers and stuff. But I always think maybe I will find something of her like. This is something that is I find interesting and also photos. I think photos are it's a shame not to have photographs, because photographs are very, very strong. I remember a year and a half ago, her father lived in Rizokarpaso for many, many years. He never left, and she's also from Famagusta but he lived in Rizokarpaso. When he died in his house, he had collected a lot of photo albums. From people who I think people who lived in the houses and they were taking to him all the photo albums that they were finding. So, when her father died, she took all of those photo albums and she was trying because she didn't know who the people was. She made a group on Facebook and she was taking the

photographs and she was posting them so people could find their photographs and who the albums belonged. And to give it to them, and we found like 3-4 photographs of my mum when she was like 15-16, which was very, very nice. And my mom actually recognised who was the album because she remembered that it must have been her neighbour's album. So from that they found the woman and they gave her the album, which was very interesting how social media works in this way, to find things. But yeah, I saw some photos of my mum that I never saw before, like two years ago, which was very interesting. It was very nice to see. Because it's like a whole different era. It's like you're missing a part of your parents life in a way, if you don't have photos.

- And is there a place in Famagusta where you feel connected to?
- I guess the book shop, because, I mean, it's the most strong image that I have of Famagusta. It's quite tangible for me and I know what it looked like from the photos that I have. So yeah, I know it's something because the bookshop is something, it's my whole life. I was brought up in a book shop, my whole. I mean, I'm third generation, so my whole life was surrounded by. As you can see, my flat is full of books. I'm obsessed with this, I love it. So yeah, I think the book shop, for me, it's going to be nice. It would have been nice if there were some books in there, but I don't think there are.
- Is there a place that's carries a sentimental value for you and your family?
- For my family, I guess it's their, it's everything. It's their street that they grew up in, it's the house that they built. Because I mean for example, they built the house, in two years it was 1974, so they didn't actually get to live in this house that they built. For me, no, I don't feel like there's something extremely sentimental. Obviously, the bookshop will be when I go and see it myself, but because I've seen it so many times bow in photos, I feel like I don't know if something will happen within me when I'm there. But now I saw it so many times. But I guess for my parents, it's big, it's very big, the emotional, I mean, it's their whole life. I'm trying to think of, you think also of your age, I mean my mum was 21 when they left and my dad was 26. So, you can imagine

like how we have now our lives and everything and then at one particular moment in time just leave and you never go back, I guess, it's a big trauma. It's something that I don't know if I can handle it, if it happens to me. Now I'm thinking about Ukraine also, now it's the same thing that happens again and again, during war. And you think, oh my God, you know. It's very traumatic experience to have to just completely lose everything in one day, because with Famagusta it was not like other places where they had time to, you know, because they didn't think that they were not going to go back. So it was very strange.

- I'm guessing your mum and dad got married in Famagusta?
- Yeah, yeah.
- Do you know if they had a wedding celebration or?
- They did, but I don't know more about it. I saw the photos. I have some like. I have my parents, because her maid of honour lived in England, so she had the photos. But I don't know. But my mom always told me this is very funny, very personal thing, she was because my dad was in love with my mom, but my mum was not really in love with my dad when she married him. So she married him out of convenience, in a way. She fell in love with him after 1974, she said. After this thing, the war that kind of bonded them, you know? Yeah, she doesn't talk about it a lot. She always said she didn't want to marry my dad, and that her father and her sister forced her to do it. But now they love each other very, very much.
- And do you see a future for Varosha?
- A future. I have a vision of how what the future to be, which is more like of an artistic city with like artists and stuff. I actually did, during my project I did an utopian varosha version and we said that it's a place for ecological. Everything that ecological to happen and to be sustainable and to have artists and cultural. This is my wishful

thinking of varosha, which I think it's not gonna happen. I think it's gonna be like another Limassol now. I think they're going to start tearing everything down and building horrible buildings. So for me, I prefer that it stays a ghost town. Instead of going the other way, like if it connects to your other question, I much prefer that it stays like this and nobody lives there and it just stays in this state of like a monument of, it's like a monument of maybe, also of war because it is a monumental of war, it's a monument in time, but also a monument of the old culture of Famagusta. Because Famagusta was an amazing city. It was very forward in a way culturally and socially also had like a very big social life and actually I was going to tell you that a year and a half ago there was this exhibition in Nicosia, in the modern art gallery of Nicosia, that the paintings from the municipal art Gallery of Famagusta were returned. And that was a fun and amazing exhibition, because the mayor of Famagusta in the 60s gave a lot of space to the Cypriot artists to create and to have a home. So Famagusta was like a home for the artists and the work were amazing and I think 112 paintings were returned that they were stored in the north and they were returned in the exchange I think CIBC gave to the Turkish Cypriot community some videos and I don't know if you know about this exchange exhibition. It's an amazing thing and Rick, is a national channel, TV channel, they had a lot of documented history, Turkish Cypriot history and they exchanged it with this paintings. And there was a huge exhibition that went on for two years in Nicosia. And there was Yiannis Toumazis, he was doing the tour of the exhibition. I went to the tour twice because he had so much. He can talk to you a lot about my grandfather's book shop. He was one of the big. He's amazing. I mean, he is a treasure of memory. He will tell you about my grandfather and his book shop, because he was going as a child with his bicycle, he has stories there to tell you. He did this tour and explained everything about how the arts were supported in the 60s in Famagusta and this is why it became such a big cultural city. So yeah, this is how I imagine it should go back to. Like to preserve this beautiful buildings and make them gallery's or theatres or, nobody will make that but I'm just this is my how I see it happening.

- So I know you said you preferred staying as a monuments than taking down. But that's not going to be possible, which places do you think should be the ones that are protected?

- Obviously the buildings that have some sort of value, like the gallery's, the museums, that buildings that were built maybe in the 20s and 30s before even that. We all have like old buildings that should be preserved, everything that has some architectural value, I think, should be preserved in a way.
- And do you want to add anything to any of your answers?
- I don't know. I don't even know what I answered, I talk a lot, so I don't know.
- Is there a question that you think I should have asked you but I didn't?
- No, I don't think so. I think the questions are quite, to the point.
- So then in this case, this was all of my questions.
- ANSWERS FROM HER FATHER:
- When did the first bookshop open? When did the bookshop on Democracy Avenue open?
 - There have been 4 different locations of our bookshop since my father, PAVLOS KYRIAKOU, opened it in 1947, the year that I was born. First small shop and second larger shop were in Hermes Street, because this was the most commercial road in Famagusta up until 1960. Then moved to DEMOCRACY Avenue, first just after the crossroad with Evagoras Avenue, next to IDEAL open air cinema. Final location in 1972 further down, about 50 meters before the MUNICIPAL GARDENS, as left in August 1974.
- Were there any competitor bookshops?
 - We never felt any competition from other bookshops, since we were unique to be mainly an English language bookshop.

- What was the main contribution of your shop to the cultural life of Varosha?
- Our contribution to the cultural development of Varosha was exclusively the fact that all educated and culturally active citizens were very happy to know that they could find all the books they needed at our bookshop and as soon as they were published in the UK, these were available on our shelves. We had a very extensive selection of books about Cyprus, not only in English, but also in other languages, such as German and French.
- What was the unique characteristics of your shop?
- As mentioned previously, we were the only bookshop in town with an extensive selection of books in English that served the local community, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, and English Army personnel who lived in Famagusta, as well as many tourists of all nationalities who spent their holidays in our town. A large section of our shop was Stationery items, Artists material and a special section with records, mostly low value LPs. The shop was well staffed with 5 floor assistants, a cashier and myself and my father as manager.
- What did you miss mostly about the bookshop in Varosha?
- It is hard to say that there is one aspect of the business that I miss most. I miss the whole lot. A thriving business which was the pride of our town, and all customers loved to come and spend time in our shop, not necessarily to buy, but also to look at the extensive selection of books on our shelves and meet up with other people who shared the same interests. It was a cultural center!

E30 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Maraş?
- I came here as a teacher. We taught here for 15 years and stayed here continuously after we retired.
- So you moved to Famagusta because you were a teacher?
- Yes. I'm from Famagusta, so I'm from Famagusta, I grew up here.
- Well, I ask you, can you tell me your age, where you are from?
- My real birthplace is Kilitkaya village, in the Famagusta district, since I was 8 years old, we grew up in Famagusta, in the Sakarya region. We grew up there, and then it was within the walls, with my family, my parents stayed there. After '74, due to my husband's duty, he was assigned to Zeki Salih Primary School here in Maraş. We've been there. Before '74, we were assigned to a small village. But I mean, a lot of us spent a lot of time inside the walls of Famagusta, because my family and my mother were inside the walls. We were there and stayed with my parents a lot.
- So, before you were assigned to school in Maraş, before your husband's appointment was issued, did you stay with your husband?
- Yes, we were in the process, but before that, we were appointed in the city, we were appointed in the village of Turunçlü. But we always stayed with my mother within the walls on holidays and weekends.
- So, do you feel connected to Kapali Maraş?

- So we feel for Maraş, which is open now, because we have been here for 45 years. In other words, we have been living in this area since 74-75, in the same neighborhood, in the same house.
- So, is your house close to the wires?
- No, it's not close, let me say our home is in the Belca region, we stay there.
- Did you have any connection with Grand Maraş before '74?
- We didn't have a connection, we were just wandering around like this for sightseeing, that's all. So we don't have much of a connection.
- Do you remember going in for a walk before '74?
- Of course, before these events happened, we went for a walk in one evening, two or three evenings. It was a sparkling tourist destination.
- What is the most memorable memory of Maraş when you went inside and visited it before '74?
- In other words, the fact that it is such a touristic and beautiful place, but we always went in fear, so that the Greeks would not notice us or something. So there was a fear in us.
- What was the reason for the fear?
- For example, we lived through the 63s, we lived through the 58s, we lived through conflicts and so on. In the 58s, we lived in Famagusta in the Sakarya region. There again, the Greeks attacked us. We've lived it. Again in 63, the Greeks surrounded the

same region with tanks and artillery. We've lived them. In '74, we lived in the city walls, in the battlements, and again this 74 event. That way, I mean, because of that.

- You said that you lived in the city wall, what was the relationship between the city wall and Maraş at that time? What was the relationship between Surici and Maraş?
- Towards the end of year 64, after the events of 63, the Greeks were forbidden, they could not enter the door. There was even a hitting. In 64 Greek officers entered the walls of Famagusta and unfortunately there were killings. Three Greek officers were killed. They entered illegally. Militarily, Famagusta was always Turkish, so the Greeks could not enter. They infiltrated in a car, they came in, right at the Famagusta gate, they stopped them, and when they saw that they were armed, they were eliminated by our mujahideen there.
- There wasn't such a problem before '63, was there?
- It didn't exist before '63. The Republic of Cyprus was newly established in the 60's. However, due to the excessive demands of the Greeks, the republic could only survive for three years. After that, as a result of the pressures of the Greeks, the life of the republic was exhausted and the events began. Turks on one side, Greeks on the other, all over Cyprus. Our Turkish Cypriots have retreated to their region.
- What was the relationship between Surici and Maraş from the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 until 63?
- Normal, there was no problem. However, the Turks and the Greeks were each other, their trade, everything was okay. After the events of '63 began on December 1, the Turks tried to defend themselves as best as they could. The pressure of the Greeks on the Turks gradually increased, the embargoes, the Turks were confined to small ghettos everywhere. They tried to defend themselves.

- Did you go to Maraş between 1960 and 1963? If you went, do you remember?
- We were leaving.
- What would you go for?
- E Cyprus was open all over, girl, you could go anywhere you wanted between 60 and 63. After the events of '63, after the pressure of the Greeks, the roads were closed, there was no going anywhere. The Turks lived like prisoners.
- In other words, there was a normal life in these years. What would you go for your daily life?
- There was a normal life, but there was still fear after the events of '63, that is, people were being picked up on the roads, for example, and so on. Until '63, the Turkish Greeks were all working together, the police, the things, the Turks and the Greeks in the apartments were all working together. After the events of 63 began, the Greeks withdrew the Turks from all circles, from all sides. They took away all the camel things, from the administration. We have no contact with the republic. We have been completely confined to small areas.
- What was life like in Varosha before the events of 63 began?
- It was the biggest touristic area of Cyprus. In other words, there were ten times more tourists than the population in Maraş, especially during the tourism period, and there were hotels. Life was high, trade was very developed. In other words, our Turks were working in these things on that side, there were people working in tourist hotels. So there was something normal.

- This trade continued after the events of '63? Did these Turkish Cypriots continue to work there?
- Of course.
- But these tourist events started to be predicted after 65, they weren't that big before, were they?
- No, there were still very crowded hotels. After the 60's, after the establishment of the Republic, the closed area of Maras was completely touristy, covered with hotels. Generally, of course, it existed in the British period, but the greatest development occurred after the 60's.
- Do you remember the places you visited in the 1960s?
- For the purpose of sightseeing, there was a big street in which the Greeks and Turks went. Inside the closed maras. Everyone would go back and forth in that area with their car. They were going to the stores to go shopping. That was to say, there was shopping. Of course, it decreased a little after 64, but it was still going.
- What do you remember most from these stores? Or if you ever went, what would you go for?
- We were mostly going for sightseeing. We were watching the shop windows, the glittering, the jewellery shops and so on in the evenings. In other words, we were going for the purpose of sightseeing. But there were a lot of people who went to the market, for example, they had bandabulyas, they would be more discounted, there would be many people who went to those markets.
- Even after 63?

- Yes.
- It was not the same as Maras in the 60s. What changed internally in that time between 1960 and 1974?
- After 64, it was already forbidden to the Turks. Or there were those who went in fear rather than forbidden. I didn't go much after '63. But the development, the greatest improvement, was in the period after '63, between '64 and '74. The largest hotels were built at that time. In fact, there was the largest golden sands hotel in Cyprus, it was just opened, the first thing came to the opening in 74, it is still the largest hotel in Cyprus. In the closed zone.
- So, did you go there to the golden sands hotel after it opened?
- No, we never went. After '63, I didn't go much to Marasas.
- But would you go before 64?
- That's how old we were before '64. When you were a student, you used to go. We used to study at Namik Kemal, we were already staying in a dormitory on the border of Marasin. We used to go and visit there.
- Where would you go when you went sightseeing?
- As I said, there was a wide street, we used to go to that street, a crowd of people.
- Is this wide street by the sea, or is it in the city?

- It started from the place where the current municipality began, towards the middle of the road and the maras, from there it turned towards the sea and stretched parallel to the sea.
- Was there a café or restaurant or buffet on the street that you often visited?
- No, to travel alone. We didn't go to cafes or anything. We would pass by, visit the shops, come and go. We used to watch the crowd.
- What would have caught your attention the most when you were walking down those streets back then?
- Here is the wealth of the people.
- So, from '64 to '74, did you just go to visit the streets or were there places where you went and sat inside?
- We used to go for a solo trip and nothing else. Young people used to go to places of entertainment.
- Have you ever been?
- No, we didn't go. For example, my brother was young at that time, he had just started a job, he was going to the bar with his friends or something, so there were people who left. But we didn't go, so we were going to wander around.
- You said camel harbor, isn't camel harbor seaside?
- Yes.

- So why was it called camel port?

- According to the rumors, it was a place where camels were bathed there. In other words, there was a pit for washing camels, there was a nature formed there in the sea. As you know, the beaches of Famagusta are very shallow. The place they call the camel port used to wash animals in the old days, long ago, during the British period. They used to put it in the sea there. It was a big pit. That's why they called it a camel port.

- So where is this place? Camel port?

- It's about 100 meters south of Palm beach. Everywhere is a beach, but it is a pit that makes you feel like it. That's why they called it a camel port.

- Would you go there often?

- We used to go to the beach in the summer, it's the beach. The place they call camel harbor is the beach, it was a long beach. However, they used to say that the reason why it was called the camel port was the place where they washed the camels in the deep place in that pit. As you know, in the past, before cars were built, transportation was done by camels. According to rumors, it was the place where camels were washed.

- Was there any known place in Maraş that you had heard of or heard a lot at that time?

- As a place of entertainment?

- It can be any place, place of entertainment, school, cinema.

- In Marash, the Turks and the Greeks were completely separated. Our schools are within the walls and Namik Kemal High School is the place at the beginning of the maraşın,

the moat. At that time, for the purpose of traveling, the Turks used to work on the Greek side before 63.

- What was life like inside the city wall?
- After 63?
- Yes.
- After 63, it was completely under the siege of the Greeks. The Greeks could not enter there, the Turks could not get out, for a long time.
- So what would you do in your daily life?
- There was going to the sea, there were places of entertainment, the Mujahideen Casino and then the Riviera bar. Also, that riviera bar, from the canbulat gate to the ball field, was walking and coming along that road, dressed and dressed, it was the place for everyone to walk. There was a march going on. At the port gate, there was also a mujahideen casino. That was the only place to sit. You go there and have a drink and sit down. It was the only place of entertainment, that is, the people. Walking from one door to the other, sitting there at work.
- Were there any events back then?
- Fairs were held. Fairs were held in the Sakarya region and in the ditch. That was the entertainment of the people.
- Were you participating in the events in Maraş?

- We disagreed. Maybe there were people who participated.
- What does a ghost town mean to you?
- It's a ghost town, it's a closed area, you can't enter or exit. It's a bad thing. It's been closed for years. For example, the area after us is closed and every time you pass by, you feel inside. I wish it had been opened there.
- You said that you settled in Maraş because you were appointed after 74. I'm guessing it's become a part of your life to go back and forth next to these wires.
- Of course, my wife's school is there. The school was already on the border of the fence. He was in charge of the martyr zeki salih primary school. After that, he came to Polat Pasha Primary School.
- Have you ever come across people who come to school and try to take care of their homes at work?
- He died after 2003. After the doors opened. They even came to our homes. They came 1-2 times and visited their houses from room to room. But before that, there was no coming and going.
- For example, the school was next to the fence, did you try to find out what the houses you saw, or what the buildings were? Or would you know what they are anyway?
- The houses abandoned by the Greeks, we did not know who they belonged to.
- You may have also used the Palm beach area.

- Of course, it was used, the only thing we went to was the place to go in Famagusta, the place where we saw the sea, the closest.
- So what catches your attention the most when you look at the wires?
- Ruined, crumbling houses. Herbs, thorns. He gets our attention.
- You said they came to your house. What was the reaction of the people who came or did they tell you anything?
- No, they didn't say anything. I didn't treat them badly, they came and sat down. They asked to see the rooms, we didn't object. They saw it. They came 1-2 more times and watched from the outside. After that, when their hopes were gone, they left and never came back.
- Did you go inside after the opening of the streets in October 2020?
- We were entering before, we already had an entrance card to the army house. I mean, we already knew about it, we were going to the army house or something. After that, we didn't go much, because we had pain in our knee to walk, I went with the children on the first day. Again, a ruined spill. But there are people who go a lot, even tourists see it as I pass by. There are many visitors there.
- You said that you went to the army house before this October 2020 opening, did any memories come back to you when you went inside? Remember the streets?
- We remembered the streets, but of course they were uninhabited, uninhabited until they went home to the army. All we see are soldiers. That's the way it is. It was the only living place, the place where the army house was.

- Was there a place you expected to see when you walked in?
- No, there was no such place.
- Is there a place in Maraş that you feel connected to?
- No. There are those who are, because there are Turkish houses, there are people who have houses, so a few people have properties and so on.
- Do any of your acquaintances have houses there?
- I don't know anyone close, but I hear about what happened. So there was.
- So what was your first impression after you walked in? For example, was there any change between the time you entered the army house and the entry after this October 2020 emergency?
- Well, there is change, all the vitality, the ruined buildings, so when you see it, you feel inside. People are upset about that situation, but they wanted it themselves.
- Was there a place you saw that impressed you the most?
- I don't have much to be impressed with, for example, we are saddened by the condition of the houses, people have left.
- For example, you said that you were going to the stores, did anyone look familiar to you from the signs there?
- We didn't go that many places in those days.

- Do you think there is a future for Varosha?
- In other words, if it is opened, it requires a lot of care, there is a future, hotels and so on, I think it will be very promising in terms of tourism.
- So what kind of future could there be for you?
- How so now ?
- Yes.
- Right now there is nothing, something is closed.
- What kind of future do you want it to be?
- Let it be lively, appeal to tourists, have job opportunities for people, open hotels. So that's what we've been waiting for.
- After the opening of the streets in October 2020, did you change your mind about the future of Varosha?
- At the moment, it has not changed because nothing has been done, only the entrance door has been opened, and that's it. The road leading to the beach has been maintained, so there is no other activity.
- From the buildings you saw when you walked around before 74, did you ever say that you know this place from the buildings you enter and see now?

- In other words, what we saw when we were passing, for example, we did not use that road when we were going from the bazaar road, now that road is closed, it is not open. We used that road the most.
- Do you think any place inside should be preserved as it is?
- By God, I don't know if there is any place left to protect, the buildings in the hands of the military remain. There are shrines and so on, I don't know much about them.
- You don't know anyone who uses the masjid inside?
- No.
- Leaving aside its situation, is there a building that you think needs to be preserved?
- What I do know is that after what I know now, there are more places where there is an army house, there is vitality, there is no other place. We've forgotten about it, it's been years.
- For example, you said that both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots used bandabulya. Do you think it is important for both communities?
- Of course, it's an old thing, so it's a good thing to preserve.
- Have you ever been to this bandabulya?
- I walked past him, we weren't leaving.

- Was there anything that caught your eye as you walked by? Or what was your impression?
- So I didn't have much.
- That's all my questions, is there anything you would like to add to any of your answers?
- By God, there isn't.
- Is there anything you said you should have asked me about but didn't?
- No.

E31 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Am I connected myself?

- Yes.

- Well, we're a long way off right now. I mean, it's not 37 years, it's not 40 years, it's been closed for about 74. But until the age of 17-18 of our youth, we traveled a lot, that is, with our own means. We went to the sea, we worked in their construction, when I was a student. We went to their pubs, we went to their discotheques.

- Do you remember clearly visiting and working there?

- Yes, yes.

- So, if I ask you, what would be the first memory that comes to your mind about those times?

- We, friends, were in the castle in Famagusta. On weekends, especially, during my high school years, we used to work as a day laborer, and things were fine at that time to earn our pocket money. When we got the money, we would spend it more in Maraş rather than on the Turkish side. There was a pub we went to called Dionysus. Directly opposite the tenth was a discotheque called Isadoras. We had a lot of Greek British girls and boyfriends there, we used to have fun. The next day we would agree, and if we didn't have a job, we would go to the sea. I mean, we had a lot of good days there. Though the pill came out when he was 18 years old. So 17-18, 2 years. We used to go for rides on bikes like this before. I was an athlete, there was a very nice sports store called Amerikanos. I used to go there and buy sports equipment because there were very few such things on the Turkish side. In fact, it seemed to none. Jeans, and

similar new fashion things, we used to go and buy them when we had money, there was a jet, there was a batta. We used to travel. In 1975, when Haspel was unloading the belongings of Mali Maraş after 74, I worked there as a civil servant for 3-4 months until I graduated from high school and went to university, that is, in the evacuation of Marash, in the construction department. We would buy the items in the stores there and send them to the Turkish side. In other words, we would make official booty to the state.

- I'm going to pull you back before that time comes. You said you were born in 1956? In 63, for example, when you were 7 years old, the Greeks were forbidden to enter the city walls. What was life like before '63 in the city walls and in Marash?
- We were kids in '63. We used to go to elementary school, we were in the first and second grade of primary school. When I was in the second grade of primary school, I will never forget that we had a teacher Charm teacher; He said go home, the events have started, he said, and don't come until we inform you, it was the events of December 63. After that, my mother was a little unwell, she should have gone to Turkey, we all went to Istanbul with our siblings. My mother had relatives there. I studied 2-3 grades of primary school in Istanbul. After I came, my uncle had a grocery store in Famagusta, so we came in the fifth grade or something, we stayed there for 2-3 years. At that time, my uncle would go and buy some items from Maraş and take me to the grocery store. For example, for the first time, the piece of chicken, that is, the whole chicken with a whole tice, had just come out, that period. There were big stores, we used to buy from them and sell them to the Turks. At the same time, there were a lot of permitted items, they would take them. We used to visit Maraş again and look at it with amazement. On our side, when it was pitch black everywhere, Maraş was something completely different, that is, it became a big city. On weekends, especially in places close to the sea, tourists, locals sit in cafes and restaurants, you know, the life of the Turkish side in Europe or Cyprus was there at that time. There were cafes, pubs, restaurants, all of them.
- When did you return to Cyprus from Istanbul?

- We went in '63 and came back in '65 or '66 or something. I studied part of primary school in Istanbul, so I don't know how those 1-2 years went, I mean, we were here during the war, we were here when the events started. When things calmed down, we went to the port of Famagusta from an Arab ship.

- So what was life like inside the city walls back then?

- There was a military administration within the council. In other words, the military had now confiscated everything. There was a bannerman. According to the orders of the sanjak, military service began there, everyone did military training, there were positions. Aid would come from the Red Crescent and it would be distributed to people. Children used to play in the streets, so the social life at that time was on the streets. Pirilli, lingiri, spinning top, football, volleyball. Between us and the children, we leagues were fiction, we used to play football. We used to play a lot of games. So we could hardly get into the house.

- Well, you said that socialization was on the streets. At that time, was there a store or café or cinema to go to within the city walls?

- There were two cinemas. Lausanne Palace Cinema and Canbulat Cinema. Folks usually went there for half a shilling for the ladies, so the regular tickets were half a shilling for the ladies, and half a shilling for the ladies on weekdays. Our mothers, aunts and aunts always collected us, we always went to the summer cinemas. Also, we couldn't go out at night on our way to school, it was until noon on Saturdays. We used to go to the cinema at noon. There were 3-4 music groups in Famagusta at that time. Fevers, waves. Let me tell my lord, Apaches. We were enthusiasts of them. They used to give free concerts to the public during the summer months. Just for the sake of morale for the nation. At that time, he used to set up tables in the banner office. And everyone was offering treats, cake, lemonade. That's what we had in our childhood. Also, football matches were suspended at that time, and the divisions played matches among themselves. Kaleiçi spor, let me tell my lord, canbulat sport, Baykal spor,

Karakol spor, that is, the leagues were suspended, everyone established their leagues among themselves because there was no going or coming between regions. Nicosia teams are separate leagues, Famagusta teams are separate leagues. After '68, he went back to the normal thing, then again.

- Until the new 68, there was such strict control.
- He had a tight command thing. The Mujahideen casino was built in Famagusta, weddings were held on weekends. In any case, the entertainment of the nation was weddings and similar social activities. Weddings were held in the mujahideen casino, in the wheat mosque, in the Turkish power club. Folks would go and attend. There would be village weddings, he would go to village weddings, people would eat and drink, then it would be a good thing. Folk song with song.
- From 68 to 74, that is, the events within the walls were yesterdays?
- Weddings, music things, bands from Turkey started to come from 68 to 74. Cem Karaca came, Barış Manço came, Edip Akbayram came, Dursun salkım came, nesrin şipahi came. A lot of artists came, as much as I remember at the time. Magicians would come. I mean, there was something at that time, until 74, the Turkish youth national team came, played a match, how many times. It's our stuff, it's our national team. And I was an athlete at the time. I used to play volleyball in Turkish power until '74. Football, volleyball, basketball at Namık Kemal High School. And we had contacts abroad, we went to Turkey, we played matches. At that time, we were Cypriot champions in volleyball leagues in 73 and 74. After that, it continued for a few more years, of course, after that, we gave up, when we said university or something.
- Well, for example, when you were younger, you said in 65-66, your uncle had a grocery store. That's why you used to go and buy items from Maraş. Apart from that, for example, would you go to Maraş for any other reason until this 68?

- I used to ride bikes with my friends from time to time, but it was illegal. Our Pparents wouldn't let us go, but we were a bit of a rebellious student. 3-5 friends would get together like this, we would tour our bikes like this without stopping. We used to go to the camel port and sit there, there were ice cream shops, we ate ice cream, there were swings, we used to swing. We used to come horses without touching anyone, that is, without interfering with anyone.
- So why do they call the port of camel the port of camel?
- The reason for the port of Develi is that at the time, cargoes were transported by camels/deveyan. Ships carried them there, and they came there from the loads on camels. And there was a camel port so that they could load from there. My grandfather, for example, had something in Maraş, my father, his father, had an inn. He was also a farrier, so you know, there was a story of shoeing animals and so on. Of course, I don't remember that it was a very big place, according to what they said, after the British taxes increased, they had to sell it, so they could not pay the taxes and they came to Famagusta, inside the wall. Inside the walls, the Greeks did not flee in 1963, they fled before that. In the fifties, they fled. I don't know why it was probably between the two communities. But there are many more Greek goods in the city walls. There are warehouses, there are things, there are Greek houses.
- Well, for example, it is forbidden, but you used to visit Marash. Were there any Greeks who visited Maraş and the city walls until 74?
- No, they wouldn't come, it was forbidden to them, there were barricades at the gates. The police would wait. They would look at the cars that were coming. I mean, if it was a Greek car, they wouldn't let it go, but in some matches, for example, the Turkish power was a very good team, then there were very good players. The Greeks especially wanted to see these people. In some private matches, they would take the day off and come and watch. They used to line up chairs like this in the field. In other words, there were Greeks who came from time to time on leave.
- And how did they allow your uncle to go to Maraş and buy goods?

- At that time, things softened a little at that time, commercial relations. In other words, Greek, Turkish relations, Turks used to work in the port, they stopped for a while, they did not work. After that, they went about their business again. The Turks in the constructions started to go to Maraş, here and there for the constructions again. People would come from the villages, they would go to Famagusta by buses, to the hotels in Maraş, to the constructions in Maraş. And since trade had started, cigarettes and drinks started to come from the Greek side. These types of grocery stores, similar businesses, go and go by the Greeks. The bezirgans used to buy their cloth. Grocery stores would go and bring things that were not on our side, for example, there was no iced chicken on our side at that time. Especially the piece of chicken, I remember there was a queue at my uncle's shop, so that people could buy pieces of chicken. After that, it multiplied, appearing everywhere.

- So when did you start going from cycling and touring to bars?

- In my high school years, when I was 16 years old, in 71-72, beer started to take the place of ice cream in Maraş. We used to go there, it was cheap, it was a two-shilling thing. There was rum beer keo, there was Carlsberg. We would go and sit there and eat hamburgers. There were fish and chips. At that time, we had already started to work as apprentices on the Greek side, in construction. At the same time, on the side of Marash, in the outer Greek area of Marash, there were potato warehouses. For example, during this period, they used to uproot the potatoes and bring them to the ambas. It's in things, it's in the shackles. I needed a man to carry them. We are also children then. We'd go and unload the trucks. Each truck would give us one and a half liras. We used to unload 3 trucks a day. I used to earn 3-4 liras a day, and that money was enough to eat and drink in Maraş for a week. There is nowhere to go on the Turkish side, when we went to the mujahideen casino on the Turkish side, they would not give us beer at that age. We couldn't drink in the club because we were athletes. We used to go to the Greek side every day, the Greek would not say there was none, he would give it to us immediately.

- So who owned these potato warehouses?

- They belonged to the state, I suppose, because those potatoes would be sorted there, and that would be the thing. The good ones were separated from class to class, then bagged and sent to the port and exported. In the same way, there were orange warehouses in Orange. So we would go according to the season.

- Do you know which hotel or which building the constructions you worked on belonged to?

- I didn't usually work in a hotel, but I did work in houses, so there were companies that built duplex houses. They were also daily, that is, give mud and bricks, I don't know what we would carry, that is, we would work in the port. They would pick us up at the port, we would go to the warehouses. They were also 3 liras or 4 liras a day. The goods that came with the cars came to the tractors, we took the goods from the ship, we used to separate them from the others in the warehouses, of course, we had our brothers in charge of us, Greek, Turkish. They would put it here and that here. It starts at eight in the morning, until four, 4 and a half 5 pounds was a lot of money, it was good money. We used to take out all our uniforms, school books and school fees from there, we would help our families, and we would go and eat the rest in Maraş.

- Well, you said you were an athlete and you said you would go and buy clothes from a sports store called Amerikanos. Where was this Amerikanos?

- It was the same in Marash. It was on Kennedy Street. There was Kennedy Street. In fact, we bought those shoes, Adidas would have just released them then, or rather, we would have seen them new. We went and bought very nice adidas shoes for 2-2 and a half liras. We went to Kahramanmaraş in those shoes, to play a match at school. There were 10 people in line before we even started the game. They bought our shoes after the match, so we didn't have them there and they didn't exist in Turkey. We sold it at twice the price, we came there, we bought a better one here.

- Well, for example, you said that you used to study at Namik Kemal, how was your normal day with your friends?

- We got out of school. First we would go home, eat our food, within the city walls. After that, we would go back to school. There was training every day, so I was an athlete for us. There was training every day, or there was training for the Turkish Force. In other words, we were definitely on the field after two o'clock. Until 5-6 o'clock in the evening. After that, we would go home and have our dreams. If there was a lesson, we would look at it a little bit. We would go back again, there was a dessert shop with friends, there was a place we went to, and there was a Akgün patisserie, we used to hang out there. After that, in the days when we had money, there was a doner shop next to Namik Kemal High School, we used to go to it. He would give us beer and we would go back and eat. And then there's the peacekeeping camp, which is now the place where the bus is relied upon. There was something there was Hehey canteen. We friends used to gather there. There were things there, too, there were Swedish soldiers, peacekeepers. We used to make friends with them. We even played matches with their volleyball teams and beat them. They would also give us an open buffet meal, we would sit and drink. Then, on the days when we were paid, we used to go to Maraş on weekends. When there was work, we would go to the warehouses. If there was no work, I would go to my uncle and help. We used to do things, we used to go fishing, there was a place called islands. Palm Beach is next to the hotel. We used to fish. Our biggest job was matsangoni. Matsangoni is ship painting. Some such worn-out ships would come to the port of Famagusta and ask for painting. There was a man named Demirali. He was martyred in '74. He was our foreman. He would inform us that there was ship painting that came to us, we used to buy those rolo paints, first the primer paint, the ships were hung on hangers like this, we used to paint the ships from the paints. It was 1-2 liras a day, that job was a little less, but it would take 10-15 days. In other words, we would take out a salary equal to our father's salary and go home at the end of the month. He would pay us weekly and we would not be left without money.

- Well, when you are paid, you go to Maraş, you called Maraş a Dionysus Bar, you said Club in front of it, where else would you go in Maraş?

- There were many places to go in E Maraş. There was a very nice place called Mirabelli where we drank beer again. Right on the edge of the camel harbor of that sea. The camel harbor was already divided into two, the camel port and the alasia, alasiaynan thing. It had a very nice atmosphere, it was always foreign in it. We would go there and drink beer and eat. There were taverns, we went to taverns a few times. They don't eat and drink with music there. Of course, they wouldn't have opened us up too much then. We used to go more like pub type things. But in the places we went, 10% of them were Greek Cypriots, 1% were us, 80-90% were foreigners, so they were always foreign tourists.

- So, for example, when you went there, were you hesitant or afraid, or were you very comfortable?

- Of course, we would be afraid because they didn't like the Turks very much. Although, if you didn't misbehave, no one would touch you, but there were still extreme things, there were fanatic types, they didn't like us. When we saw something like that, we would run away and not stop there. However, there was another group of friends of ours, they were something wolf, they were an organization in the youth movements of that time. They used to go and scratch the Greek cars for damage to the Greek property. They used to throw trash cans and trash things into the sea. One night, the police caught us in Maraş because of them. He took him to the police station, questioned him a lot, and even slapped him a few times. That is, not to me, but to other friends. Because they lied. And they told us, they scared us that if you come again, we will imprison you. More precisely, they called the Turkish police and they came and picked us up. We didn't go for 1-2 weeks. After that, we started to go down the back roads again, when the fear passed.

- So which streets did you use the most?

- Now, buses used to depart in front of our Namik Kemal High School, and there was a Greek hospital there. From the Greek hospital all the way into the sea of Maraş. There

was a number 7 bus. When we got on it, it was either 3 cents or 4 cents at that time. He would leave us in the most beautiful place on the sea. After that, if we had money, we would come back to the school with him, otherwise we would come on foot.

- Well, when you first started, you said that you had friends inside, when you went to bars or something, were they foreign tourists?
- There were also tourists. In fact, we agreed, there was a boy named Griego. We became very good friends with him. In other words, if the 74 operation had not come out, things would have come together, tourist ships would have come to the port of Famagusta, Italian and Russian ships would have come, such beautiful things at that time, ships with restaurants, beautiful cruise ships. We agreed, we would go to Athens first, Athens for a week, Istanbul in a week, and then we would return to Cyprus. In other words, both Athens and Istanbul, when the events broke out, those kinds of relations always left.
- How did you meet?
- He was a bartender where we worked there. The conversations are half in English, half in Turkish and half in Greek. Of course, the student was not very good at English at that time, but he helped a lot to improve my English when he spoke to foreign tourists.
- Have you ever been to Maraş with your family?
- With my family, my father didn't have a car, my uncle's car, my nephews, and an older brother. The son of my uncle, whom I call my brother, studied in America. He got married in America and then came to Cyprus with his wife. He picked me up with my sister, who had his own sister, and took me to a nightclub called the Spitfire one night. It's a discotheque type place. So it would be family trips. Also, I think we were children on New Year's Eve. My father, my uncle, some of our nephews, I suppose, we went to

a Greek house as guests, but I don't remember who it was. You know, we didn't have a lot of that.

- When did you go to this Spitfire in the year?
- In '73, probably not long before the war.
- Well, imagine if I asked you, what would the city mean to you?
- To me, a ghost town is emptiness. In other words, it is a city without people. It demoralizes people, for example, some parts of that maraş were opened, I did not go and see it, I did not go. Most people ran away, but it felt wrong to me. In fact, there are some friends who left, so they came back halfway. You know, they said we don't want to see marasi like this. And they didn't leave. There are those who go and take photos. Of course, they don't know. To me, it's very painful. In other words, it doesn't matter if you are Greek, Turkish, British. There was a life there, too. There was a liveliness there, too, there were people. Whether they want to or not, no one willingly leaves their homeland. He does not leave that fortune. In other words, the people suffered the mistakes made by the politicians.
- What was your relationship with Maraş in 1974 after the war broke out? You said official booty in the first place, how did that start?
- Let me tell you, after '74, the materials in all the shops in Maraş were taken out. Some were sent to Nicosia, others to the warehouses of Famagusta. For example, there was a pharmacy department, there was a shoe department, there was a fabric department. There was a pharmaceutical department, a construction department. I am a high school graduate who wanted to be a civil servant in the construction department, the finance department has made an announcement that he is a civil servant. I will never forget the day I finished high school. The next day, I went and applied, they said okay, we would go to the gate of Maraş and they would take us inside with cars. Or rather,

our office was in the thing. In Famagusta, where the current stone distillery is located. We used to go there and from there they would take us to Maraş with trucks and buses. In our team, there was one thing, an expert, a military commander from the Sedat Simavi Vocational High School. There were 2 soldiers armed. There were men from the construction department. There are 2-3 printers like us, so we used to keep minutes. For example, the goods coming out of the shop, 10 drilling tools, we used to write 10 drilling tools in the report, the unit price is 3 liras, ten times three is 30 TL. After that, for example, a sack of nail tartar, 50 kilos. The unit price is 1 lira, 1 shilling is a total of this much lira. They would load whatever was in that report onto the truck, and he took out the total. No matter how much money it was, an officer would get on the driver, either we would get on it or an officer would take it to Famagusta or Nicosia with the driver. We would deliver it there, we would come back. But some days it would be in the afternoon. We had to take a taxi from Nicosia and always pay for them in the apartment, there was work every day. I have already processed it for 3-4 months. When the schools opened, I started university. In other words, this was the discharge made by this finance, which I call official booty. In the same way, in other departments, the pharmacy department and the white goods department would load the goods in the same way, they would send them to Nicosia, God knows whether they would go to the warehouses or go to someone else's house.

- Well, before the events of '74 began, when did you stop going to Maraş or did you stop at all?
- We never left, that is, we were in Maraş the day before the events broke out, or rather, I should not say the day before. The day before, there was something in Larnaca, the Larnaca Festival, we had volleyball matches at the festival, inter-regional teams. I used to play in Turkish power, we went and played a match there. We came home at night. In the morning, the events of July 15 began the coup. But we went and came for 3-4 days from those matches until those matches were over. Before those games, we were in Maraş every night. In other words, we were always in Maraş until a week ago.
- Would you feel that there was anything wrong there, or would everything be normal?

- We would feel it, of course we would feel it. Right-left wars had already started among themselves there. Bombs would explode almost 2-3 times a week. Inside Marash, the rightists would hit the leftists, and the leftists would hit the right. Also, recently, even once, when we were coming from the sea, we came across them, they used to hold rallies, they were shouting Enosis enosis on the roads. We had to, we were two friends, we entered that crowd so that we would not be understood, we went to the Turkish side shouting Enosis enosis.

- So, for example, you were an athlete, did you take part in any sports events in Maraş?

- Well, at that time, the Greek teams wanted us, we were good volleyball players. One day while playing ball with friends at sea. A Greek saw us and liked our game. He said come and play for the Neo salamina team. And we, of course, would get very little money on this side. They said we will give you very good money. We went to 3-5 of their trainings. But when it was heard on our side, they did not leave us. In other words, they didn't stop us going again, we didn't give up.

- Where were the workouts?

- There was a gymnasium in Maraş, there was a school, it was in this place, we used to do it in the gymnasium. I don't remember the exact location, I wouldn't find it if I went now. But they used to call it a gymnasium, that's how I remember.

- Well, inside, for example, there was a place called Anorthosis club. Have you been to the sports club?

- I didn't go there, but I saw it, so we used to pass by it when we were in Maraş. This pitch was already close to Famagusta. We even went to a few of their matches and watched them as spectators with our friends. Because foreign European teams would come back then.

- For example, if you were in high school, did you ever interact with the students in the high school in Maraş?

- Occasionally, there was a place I called the He Hey canteen, in front of the peace guard camp, they would form a team, we would play a football match in a team. But they were the children of that region. We played 3-5 times, but we weren't that warm to each other at that time.

- Have you ever participated in the events in Maraş?

- We attended the orange festival a few times, or rather, we went. There would also be a sea festival at sea. They threw him into the sea and swam him out, whatever it was, it had some kind of name. We used to go and watch them at the orange festival. There was a wine festival in Limassol, we went there once. Of course, there would be a fair in the courtyard of the church in Famagusta, we would go to them. Niabolide in Ayluga.

- What do you remember most from the orange festival?

- Let me tell you about an incident we did at the orange festival. Their flags were yellow and green, orange and green. The colors of our Famagusta Turkish Power were more or less the same color, we used to march (steal) those flags and hang them at our matches. And from the outside of the walls of Famagusta to such maraş, they made iron things in the shape of oranges and decorated them with oranges. I remember those.

- What about the Sea Festival?

- The Sea Festival would be on the beach, in the camel harbor, such things would be set up there, stands would be set up. Pastries, buns, morsels, shammalis, samis. I

mean, there were beautiful dances, music ensembles, everyone went in swimsuits. It would be in the summer.

- And this camel lemon was next to what they call Faliro, right?
- Yes, yes, it was a very long beach, it is one of the most beautiful beaches in Cyprus.
- Have you ever been to hotels?
- I went to hotels. Well, we went to their discotheques more, we went to their lobbies and so on. I mean, because we were very young at the time, I was 17 years old, 18 years old. Look there was the Constantina hotel, the current Palm beach hotel it was very close to us. For example, I remember going and buying a hamburger from the dental bar above. Again, what a hotel there was. There is another hotel, the exact name of which I don't remember as such. Well, there was a cracker named hadjikakou by the sea. Although this man was a Greek Cypriot deputy, he was a mustachioed man who knew Turkey very well. At the same time, I think he was a member of parliament of a Greek party, he was very good at Turkish. At one point in this volleyball, I had a malfunction in my hand. I went out on the blog, it was either broken or out. Something like that happened. They said go to Hadjidakou, Hadjidakou is okay. I walked away, I mean, I went, the man greeted me, took me and looked at me and wrapped me in my hand. He said, "Who are you with?" and I told my family. He said okay, come back in a week and I'll look at it again. I went and asked him what money he would give, he said he didn't want it, you are a student, he sent me. He treated me, man. And I saw that guy after '74. After the Greeks fled after the war, that man did not escape. And we had the head of the doctors at the time, who drove him around in his car. After that, he handed himself over to the commander of the peacekeeper so that they would not be killed. That man helped all the Turks.
- Was there a favorite café in Maraş?

- There was a dessert shop, but there were places that made more desserts than patisserie, we used to go to them. Because it was cheap there and we knew the man. When there were sweets with a broken edge like this, he gave us cheaply. I mean, we wouldn't go to the bakery like that. There was Edelweiss, it was a very nice café, with cakes. And often there were such ovens. We used to buy this type of cake from them. In other words, we could not sit in the patisserie for long, it was expensive.
- Where was the place that gave these broken sweets cheaply? Do you remember his name?
- I don't remember his name, but it was a small workshop on the main street, that Kennedy Street, where he used to make desserts for bakeries. When we entered, he used to say that he knew a little bit of Turkish, and we were more or less Greek. He used to say eat the edges of these trays, take these boat cakes and the edges are broken, eat them too. He would say what to give, well, give me half a shilling, we would throw it away.
- So, after this was closed in '74, did you work to keep a record at work, did you try to get into Maraş in the following years?
- There are a couple of times when we have this mobilization thing, after the military, for 3 days. It happened in Maraş a few times, we stayed in Maraş. We stayed there for 2-3 nights, not exactly in Maras, but in the nearby suburbs, there were military units there. 1-2 times I went to the army house on leave.
- In what year did you go?
- In the 1990s or something, 90-95. I was a tourism professional, my main profession is tourism. I was the assistant manager at the Salamis Bay hotel. I was the manager of the Mimosa hotel. At that time, we had good relations with the commanders there. Of course, they invited me once, I went to the army house. They even had places to shop,

he said if you want, do it, I didn't. But they had made a very nice hotel called Golden Sands an army house. Still, the army is home there.

- Did you have any memories that came back to you when you walked in?
- Well, I've never been to that hotel before. I was shocked when I entered Maraş. So many people, so many buildings, things and people playing ball, the side of the roads, the roads were all right, the edges were clean, the trees, the trees. Houses in disrepair. Evacuated. No matter how much it is cleaned, that is, places where it is obvious that people do not live. I was sad when I saw a lot.
- So what was the first memory that came to your mind when you entered?
- The first thing that comes to my mind is the good days we spent there with the friends we had there. We had friends. He came to the places where we played ball. The places where we shopped were the places where we passed by those shops. Some have broken windows, some have broken doors and have been emptied. For example, that Amerikanos store was one of the largest sports stores in Cyprus. We reached out and looked through a door like this.
- What about the places where you shop, you said Jet, you said batta? Was there anywhere else?
- Of course, there were many stores. For example, my mother used to sew at home, of course, her own clothes, my sisters' dresses. There was a place called Angelis. He would send me away, I would go to him, I would take the button, the verse, I don't know what, whatever he wanted. There is a store called Angelis. There was a place called this jet. Jackets and trousers were taken from him. Usually these were cooperative-like places. That is, places that are sold cheaply. There were also nicer, more expensive stores. They would sell jeans, then we would go and buy them. That is, since we have our first money.

- So when you entered this army house to go, was there a place you expected to see? Especially what you say you would like to see here?
- They invited me, we sat down with the command there and had dinner.
- Yes, was there a place you thought you would like to see when you went inside?
- It was already forbidden, I mean, there's only one road, it's open, then you would follow that road and go to the army house. In other words, it was forbidden for a civilian to travel. He could have taken special permission and left. Well, we didn't force that thing either. What should I go and see what, while I was on the road, if there was a place I remembered, I would slow down the car and say stop and take a look here. He was forbidden to take photographs.
- Yes, is there a place in Maraş that you feel connected to?
- Currently? Well, I don't have any contacts at the moment. I mean, I didn't even think about it right now, I can't think about it.
- So, is there a place that is valuable to you?
- Isadoras.
- What was this place?
- Isadoras pub'di.
- Where was that?

- These hotels in Maras are located in the tourist areas right in the hotel area. This was the discotheque Isadoras, and there was a pub called Dionysus right across the street. There were pictures of such Hittites with grapes in their hands, such a goddess of wine and so on.
- Well, for example, in 74, there was a Golden Sands hotel that they opened as the largest hotel in Cyprus. Have you gone to see him in the English that they call it?
- No, when we went to Maraş, the construction of the place continued. You know, a couple of times, we passed by the bikes. It was a huge construction site. They wouldn't even bring it close. We heard that it was finished, did it open or not? I don't think I know that either, or it was just opened. I mean, we couldn't go to such luxurious places at that time, and we couldn't go to anything else. If it was the present, we would probably go there for a meal, for a wedding, for a party.
- For example, have you ever been to the current cinemas of Maraş?
- I went, but what was the cinema I went to, there was even a Turkish movie one night, Seveda Ferdağ played with Cüneyt Arkın. I'll never forget it. I think it was a movie called Hopeless.
- Was the location of the cinema exactly on that main street? Was he in a democracy or was he close to the bandabulya?
- There were already two of them, one close to the bandabulya and one on the main street. There were even 4-5 cinemas. What we know is that there were 1-2 of them. There was one thing, a cowboy movie, a famous artist, we went there with friends. Also, when we heard this sevda ferdağ's Turkish movie, we went, here we are with friends again. Hadjihambis cinema is something like that.

- Was it a Turkish movie?
- Yes.
- Have you ever been to bandabulya?
- I went there too. I passed, I mean, I did it on a small scale while shopping. At that time, when we went, it was just like this, we bought strawberries and almonds and so on. Turks used to go there, there were a lot of Turks, so I remember there.
- Were there any Turkish employees there?
- Almost no one worked in the shops in Marash, they worked more in constructions and hotels. Maybe there was, I don't know, as far as we could see, there wasn't.
- Do you think there is a future for Maraş?
- I think Varosha will be returned to its original owners in a very short time. In return, the port of Famagusta will be opened to international traffic. In other words, these confidence-building measures will be implemented. In other words, the reason is that they will come to an agreement due to the sharing of the energy in this Mediterranean and I hope that Cyprus will finally be solved with this. You know, if Maraş is returned to its rightful owners, I think it will be restored in 3-5 years.
- When you say it will come back to its former state, how do you think it will be restored?
- In other words, it becomes a tourist city. Think about how many workers would be needed and unemployment would disappear. In other words, instead of going and bringing workers, there are hundreds of thousands of Turks from third countries who

are unemployed, they go and work today. They will go again, although now they will go more comfortably if there is an agreement.

- So, did the decisions taken after October 2020, the opening of the streets, the saying that 3% will be given back and so on, and the fact that nothing was done immediately, changed your thoughts about the future?
- No, I guessed that they couldn't do anything. It was all about domestic politics, the show
- So, do you think that any place in Maraş should be preserved as it is or in its old form?
- I think if they gave me Maraş, I would demolish Maraş and all the hotels first. Because, in my opinion, the construction of Maraş is wrong. I noticed this from a young age. The buildings were built very close to the sea, and after two o'clock a certain part does not receive the sun. The sun is cut off by the buildings that go to the beach. And that's how people would slowly flee to the side of the sun. It was probably not thought of as a novice when it was first done, and that sunbathing event was completely over in some parts at three-quarters o'clock in Marash. You know, I'll take those buildings back a little more, I'll expand the beach. And I make a more efficient place.
- So, for example, should buildings that are valuable to you or that you think are valuable to life at that time be preserved?
- In other words, now there are old buildings to be preserved in Varosha, there are schools, there is a theater hall. Let me tell you, there is a town hall. These are places to be preserved, that is, 90% of those hotels were built in the 1960s, they are not new, so think about it, there has been no one for 40 years. They are worn-out buildings, that is, concrete buildings, they do not have any aesthetics or anything. But for example, this Golden Sands Hotel, now the hotel with the army house there, is very nice in terms of location. Golden Sands hotel is that newly built hotel, it is also very nice as the

location. Well, of course, there are more beautifully located hotels among these that I know. But it's all concrete, so it can be demolished and rebuilt in the end.

- Well, then, for example, you would go to Maraş to have fun at work from outside. Where were the places that were important to the locals there?
- They used to go to church. Every Sunday, everyone, without exception, went to church. They used to go to Bandabulya, and that was important to them. They had parks, they used to go to parks. They used to take walks by the sea. On these weekends, there was this side of the thing, the side where the municipal houses were, pretty much the back side of Maras. I remember there were some nice walks there. I don't know why they would do it.
- Well, there was a museum or something in Maraş, did you visit them?
- I've never been able to go to them, that's my biggest thing, I've never been able to go and see them.
- Have you ever been able to go to see a theater in a theater?
- We couldn't watch it at all, we only went to the cinemas, 1-2 times.
- These were all my questions, is there anything you would like to add to any of your answers?
- I would like to add that I hope peace will come to the island as soon as possible. And it opens in Maraş, everyone travels freely and circulation is free. It would be a two-federal state solution. People get rid of the Turkish currency. Comforts, a world without war and Cyprus.

- Is there anything you said you should have asked me about but forgot to ask?
- You did not ask about the clothes of the ladies of Marash.
- Okay, how did the women in Maraş dress?
- A very nice elite society was formed in Maraş due to tourism. In other words, the ladies of Maraş paid great attention to their clothing. Especially those who work in stores. In other words, it was no different from a European city even then. In fact, most people would go to these stores just to see these girls, then of course I remember, I would go to such and such a place and they would say that there is a very nicely dressed lady.
- Was there any difference between, for example, these indigenous women, or between the locals and the tourists?
- Well, know that these are Orthodox. They were more conservative. Tourists are walking hugging, embracing each other on such roads. Especially middle-aged and older Greeks, women, especially children, were allowed in. There were such things so that your manners would not be disturbed inside. I remember, I was a witness. In fact, one day we used to take a walk in a group like this, with British, Turkish, boys and girls, and we would come from somewhere, and there were friends who were so entwined. The Greek women there cursed us, they thought we were Greeks, it is a shame that the children should not do such a thing or something. I mean, they had things like that.
- But the relations between the tourists and the locals were good?
- It was very good, very good. Many Greek young people married these tourists and went to Europe. I mean, they would meet and go.

- You mentioned this Edelweiss. What do you go for Edelweiss?

- It was a beautiful thing. It was a very nice café with the halo stop sign. It took a bit of courage to go there, though, because it was expensive and elite people would go. We went just to go. We went, so they shouldn't say you didn't go to Edelweiss. It's one of the most beautiful places, especially if it's sign-made. I saw it on the show, showing it on TV.

- So, would the students go there, that is, the Greek Cypriot students?

- I don't know if they did, but I didn't follow them much. In general, young people, like us, everyone was looking for work at that time. In other words, they would work too much during the summer holidays without traveling.

- Is there another question and I didn't ask?

- All right.

E32 Transcription

–So, do you feel connected to Maraş?

–Do I feel connected to Maraş?

–Yes.

–Of course, Maraş is a part of our land. It is also a part of Famagusta. You're probably going to ask about the pre-74 era. I will tell you about Maraş in that chapter as well.

–So what is your connection to Maraş, what is your connection?

–After graduating from university in 1970, I worked in Maraş for 4 years. I'm a civil engineer, I've done engineering. At the same time, I am an interior designer, I did both my engineering and interior architecture in Maraş. That's where my connection comes from. There are buildings that are still standing at the moment, for which I have done projects. I was the engineer of the building of a famous company like Abbey Gate, an Irish company.

–Well, let me ask you before the projects you came and took part in after graduating in '74. What was your connection with Maraş like in your youth before you graduated in '74?

–Of course, we had ties with Maraş. Especially now we are in April. April 1 was the day for us to escape from school and go to Maraş and swim in the sea. That's why it was the part of Maraş that I liked the most. Every year on an April, we would break the school and go to Maraş and swim in the sea.

–When did you leave Cyprus for university?

–I left in 1966. I turned in 70.

–So, where did you live in your life until 1966?

–Our house was in the castle in Famagusta, I lived there. Of course, another memory about Maraş, I don't remember the exact year, but the first Russian cosmonaut to go into space was Yuri, Alekseyevich Gagarin. We went to Maraş to see him. He addressed us. He called out to us on the balcony of the building directly opposite the zoo.

–Is it a Savoy hotel?

–Savoy is not a hotel, I won't remember the name exactly. I think it was a small yacht house, but since it's balcony overlooks the zoo, we gathered in the square there. And from there he addressed us.

–Do you remember what year it was?

–I think it could be 62, I'm not so sure. Well, I have to look at the internet. In what year did Yuri gagarin go into space? I might even look at it now.

–So what was life like within this wall? In the year up to 1966?

–Of course, our life within the city walls was very bad after 1963. In particular, the attacks of the Greeks are such as the lack of electricity, the lack of water, and the fact that food is very limited. My memories between 63 and 66 are not very good, of course, we experienced a genocide and we were under its influence. I was going to Namık Kemal High School at that time and we went out of the Famagusta Gate and ran out of the Famagusta Gate and went to Namık Kemal High School in January 1964, if I'm not

mistaken, until January. The events started in 63, and after January, a place was found in the castle and we continued our education there.

–But did these situations return to normal later? After 63-66?

–When I arrived in seventy, it was a little bit more and a little softer, but of course the Greeks always martyred the Turks when they found them in the field on the road. But there weren't as many attacks as there used to be. Since I worked in Maraş between 70-74, I was working by hiding that I was Turkish. I used to call it a foreign name antuan because my English is very good, my name is because it looks like my last name. I was working that way by saying Anthony.

–You said that you worked in Maraş between 70 and 74.

–Yes.

–Between the years of 63 and 66, did you ever run away to Maras?

–No, we didn't go because we thought we would probably be captured and killed by the Greeks.

–Yes, you said that life inside the walls was very bad, but I guess this was not the case before 63?

–It was better before '63. It was much better, much different. Because before '63 there was no death or threat of being killed. There were no energy restrictions, no water restrictions, no food restrictions. But 63-66 is a genocide you know.

–Well, in 60, the Republic of Cyprus was formed. What was the connection between the city walls and Maraş between these 60 and 63 years? What was the connection like?

–The Greeks were free to enter the city walls until the events broke out between 60-63, and the Turks were also free to go to Maraş. So there were no problems. It was only a question of finding a job for the Turks. Because when he realized that he was Turkish, his chances of getting hired were down even at that time.

–So did some things change after '66?

–No, it was worse, it was worse after 66 because the Geçitkale events in 67 and the Erenköy clash in 64 made the events a little more electrified, increased the problems a little more.

–So what was the social life like within the city walls?

–Life among the Turks was very good because it is very psychologically very natural, when there is an attack from outside, do you all come together, you all come together, there is no hostility, there is no resentment, you know how to share, and football matches and competitions between us. All of this was happening among ourselves. On special days such as October 29, May 19 and April 23, there were meetings and dinner meetings. It's like people were dancing.

–At that time, it was both forbidden and better for the Turks to go outside the walls due to fear. Where did people go within the walls?

–There was nowhere for them to go. They went to whatever was inside the walls. Of course, outside the walls, there were police stations and Sakarya areas. Karaolos, spelling karakol in Turkish, but there were Karaolos and Sakarya regions. Turks also lived there. Of course, since they were unprotected areas, they were always in danger under all circumstances.

–For example, were there any events within the city walls?

–Of course, it was happening. For example, on April 23, children gathered at the Canbulat Stadium and here are the April 23 celebrations. Every Saturday, the flag ceremony was held in Namik Kemal Square, and the mujahideen came accompanied by a marching band, and the flag was hoisted on the flagpoles in front of the Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque. These, of course, brought excitement and happiness to the living people, to the living people. There were such activities, on May 19, when young people demonstrated at the stadium, again at the Canbulat stadium, physical education demonstrations, which you must have participated in when you were in high school. Like April 23, August 30, here are the collective iftars during Ramadan, as is the case now. There were all of these activities, such as going to the mosque every Friday, the mosque being open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and worship without interruption.

–So, what kind of economic interaction was there, for example, where did economic activities take place within the city walls?

–Economic activities were very bad compared to the Greeks. If I'm not mistaken for a while, salaries were 30 Cypriot liras until 1967. Everyone was getting a salary of 30 Cypriot liras, so of course, as far as I remember, the most expensive house rent was 5 liras, I think it was 5 Cypriot liras, at that time, the rents in the castle, in the city walls. As far as I remember, it was possible to find a house with two rooms for a little lower in Karakol and Sakarya, that is, for 2 Cypriot liras. The men of Famagusta worked in the port, mostly in the port. Because it was not possible to kill the Turks in the port. There was already a need for workers. From there, if I remember correctly, the diaries, because I worked a few times, was 35 shillings, that is, 1 pound was 15 shillings. It was a good amount of money, because when you worked for 30 days, you were paid about 50 Cypriot liras, which was almost one and a half to 2 times the normal salaries. That was the economy. Of course, there were grocery stores, there were small taverns, people went to the tavern from their efkars. They drank more cognac. There was no other drink. As far as I remember. That was all.

–In terms of sports activities, were there sports?

–It was very good. So there were different football teams among the juniors. There were seven players, the football teams were 11 players, there were teams of 7 people. In this British habit, those kids were playing football, they were playing basketball, they were playing volleyball. These volleyball competitions were basketball competitions. At that time, if I'm not mistaken, Masgusa was in the league between the Turks after 60-64. Once a week, there was a match in the Canbulat stadium every two weeks, there was a football match. These, of course, colored our lives.

–Were you visiting Varosha before 1963? Or do you remember that?

–Yes, of course we were visiting Marash, we were going to Marash, although I was a child. I mean, I was a 13, 14-year-old kid, but I mean, we were going, we were walking around, it felt different. We mostly went to the sea, of course, the ice cream shops were at the top of democracy street, on the westernmost side, we used to go there and buy ice cream. Because it was a little different from our ice creams, their ice cream, we were going to buy peanuts. They were making very good peanuts in our country, but here was the neighbor's chicken that looked like a goose to the neighbor, we would buy the peanuts from there again, sometimes of course we would go, there was no problem then.

–Well, the one that sticks in your mind the most from those times is ice cream. Do you have any other memories of ice cream shops?

–The thing that impressed me the most was Yuri Gagarin's address to us, the Russian cosmonaut, but I don't remember the year, I think it was 62 or something. So I think so. We used to go to eat corn, we used to go to buy corn. Of course, what does the child like, there was a mars on the stick. Marses, you know, are shaped like bars, wrapped in paper, but there was also a stick on them. We were going to go and buy it, of course, I'm not sure if it was the anthem we knew or the imitation anthem.

–Was there a place where you specifically got them?

–Of course, we were going to the nearest grocery store in Famagusta, because of the fear of life.

–Were you visiting with your family or friends before '63?

–I usually went with my friends, from time to time with friends of my age, my father and my mother would sometimes take my brother to Maraş for dinner or a restaurant on weekends, but who we were going to, I think it was called Avenida, we would go to a restaurant called Avenida to eat, like Saturday evenings or Friday evenings.

–Was there any difference after I graduated in 1970 and came back? This is the Maraş you saw between 60 and 63, before 1960 and after 1970?

–After 1970 it was more developed, the construction of the buildings, the style of the shops. Here are the fact that 63 stores that did not exist before, that were in England but we did not have them, were opened in Maraş. When I say that the hotels have multiplied, many sea beaches have been enriched and enriched, I really noticed that the seating places and umbrellas of the sales places there have been much more renewed and modernized. For example, there were countless companies selling airline tickets on the street of democracy. They were the most. It would have caught my attention a lot. Because all of them had airplane models in their showcases. For example, Poland and Polish Airlines even had an office in Maraş, which still seems very illogical to me; Who comes from Poland? Who goes to Poland? But you see that we are talking about that period, of course, Poland is a communist country, it is not possible to exit, it is not possible to enter, but Polish airlines had a ticket sales place. It was very interesting to me. Of course, there were other places that sold small toast, especially toast, which we did not have, they did not exist in the castle. Of course, what else would interest me at that age? They are ice cream parlors, toasters.

–How did you start to take part in the projects in Maraş after 1970?

–I started working in an architectural office. I was the only civil engineer who was the only civil engineer, there was no other person besides me, the civil engineer was the signatory, and therefore I was doing all the construction work of that office. I can even tell you a story if you want, i.e. on-topic or off-topic. In 1972, Famagusta Greek Municipality opened an exclusivity, that it was looking for a civil engineer, that he would be a local, that he would know English, Greek, Turkish, etc. In 1968, after the Greeks attacked the Turks at Geçitkale in 1967, negotiations began in 68. The Turkish Cypriot leader and Greek Cypriot leader were conducting the negotiations. I applied in 72, I think it was the beginning of May, I applied to the municipality, there are no engineers other than me, there is another one, that is Konstantinos Lordos, I don't know if you have heard his name, the richest family in Cyprus, here are the ploughmen in Turkey like the coaches. His child was also a civil engineer, Konstantinos Lordos, and of course he had no opportunity to apply because he employed more people in his company than the municipality. Anyway, May is over, I went to the mayor, they made me wait at the door for four or five hours, because I am Turkish, they don't let the Turks in right away, when I entered, the mayor at the time. Assuming that I was hired directly, I said to the mayor, I came, where is my room, what will I do, what will my salary be? He got up from his desk, came towards me, spread his hands to the side, said, will we find a better one than you, you are the best, you have all the conditions we are looking for, I will be very happy to work with you, but he said, wait, let the leaders of both sides agree, then come and start working, the negotiations are still ongoing. I spoke in 1972, and negotiations are still going on for 50 years. I couldn't get to work, but if the negotiations are over, I will go to the mayor's grave and say I came. If I don't die, I'll say take me to work. I mean, I'm telling you the difference of being Turkish, if I were Greek, I would start working right away.

–So where was the architectural office you worked for?

–The architectural office was located in Maraş. It was somewhere in the middle of them, and the main street is democracy street. From north to south, it is the main street that

divides Marash into two parts, it was a little further east than that, it was not a side to Famagusta, but a side to Agia Napa.

–Who did it belong to?

–It was a rum. He was a Greek architect named Takis Panayiotus. He is a famous architect, I think 6-7 people were working in his office, inside the office building. When I came, we were 7, 7-8, but they had things working outside, they had staff. It was a big company, I think it was the one who built the Famagusta town hall. Many buildings, that I call Abbey Gate, is now 10 floors across the sea, John Kennedy, formerly John Kennedy Street, is now Semih Sancar Street. It was on the top of the street. I used to work there.

–So how did you get hired or how did you get the job?

–I didn't have an alternative anyway, when I heard that you were looking for a job, I was reading Cyprus mail, every day when I saw the job posting on Cyprus mail, I went and applied. He hired me before the conversation was over. Because he needed an autograph.

–Which projects did you take part in?

–After that, I took part in many other projects. Of course, I also received a project on the Turkish side because I was also registered on the Turkish side. I signed there as well. My brother was an architect. In other words, between 70 -74 at that time, we drew a lot of projects on the Turkish side and we were coming to our office after leaving work, after leaving Maraş. My brother was also working in an architectural office in Nicosia and after he came, we were doing our own work at night.

–So, which projects did you take part in Maraş?

–The name I remember now was a very large building with 10 floors. Asteria hotel was drawn by my brother and me. It is very close to the palm beach asteria hotel. We drew it, so I drew maybe 40, 50 two-storey villas as large constructions. I engineered and drew it in Maraş. I drew a building in Bandabulya, of course, it all belonged to the Greek architect. As a name, of course, 50 years have passed, it is difficult to remember their names.

–Was Asterias a hotel?

–Asterias Hotel means star. I can hear you the code ASTERIAS if you want.

–Do you have any plans for any of these other projects?

–It's not possible because all the projects we drew were staying in the office. After that, he went to the municipality, got a permit, and the municipality was left in a copy. In other words, there was no question of me being taken into the project. The layouts are big, you know, each one the size of a table.

–Well, the architect you work in this office has built a lot of important buildings, such as the Town Hall, the girls' high school, and then in the anorthosis club, if I'm not mistaken, this architect drew it, right?

–It could be, I mean, I don't have a finger in it, but he could have drawn it. Because he is a famous architect.

–Did you take part in any projects at the girls' high school?

–I only worked as a control engineer on that project. That conservatory you are talking about is actually a music conservatory. I was the only one there, I worked as a control

engineer. I remember it was above the main democracy. As you descended from the sea, there were white columns in front of you on the left, there were Hellenistic columns in front of you.

–Do you have any memories of the beginning and end of that project?

–So I don't know when it started. When I arrived, because it had started when I got the job, or rather it was about to end, I was very interested in the finals. There was no garden, there was a pavement in front of it, as far as I remember, there were gaps on the sides up to the main street. I think we had trees on the sides. So I remember that much.

–Well, the Asterias hotel with your brother...

–We drew together. Of course, he was the Greek architect in Nicosia, he was his architect, I did his engineering because my brother worked there, and I did the engineering. A famous hotel in Asterias, on the seashore of the camel harbor, between the street and the sea, means star in Greek.

–Is this the Hotel with a church on the Hotel parcel?

–No, it's a different hotel, it's another hotel. It was just built very close to Palm beach, I have worked very little on it and it has a very new style. It is a post-modern church. For example, in Orthodox churches, bell towers are square. The bell tower of this one was very different. Its dome looked like the dome of an opera house in Australia, it looks like a roof on top of it.

–So, when exactly did the major changes in Maraş start in terms of urban and architectural terms?

–I think it started in 1964. Why did it start in 1964, because after the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960, 70% of the loans given by the World Bank and IMF to the

Republic of Cyprus were for the development of the Greek Cypriot region and 30% for the development of the Turkish regions. However, after the departure of the Makarios government in 1963, Maraş suddenly exploded because it gave the amount sent to the Turks to the Greek investors for 20 years without interest. In other words, the money spent in Maraş is the money we deserve, but it turned into Greek investment under the control of the Greeks.

–So, how did the process work in these projects you took part in between 70 and 74?

–For example, in Abbey Gate, I said that there is an Irish company. Before the current buildings there were 2-storey old stone buildings built in 1945-47, 1950-52, there were very typical Cypriot stone buildings. First, we demolished them, opened the land, it was two lands, we combined these two lands in the title deed, we made it a single land. Because if there are two lands, it is necessary to withdraw ten feet from the border of the land, according to the laws of Cyprus, 3m 05 cm. To get rid of this, in order to save 6 m 10 centimeters, which is a very important area on 10 floors, the plots were combined. After combining the land in the title deed, we did our excavation and the new Maraş had a unique architectural style, architectural lines. I have never seen those lines in Nicosia, Limassol or Larnaca. In other words, the architects working there were always using the same lines and the same beauties, as if they had either collaborated or copied from each other. After that, the excavation is done. Molds are being installed, foundations are being poured, columns are coming out, beams are being made, concrete is being poured, floors are being poured. In other words, you know the process, concrete walls are made after the carcass is finished. After the walls are finished, the plastering begins. Ceramics are laid on the floor, marbles and ceramics are laid. While this is being laid, power lines are being pulled into the walls. If there are water pipes in the ground subfloor, they are being laid. We go step by step. So that's how it ended.

–Well, you said something very interesting. The architectural lines of Maraş were unique, who do you think this architectural line started from at that time, who do you think was the pioneer of the beginning of this tourism?

–Of course, it would probably be the Greek Cypriot Ministry of Tourism that started tourism. Because Maraş suddenly gained a lot of fame. By the time it was the seventies. It was very famous, Cannes of the Eastern Mediterranean, Cannes of France, you know, it was defined as the Cannes of the Eastern Mediterranean. He was very famous. Therefore, as he became famous, investments were increasing. For example, Elizabeth Taylor and Sophie Loren at that time, the building they used was right across from Abbey Gates, so those celebrities came a lot. Because it was very popular because it was a place where you could swim almost 9 months of a year. The service was very good. In other words, the Greeks are already very famous in tavern management and restaurant management, so it became very popular. Of course, I don't know who discovered those lines, who created those lines, but when you come to Maraş one day and walk around, you will agree with me. A different architecture, different lines. Different structure of balconies, different facades of buildings.

–Well, if you know who were the architects who were constantly doing projects with you in Maraş at that time?

–I was a civil engineer working in Maraş, there was no architecture. He was my only brother, my brother passed away. I wish he was alive and would give you information. He also worked in Maraş for a while. He was also very famous, he graduated from London. He drew many projects, he was a very sought after person. Of course, since I was also an engineer, the construction and the work he took fell to me, the engineering part was going well.

–Well, from '70 to '74, you worked in this architectural office. Were there other Turkish Cypriots like you working in Varosha?

–For example, there were constructions, I will always give the same example, 80% of the workers working at Abbey Gate were Turkish, because you go up one floor and you have 20 people, you go up 2 floors and you become 30 people. Because on the lower floor, plastering starts or different works begin. If you go up one more floor, it was 10

floors, if you go up one more floor, this time 40 people are needed because 80% of them were Turkish, as if the crates were placed on the bottom floor and the ceramics were laid. One day, the EOKA leader of Famagusta and Maraş came to the construction site, I guess he heard that he called the owner of the construction and walked around. At the end of the day, he said, "You are terminating all Turks, we don't want to see Turks here again." That 80% was fired in an instant. I was among those who were fired, of course, the architect liked me very much, so he immediately put me in another job. He transferred me to another building. I didn't get unemployed, but other guys were unemployed for a while. Then I placed them one by one in various places.

–So what is the location of this Abbey Gate?

–Look, Abbey Gate's location is exactly what I can tell. It is on John Kennedy Street or Semih Sancar Street in Maraş, directly opposite the military army house, on the opposite right side. A 10-storey building is currently in use. It is used as a dormitory for students studying at EMU.

–What other projects has your brother been involved in?

–These are very difficult questions, it is very difficult to remember the name. Of course. He has many projects in Maraş, my brother has many projects. There are many on the Turkish side, if you ask about the Turkish side, I will remember 3-4 names again, but you are studying Maraş. I know you drew Asterias. Lordos has a half-demolished hotel, right next to Palm Beach. Half of them were destroyed in battle, destroyed on purpose. Because there was the fifth tactical command above it, the Greek Cypriot National Guard. Salamina tower Hotel, my brother who also drew it.

–Are these drawings of your brother still there?

–No, we don't. You know the enlargement of Palm beach, Palm beach is in two parts. There is an old palm beach hotel, there is a new palm beach hotel. The architect of the new palm beach hotel is my brother, and the engineer is me.

–So, what was your daily life like when you worked in the office in the 70s and 74s?

–I didn't have much of a life, I came to work in the morning. In the evening, when work was over, I would return. I wasn't going home at noon, you know, my wife was making me a sandwich and eating it, that was my life. I was trying not to go out too much anyway. Even if I did, I was going out in the company's car. I wasn't getting out of my own vehicle. Just in case.

–Well, you said in Maraş that you were trying not to go out. Have you ever been to restaurants or movies or whatever?

–No, I can say that I almost never went between 70-74. I mean, discos were very popular at that time, I was of a suitable age, I was very young, of course, but the truth of the matter is that I never went, I didn't want to go. I didn't go to the cinema, I went to the cinemas on the Turkish side, of course, because of the fear of life.

–So, for example, I guess the people you worked in the office were also Greek Cypriots?

–They were all Greek Cypriots, men and women, of course, it was not only women, but also men, women and men. My friendship with them was very good. My friendship was very good. I couldn't be bad if I had to be good, I had to be good whether I wanted to or not. They were very nice to me. They didn't discriminate at all.

–Is her daughter an architect?

–No, she

–wasn't. I think her daughter didn't have any profession.

–So what does a ghost town mean to you?

–The ghost town, of course, is still as if the ghost actually stopped in 1974. Because I don't know if you've been there. Have you ever been? Have you visited Varosha? The signs are in place, the names of the shops are on them, only the streets are empty. It would be a very nice plateau, a cinema plateau. Very nice films from the past can be shot there. Does it make sense to me? it doesn't, because I know the reason because I've lived through the war. It's no surprise to me. From the very first day, when the Turkish soldiers came, I was at the forefront as a guide, I put the soldiers in Maraş because I knew street by street, they chose me to guide them. Nothing happened to me, there were no street clashes. When they heard that the Turkish soldiers were coming, the Greeks evacuated the city as it was, leaving it as it was, probably thinking that we would return in a week or 10 days. But they did not return. In my opinion, the reason for this is that the second peace operation started on August 14, on August 14, these boats carried out a massacre in Murataga Atllilar, of course, the news of the massacre came to us. On August 16, on August 15, Turkish soldiers arrived in Famagusta. We embraced them. On August 16, when we entered Maraş, the Turks could kill us, we committed a massacre, we left Maraş as it was, thinking that we would go and save our lives, we would come home on our return, as you know, the houses are empty, the shops are full, the doors are locked, there is no one inside, there is no one on the street.

–Did you enter Varosha after '74?

–Yes, I entered Maraş after 74 because a peaceful force came into Maraş after a while after 74, they set up a few police stations there, they set up a post, they set up a police station. Since I know Marash very well, I entered Marash on the orders of our government, with a few officers with me. We identified the strategic locations of Maraş and military guard huts were set up there. Of course, there were interesting events that we experienced. We did booby trap research and mine research in Maraş.

–So did you go in after the opening of the streets in 2020?

–Yes, I went 3-4 times. I especially told people like you who do research about Maraş. TRT came, they found me while I was shooting, I informed them. I took all the guides of our Turkish Cypriot Guides Association to Maraş and gave information about Maraş, there is a church that looks like a pencil shaving. I told you, the dome looks like a thing, the opera house in Australia, the way it was built, the streets, democracy, buildings, I gave them all the information I could.

–Did you have any memories that came back to you when you walked in there?

–Will it happen or not? Of course, there were memories of the war and my civilian life. Let me tell you about one, it's a very lyrical, very beautiful memoir. When we entered Maraş on August 16, there are two regions of Maraş, one is where adjacent buildings are built, the buildings are leaning against each other, there is no garden between them, and the other is according to the new order, there are buildings side by side with gaps of 3 m 5 centimeters and ten feet between them. When I entered the old Maraş, when we went to sweep mines with a squad of soldiers, that is, 7 people, of course, we all acted with the idea that the Greeks were there, not that the Greeks fled from there, without knowing where to shoot at us. We were going through the streets so blindly, and when we heard a threatening voice in the distance, we said, oh, we are now trapped. Let's take a battle position right away, friends, some hid behind the wall, some took the position. So I slowly started walking towards the hidden, the hidden, the sound. They continued to call out to me 3 times. I hear the sound, I discovered where it came from. The sound was coming from the backyard of a house, from that house, there was a driveway next door to the house. It was walled off between the two houses. From there, I crawled with my rifle in my hand to the end. And I was raising my rifle and preparing to fire over the wall to the other side. I didn't shoot because he was a retarded kid tied to a tree with a chain, but of course he was screaming to stop. I immediately called my friends, we crossed to the other side of the wall, and somehow we cut the chains. We slashed it with stones. The kid came and hugged me and said, "Dad, I want ice cream."

Now we are in the war, think about it, the child does not know it, of course, because it is retarded, my poor thing, buy me ice cream, I want ice cream, he said, father. Of course, I had tears in my eyes, we hugged the child, his clothes were dirty, he was lying on the pitiful floor, he was rotten, we immediately took him inside, I delivered him to the children's kindergarten, they washed clothes there, they gave him away, I bought ice cream, I took him away, so a few of those memories are a very lyrical story that stays in my mind the most. It's good if you write it down, it's a very, very exemplary story in your research.

–So, was there anything you definitely wanted to see when you went inside after the opening of the street this October 2020?

–By God, I wanted to see the whole place because I knew its original condition very well. I went around every place that was open, the second stage was opened, I went again, I went around again, I went around again, the second stage. Of course, I went to the Abbey Gate building that I built, it was standing, it had never closed, I walked around it. Of course, my memories came to my mind, the work we did came to mind. I went to church, I went to church that looked like a pencil shave. In it, because I had labor, I went to Salamina Tower, and I had labor there.

–What kind of work do you have in the church?

–I worked there as well. There was nothing as a control engineer, as I said, there was no engineer other than me who could sign an accredited document. There were engineers, but they didn't have the right to sign. That's why I had to check and sign many projects. I caught the end of it, too. Then the daughter of our Greek architect, whom I told you about, got married in that church. I went and attended his ceremony. After that, for the first time in my life, I saw the wedding ceremony of the Greeks.

–Is there any place in Maraş that you feel connected to?

–No, there was no memory to bind me. It's just on the balcony that Yuri Gagarin climbed on top of it. Of course, at the moment, it is in the Turkish region, not in the Greek region, the zoo remained with us after the peace movement.

–So, is there a place that is valuable to you?

–The building that is valuable to me is the Bilal Agha Masjid. It is the northernmost part of the avenue of democracy. Bilal Agha Masjid is one of the first places I went to. The first time I went, it was ruined, the second time I went, it was very built. It was fine now. I prayed there, it is a building that has a memory for me. There's a fountain in the square, there's a fountain there, it's the Ottoman fountain, I went to it, of course. Like me, I am an interior designer like you, and of course, I know its value very well. I went there because I knew very well what it was. There is a place where Lala Mustafa Pasha set up his room, I tried to go there.

–So, for example, did you use this Bilal Agha masjid before 74 when you were working there?

–The masjid was open and well-maintained. But it would take courage to go there.

–Reason?

–Because Turkish Muslims, Turks, I think there were only a few things there, there were Arabs who used it, there were Egyptian Arabs, there were Lebanese Arabs, they were using that masjid, if I am not mistaken. I mean, we weren't going there.

–So what is the value of the Ottoman fountain in Bandabulya?

–It is a fountain built during the Ottoman period, because when the mausa was taken in 1571, Maraş was a small village, a tiny village, right where that fountain was. A fountain

was probably built there in the intervening 300 years until 1878. Surely so that the people there can drink water. It is very likely that the Ottoman governor of Cyprus had it built, muhassil.

–Do you see a future for Maraş?

–Of course, of course, I think very much that Maraş will regain its old days and its former power, and in these coming years, Maraş will continue to open up step by step, region by region, little by little.

–So, do you think any place inside should be preserved as it is?

–Of course, some places should be protected. Don't think of it historically, you've seen Maraş too. Maraş is a city that developed after the 1950s. A village before the fifties, a tiny village, a place where there were two-storey villas developed after the fifties, where there were one-storey houses, but there were no historical buildings. It's a new city, actually.

–Well, you said that some places should be protected, which places should you protect?

–In other words, the place where the bandabuliya is, the market, the bazaar, the artifacts from the Ottoman Empire, here is the area where the Bilal aga mosque is located, the houses there are always adjacent to each other. They need to be protected, but if you want to protect the 1950s, you have to protect all of them.

–So what is the reason for this contiguous order?

–The reason why it is adjacent is because of this old village layout. The houses are next to each other, there is nothing between them, there is no gap. There are 196 of this chapter remaining from our Republic of Cyprus. That's why in chapter 196 it is divided

into two as contiguous ordinance and normal order. It's an old habit as people live en masse. And there is probably a lack of land. Because during the Ottoman period, 100% of the island was Ottoman property. 80% was the property of the sultan, 20% was streams, plains, barren lands, carpet lands. For this reason, since the number of places where the Greeks could build houses and live was very small, they probably built adjacent layouts and saved them from the ground.

–So, what are the buildings that were valuable for the social life of those times?

–Of course, for the social life from that period. There were things in between, for example, there was a church in the open part of Maraş. I don't know his name. I don't remember. Well, it was bigger than the chapel, smaller than the church, it didn't have a tower, for example, it didn't have a bell tower. It had a round, elongated, cylindrical roof. So they were small churches from the 1930s, 1920s, or let's say chapels. They may be historical buildings, but there were no other 100-year-old buildings in Maraş.

–So, where were the most used places in social life for Greek Cypriots?

–The most used places are famous restaurants, famous taverns. You know, they are very fond of drinking, drinking, tavern life. They were the most visited. In the stadiums, there was one doctor Fazıl small stadium, high schools, if I'm not mistaken, there were either 2 or 3 high schools. There was a conservatory. Another social natural side, the camel port, he called the sea beach in Maraş a camel port, they must have washed the camels there. All the facilities along it were very popular. I had the famous ice cream shop.

–Those were all my questions, do you have anything to add to any of your answers?

–Let me put it this way, of course there is, if Maraş is to be opened, if Maraş is to be brought back to life. In my opinion, it will be 100% necessary to demolish all the buildings, rebuild the infrastructure, redraw the electrical system. Because the infrastructure has completely collapsed and trees have grown inside the buildings. In

other words, the number of buildings to be saved does not exceed 10%. The remaining 90% will have to be demolished. This is what I have to say about Maraş. We say it will be opened, it will be opened, but it will be necessary to pay for it.

–Is there anything you say you should have asked me about but didn't?

–Let me put it this way, the population of Marasin was 35 thousand. Our population was 13 thousand. I mean, you didn't ask that, but I'll tell you. In 1974, the operation began on July 20, this is the population ratio on July 19.

E33 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Maraş?
- Of course, it's a part of it, it's a part of Cyprus.
- Do you have any connection with Maraş?
- No, I mean, I don't have anything, I don't have a circle of friends, but for example, my father had a lot of colleagues and acquaintances because my father was a former port worker. When my father was alive, we went and visited them 5-6 times.
- In Marash?
- Yes. They came here, we visited. My daughter's friends and son-in-law used to study together in America, they used to come here all the time, we used to see each other, I mean, with the family.
- Have you ever visited Maraş yourself?
- Subordinate.
- So what were these visits for?
- Err .the thing is, it's for the purpose of traveling like this. For example, I wonder how it used to be and how it is now.
- Are there any memories of these visits that you remember the most?

- Of course, for example, the camel port. The beach, for example, was always spent there when we were young at school. On the coast of the port of Deve. Hotels, tourists, it was always full. We spent all our youth there.
- So why do they call camel port camel port?
- By God, of course, we don't know, in the past, before there was a beach, during this Ottoman period, they used to wash the camels there, things would come, caravans would come and camels. And because they washed the camels there, the name remained as a camel port.
- You said you were born in 1953, you were 7 years old in the 1960s, so do you have any memories from those times? What was life like within the city walls?
- In fact, we were staying within the city walls, but when we were at that age, we moved to Sakarya when we were 8 years old. We had a house in Sakarya. We moved to the Sakarya region. We were a little nervous because Turkish and Greek people were mixed there. From the positions at night, the Greek position used to fire on our side. Ours used to shoot there, but when it was daytime, they would go together and work in the port, so there was that situation. But there would be bickering at night. We were afraid, that is, we were anxious and scared because we were small.
- So, was there any place to go in the sakarya region? Market or cinema or any event?
- Unfortunately, there was no activity in Sakarya that the people could go and do. There was no activity other than the neighborhood grocery store.
- What school would you go to?

- At that time, the name of Alasya primary school in Sakarya was Sakarya School. In fact, it was badly damaged, it was demolished and now it has been rebuilt, it has become a school with intermediate schools and classrooms.
- Well, for example, in 1960, 63, these conflicts increased even more. Did you move from Sakarya after '63?
- In '63, I was in primary school 4, we moved because my father was a port worker, he had a car and the Greeks took my father prisoner while he was going to the port by car. They stayed there for a few days, and our stuff, for example, the military and so on, intervened and they took my father back. After that, we had a thing, my father was a little nervous, we had to sell our house again in Sakarya and started to live in Famagusta as a tenant. Until '74, after '74 or '73, my family built a house there, so we started to stay there.
- For example, did you ever visit Maras between 60-63?
- I was young at the time in '63. Unfortunately, we couldn't go, so when he was in high school, he would go out with his friends in high school, for example, there were places to sit on the beach and drink beer, both in camel harbor and in drinking places. But we went in high school.
- So, before you went to high school, you moved back to Suriçi in '63, what was life like in Suriçi then?
- By God, the people would go on with our normal lives. In other words, inside the walls was the safest place because it was not mixed with a rum. People, those in Baikal, Sakarya, and the Karakol area were more nervous. We would have felt safer in the city.
- So where were the places to go in the wall?

- We had two cinemas in the city where all the young people could go and have fun. There were 1-2 bars, pub tours, I can give you the name, there was a bar called Riviera bar, where all the youth, all the Turkish stuff goes. There was also a bar in Quvadis, where all the young people went and had fun.
- So what was the name of the cinemas?
- Cinemas are a Lausanne palace cinema and a canbulat cinema. There were two cinemas. Both of them had a summer coat and a personality.
- Do you have any memories of these cinemas that you have never forgotten?
- In other words, we used to go to the cinemas for such a purpose, not for youth, for our movie-seeing, but for such an. Or guess then, in the time of youth, there was a girl that everyone loved from afar, liked like this, and so on. There wouldn't even be a hand-holding at work. We would follow, whichever cinema they would go to, we would go to that cinema, that way. But ladies, for example, they were so much, when such a crying movie and so on goes, they take their handkerchiefs together and cry like this. It was a lot like this, that is, cinemas, that is, a place where everyone, doctors, workers, students went and had fun. Apart from that, there were a few taverns, for example, there were 1-2 taverns in the famagusta. There was a dessert lore that all middle school and high school students went to all the time, where the youth could go and have fun. There was a dessert shop and a pastry shop, all the youth were there. Guess it's not there?
- No.
- Do you know the Buğday mosque? Right in his wife, there is a bank, a cooperative bank, it is the bottom of it. There's Fototamel, photographer. It's right at the bottom, right around the corner. That's where all the youth went.

- So, for example, would there ever be events within the city walls?

- It would be inside the city walls, for example, and I would play football. At that time, of course, there were no inter-city teams like now. After these events, we could not go after 63, for example, because we could not go to play Nicosia teams or Limassol teams, we went before, Limasola, Nicosia, Paphos and so on, we went there, so we used to play ball there. Later, for example, we established a local league teams in Famagusta. A company of soldiers, a company of scouts, blah blah. For example, we formed 2-3 teams with a few former players. We used to have leagues among ourselves. Sweden, there was a peacekeeping force here, they had a camp, they had their teams, we used to play games with them. In other words, there was a sport that youth could do in our time, and that was football. I mean, at that time, there was no volleyball or basketball. And once a year there would be athletics in schools, and they would have a lot of things, athletics. Also, for example, everyone forgets when it happens now, for example, but at that time there was a May 19 feast where everyone went. On May 19, the field was filled at the Canbulat stadium, the stands were filled with five thousand and six thousand people. It was very enthusiastic. Both the military units would demonstrate, the May 19 protests of the students at the school and so on. It was pretty enjoyable.

- The Greeks would definitely not have taken part in what you said, would they?

- No, of course.

- And did you go to high school?

- Yes.

- So what would a day look like at that time?

- In high school, we were in school in the morning until noon. In the afternoon, we would go to training three days a week, two days a week, because I played football in Famagusta Turkish power. Next to it, there was a tavern of Namik Kemal High School, right in front of Namik Kemal High School, where all the students would go and spend the day there, we would listen to music. I don't know, we used to play table tennis, we used to play things, I mean, we used to spend a day there. Of course, in addition to this, there would be football and volleyball competitions between classes at Namik Kemal High School, and there would be activities between the classes among us, where the students would do something as an activity.

- So when did you first start going to Maraş?

- Of course, we used to go to Maraş and I would go to the sea and the camel port after I started secondary school. When we got to high school, of course, because we were old, we would go to those drinking places or pubs, I don't know, we would drink nescafe, coffee or beer. For example, there was something called Maraş's Olympia, there was a cinema, it was very luxurious for us. Their seats and so on. And color movies, we would go to the movies. Again, for example, when I was going to high school, which we used to go to all the time in Maraş, there was no ready-to-wear clothing in our famagusta, for example, if you go and buy something on Eid, there was no fabric in the tailors who went to the tailor first, not like now, for example, there was a shop that sold fabric, in Famagusta, he would take the fabric from there and take the measure that went to the tailor, if you wanted a suit or trousers, he would sew it for you. But in the thing, for example, there was a famous street. There were branches of almost all the stores in Europe and England, for example. For example, we 8-10 friends would always supply our clothes, up to our shoes, etc. On that road, let's say that we had a dessert shop here in Famagusta, for example. But in that Greek thing, there were 10-15 desserts on that street, for example, all kinds of desserts, we started to spend more time there as young people in high school.

- So, was there any one of the 10-15 dessert shops that you liked the most, or went to?

- I mean, I don't know the names. I don't know their names, but now it's true that the dessert of our Famagusta and the dessert of the lore were different again. There were varieties there, but no one could make the desserts of the dessert lore.
- I'm going to pull you back again, let's talk about middle school. You said that after you started middle school, you started going to camel port. Would you go with your family or with your friends?
- I've never been with friends, family. We would go with the circle of friends.
- How would you go with your friends? Is it a bicycle or not?
- Now it was close to us, there was no need to go by bike. You know the thing, right? Palm beach you know? Already from inside Famagusta, after palm beach, the beach would begin. We were going on foot and coming on foot. It's a five-minute walk. You came out of the city wall, we were there in 5 minutes.
- And do you have a memory of this camel port that you remember the most?
- I have a memory in the camel harbor, we used to go early, of course, there were always things and hotels along the beach, high, eight-storey, ten-storey, fifteen-cent vs.. Foreign tourists always stayed there. More Germans, British tourists, the owners of those hotels were foreigners, so the customers were foreigners. One day we came out of school with friends, it was May, there were May 19 movements or something, we went from there to the camel port, it was early, it was not very crowded, we lay on the sand, there is no one with us, I fell asleep. I slept for an hour or two, and of course It was empty. When I woke up, I looked at how they say, as they say, there is no place to throw a needle, I woke up and saw a crowd, I was shocked. I mean, I was pretty stunned.

- When you go to this camel port, would you go just for the beach or the place where you can buy coke, chips and ice cream?

- Of course, for example, there was ice cream there. Again, right on the beach, for example, as I said, there was an ice cream parlor, there was a place to drink beer, right on the beach thing, so we used to go to them. Oh, let me tell you something, Maraş had something very famous, he had a doctor, I know because I play football. When he got injured to us, he was a football player, he had a broken leg and twisted ankle. Unfortunately, we didn't have a doctor here, we didn't have this broken dislocation thing, so he should go and look at a general practitioner and so on. There was a Greek doctor in Maraş called Hadjikakou, this man is very famous. The man speaks Turkish very well. Almost all the people of Famagusta, the people of Cyprus, even from other things, would come to this man and be treated. And this man would not take a penny from the Turks. The free man would mend his fracture and dislocated and would not take a penny.

- Have you ever been to this doctor?

- So I went. I broke my wrist twice while playing football, twice I went.

- Do you have any memories of this doctor?

- There is no , he goes there and knocks you out, he fixes you. I don't have that kind of memory that goes to remove plaster. But all the athletes, or anyone who got injured, would go to that guy.

- Where was this doctor's clinic?

- Right behind the beach, the camel harbor, the things next to the hotels. So it was close, a place that everyone knew. You didn't have to look for it like that in Varosha.

- Then you said that in high school, you started to hang out in the city more. What was it like then, where did you go, what did you go to do?
- As I said then, for more fun, to see tourists. Sometimes we would go to the sea, with foreign friends, with English friends, and try to talk to each other.
- Was there a specific place you always went to, that you can remember by name?
- For example, there was a drinking place called White Horse right on the sea beach, these draft beers did not exist at that time, this bulk beer was not bottled, it was famous there, we used to go there all the time. There was also the thing, right now it is the border, when you pass the municipality, there are barricade barrels there, there is a two-story building on the corner just behind the wires. Again, for example, we used to go there on New Year's Eve or something, there would be an event, a circus show or something, a singer would come out. It was there where our youth went, venus cabaret.
- You said this white horse inn was famous, why was it famous?
- It's there because it's draft beer. I mean, we wouldn't find draft beer everywhere.
- For example, did more Greeks go there or were there tourists?
- Of course, there were a lot of tourists because, as I said, more tourists would go because the camel port is right behind the hotels. Also, as I said, we used to hang out with friends all the time just to talk to tourists, and of course because we liked draft beer.
- Have you been to hotels?

- Unfortunately, we didn't go to the hotels.
- You said you used to go shopping a lot because there is ready-to-wear there, the name of the store?
- The store, for example, you know, there's this marks & spencer, for example, the famous Vakko, there were those. We used to go to those things, I mean, we used to go to the stores there. Of course, there were rummy things, but I don't remember their names.
- So, do you remember any of the cafes?
- From cafes, unfortunately, I don't have it in mind.
- Would you attend the events there?
- No, we didn't participate.
- To watch the orange festival, or the football match?
- Football matches, yes, it is true, football matches, for example, I went with my father a few times. There were teams called salamina and anorthosis. We'd go for them. In fact, for example, I used to play in Turkish power, there were three football players who played in Turkish power, they used to play football in Greek teams, of course, for money. The guys, for example, would pay that much for each game. Again, there were two football players from Nicosia and 5-6 of them used to play football in Greek teams. Because we didn't have anything at that time. The leagues started again after that, but of course he didn't play games with the Greeks. We used to go to their games, our players would play.

- Wouldn't the Turkish Cypriots react to this? How did they allow it?

- There was no reaction, there was nothing, the federation knew. Let me also tell you something, for example, until the 70s, we, the Turkish Cypriots, used to go to the Greek side freely and roam, but for example, not a single Greek could come to the walls of Famagusta. The Greeks would not come to us, we and ours would go there and wander around. In fact, for example, we had police officers, let's say Cypriot police, Greek Cypriot policemen were the same. Our policemen and soldiers were Cypriot soldiers, Turkish soldiers and Greek Cypriot soldiers, they were separate, but our policemen were one. Our policemen and soldiers could not go out of the city walls in official dress. It was forbidden. Military service, you are a soldier, dress formally only in the wall, and our police in the same way.

- Well, you were in high school at that time, did you ever have interaction with high school students in Maraş?

- For example, we met a group of friends. They were a little wealthy. On one occasion we even took a ride sailing us. They took him on his sailboat and gave us a tour.

- How did you meet that band?

- We met at the camel port, we became friends there. Personally, I didn't know any Greek. We Famagusta people knew more about these village children and so on, none of my friends around me knew Greek. He didn't speak Turkish in those Greeks, we used to speak it in a hurry. You know, there were 1-2 words, for example, the term Cyprus, we used the same word, they used it, let's say for example. That's how we would get along.

- So what high school were they from?

- Well, I don't know now, I don't know the name of their high school. In the same way, for example, we have the port of Famagusta. In the port of Famagusta, the Greek and Turkish were mixed. I mean, everyone would sit all day, chat with friends, drink coffee, work together, and then he would go to his area and we would go to his area. Sometimes he would throw 1-2 at night, and 1-2 of ours would score. In the morning, they would work together like brothers do again. In other words, it was like that and at that time, for example, because the Greeks were the thing, because they were the majority, we, the Turks, for example, were the minority. For example, in the port, there were the owners of the port. There was a company, a company of 100 people, they called it a daily porter, a company of 200 people, this company would bring all the ships from outside, for example, all the foreign ships, tugs and so on. There was a Hammal basi, a Greek, his assistant was a Turk, besides that, there were 100 people in the customs porter, there were 70 Greeks and 30 Turks. For example, my father was among them, he was among 30 people.
- And because of that, you said that your father had a lot of Greek friends.
- There were many, my father, that is, he knew Persian Greek, the people who worked in the port, of course, because we did not do anything, I am not 20% of the Greeks, but 80% of our Turks spoke Greek. There were fewer Greeks who spoke Turkish, that is, 20% of the employees, but all the Turks working in our port knew. In most places, for example, in Cyprus, most of the villages are mixed, for example, Turks, Greeks, our Greeks did not need to learn Turkish. Also, since they are the majority, they would not want to learn your language. But the Turks who lived there had to know Greek. For example, in some Karpaz regions, Turkish villages, such as Kaleburnu, are always Turkish, but the surrounding area is Greek. Or a Iuricina, mixed, that is, 80% of the people living there knew Greek but did not know Turkish, that is, our Turks. It was like that old population. Most of the population over 40-50 always spoke Greek. Or when they came together, two Turks would speak Greek among themselves.
- Were you not in Cyprus when these events broke out?

- No, I left in '72.

- So what does a ghost town mean to you?

- A ruined, ruined, abandoned, empty city. For example, I came here from England in 1986. My military service was incomplete, I did it for a year when I was a student, because it was incomplete, I did military service here in 86 for a fee. And I served in the military for a month in Derinya, in the closed area of Derinya, so I saw that place, as I really said, such a ghost town, that is, the houses are destroyed, there are no doors, no windows, no roof tiles. They poured it down to the tiles on the wall, I mean, they took everything. There were trees on the roads, so it was in a very bad state.

- So, after your return, did you ever try or enter Maraş?

- I didn't. I came in '90, I didn't enter here, I mean, I never did. I entered the seyde yau sorry, as I said, after I came and settled here, we entered the thing with my father, so we went to the other settled area, Paralimni or something, to visit my father's Greek friends, but I never went to the closed area. In fact, the last time these things opened, I mean, ours opened or something, I didn't go and see the seaside, I mean, I didn't see it there.

- So why didn't you go?

- I didn't feel like it. It's now there, people have come out of a war, they've emptied it. I didn't want it to stay that way in my eyes.

- Have you used this indoor area, whether it's Palm beach or open Maras sides?

- Four or five years ago, after these doors were opened, I went and shopped. For example, I went shopping for shopping, or I got my name in some government offices, for example.
- Is there a place in Maraş that you feel connected to?
- Now, as I said, we didn't visit the interior of Maraş in my time, so it was these coastal parts that we went to more. In them, the simi is always closed. Since it's closed, I don't have anything.
- Is there a place that is valuable to you?
- For example, because I go to the matches there, for example, I don't say that we have fields there, with stones and a park, for example, there is a grass field, the beauty of a field, spectators' seats and so on. I mean, they would have attracted us a lot. Of course, there are also shopping malls, which we used to go and do things in.
- Do you think there is a future for Maraş?
- I swear I would love for it to happen, I would love for it to be an agreement and something to happen again. But I don't know anymore, so it seems a little difficult.
- So what kind of future do you want to have if we are optimistic and there will be a future?
- I want everything to be the way it was before. Of course, when Simi says this, in the past, for example, we Turks had limited rights, for example, as I said, 70% of them and 30% of our government offices were in their hands, we used to do all our work there. Of course, we have to have a separate thing, they have to have a separate

thing. But as an external thing, there is only one citizen, a Cypriot citizen, for example. In that way, for example, I would like there to be free transportation.

- Do you think any place inside should be preserved as it is now?
- Of course, for example, I didn't go and see it, but somehow they destroyed the mosque, I don't know how we can do anything, they have natural things, historical places, churches and so on. Duyarik was plundered in the early days, stealing from the churches and things. But of course I want them to be protected.
- So, apart from the churches, for example, for these local Greeks, the places they go to all the time, or something, should be protected? From where they use it in social life.
- As I said at the time, I don't know, of course, they have entertainment places. For example, they had something, there was a wine festival in Limassol. They had things, they had activities.
- Have you never participated in the orange festival in Maraş?
- No, I've never been.
- Is there a reason why you don't go?
- There is no reason, our age was small, as I said at the time, we would not enter the Greek side. The places we went to were obvious. Oh look, let's say in the same way, because I played football before '74, for example, I visited things, let's say twice a year, let's say, we used to go to Limassol to play football. There were two football teams in Limassol, of course it was in the Turkish region, but it was there. For example, we used to stop on the road, there was a rum thing, he would make candy

and Turkish delight. We'd stop there. We used to go to Paphos once, we went to the pier once. To Lefke. I mean, I went to these places 1-2 times a year before '74 because I played football.

- How would you describe life in Maraş?
- They were more civilized because there were more tourists than us. Our beach was a Karakol beach at that time, the sea was rocky, there is no sand on the beach, nothing dirty. Even now, for example, if we go to a Glapsides beach, the cans and bottles are left. Although the municipality always cleans it, it is not very clean. However, at that time, when we went to the camel port, we did not even see any bottles left behind in the sand. The men would shake off the big sand and take the big wire thing, the big sieve, the big sieve, and the big things. As I said, people should lie on that sand, it was clean, it was cleaner, people were cleaner, people were cleaner, people were more civilized, of course, because they were tourists. When a tourist came to us, it was different for people to even look at that tourist. But there, for example, on the Greek side, a woman would walk around in a bikini and not even look back. Back then, such people used to look at us as food, we didn't have anything.
- These were all my questions, is there anything you would like to add to any of your answers?
- No, I tried to answer what you asked.
- You should have asked me this, but is there anything you say you didn't?
- No. Oh, and then there was the thing, I talked about the events that were held before the 70's, for example, I said football. There would also be a pier fair at the pier, and there would be sea, swimming races, diving races. These were the events every year and all the Cypriot people, for example, all the Turks from Nicosia and Limassol, of course, it was a good thing. It used to happen every year, so we are not in this pier,

in Larnaca. This activity would be continuous. Also, what I call this event before '74, for a while, celebrities from Turkey used to come, singers would come, music groups at that time, for example, Cem Karaca came, Baris Manco came, Eedip Akbayram. They used to give concerts in cinemas, of course, we didn't have a concert hall at that time, they used to give concerts in cinemas, and this was an event where the people went and had fun.

- Well, you mentioned Olympia cinema in Maras. Do you have a memory of the place?
- I don't have any memories, we always went with friends. Of course, it was an English movie. Oh, before the 70's, at first, not everyone had a TV at home, for example, there was a neighbor or something, everyone used to go, then there were no Turkish broadcasts at that time. There were no Turkish publications like now. We used to watch Greek Cypriot channels and they often used to watch English and subtitles, movies, TV series. He used to visit our neighbor, for example, there is a series that night or something, people sit at the door of their house on a summer day, outside, the television is inside. On such a summer night, it would be crowded, that is, separate from the cinema. Also, once a month, Greek channels, these TV channels used to broadcast Turkish movies on the Turkish side for our Turks, the nation would wait for it. Also, as an event in Famagusta, in the fortress, then there was a place where this honeycomb was located inside the walls, or there would be a fair in the city walls, towards the port. There was a Famagusta fair, every year. These were the events we did as a nation before '74.
- Why did the fair go inside from the Citadel?
- Because it was more collective, the city wall was big, there was a casino there, and celebrities from Turkey came there a few times. Folks would have preferred that road more because there was a public garden there, a children's garden, on the shore of the honeycomb, still standing. The cinema was there, the Canbulat cinema is right around the corner. Also at the bottom of it was the famous buffet buttermilk of Famagusta. Folks would have preferred that road because they were more used to

it. After that, the fair started to be set up there all the time. To the whole length of the fortress. Because the feet of the nation are more accustomed to there and because it is within walking distance. Because Surici/inside the walls is safer.

E34 Transcription

–Do you feel connected to Varosha?

–Of course. That's my homeland. Even now, even now, me and all my friends in my age, we are the ones that go together, well we lived in this town, we still love it. And actually, yesterday I was there. So I visit it very, very often.

–Can you tell me more about your relation to Varosha?

–It was my whole childhood. We lived near the sea. So the sea was our home. From morning to night, so it was winter or summer. And the thing I love most about this town is that the friends we had in those days are still our friends now. The relationship between the Famagusta people, Varosha people are still very, very strong. And even though we scattered to different places we left Varosha, Cyprus is very small, we still have contact each other and this friendship is till there. So I think my, at least my generation, these people are Varosha. It's not only the building it's the people that make it. And these meetings we started doing in Agios Sergios Exorios, you know, the church we got back. I found it very, very important for me because I'm living in Germany for 40 years. So when I come back to Cyprus and I have the chance to go to Famagusta, I always find my friends there and that's what's connecting us. And it's not only the Greek Cypriots, it is also the Turkish Cypriot friends.

–That's really amazing what she just told me. And may I ask you if both your dad and your mom was from Varosha?

–No, my mother is German. And my father was born in Nicosia, but we had our house, my grandparents build a house in Famagusta, so it is the home of my father and my grandparents.

–So, your grandparents were also living in?

–Yeah, yeah.

–And do you remember living in Varosha?

–Ohh, yes every minute of it I think, you don't forget it. We used to be swimmers, so our life in summer was, you know the island of Jerry that used to be the nautical club. So from morning till night, we were there and that's what I'm telling you, all these friends we had in those days, they are still friends now. So it's it was very nice memories.

–Before diving into more detail about your memories, if I ask you about Varosha, what is the first memory that comes to your mind?

–The beach? Thea sea.

–Is it because you were swimmers or?

–Yeah, because we, that's where we were playing all day. I mean you know the rocks in front of, we know every, every single rock where you get up and where you get into the water. And that's what we teach our kids nowadays. We take them, show them what we had when we were kids or the camel rock, which was the achievement to do, to swim to this rock in those days. And if you managed to swim there, you were a hero or you were grown up.

–And you said you were 14 years old when 1974 incidents happened, so you were a teenager. So what was the life of a teenager at the time?

–I was so young those days, the girls were not allowed to go out and that's what I pity a lot. Everybody went to this famous café Edelweiss and I wasn't allowed to go there. That's what I missed doing these things a teenager would do. So the only thing that

we did we went to Anorthosis, basketball place I was allowed to go with my brothers. But the real teenage experience, I didn't have yet. Which is a pity, because that was the town to do it. I needed another year.

–And so you were not allowed because you were a girl. So where did you go with your family?

–With my family all over Cyprus. My mother used to love exploring. We had also house in Kantara, where my grandparents went for the summers, so we went very often to Kantara, very often to Salamis. They were excavating Salamis in those days. And that's why I became archeologist, because I was going as a little girl then watching how they did it.

–So you were going to do salamis excavations, who were you going with?

–With my mother.

–Was it because she liked?

–Because she was interested in archaeology, yes.

–And what do you remember the most from these excavations?

–What I remember, I remember the French people they were explaining us about the work, they were excavating at Campano Petra. And they tried to explain me everything. I didn't understand anything. But I took a piece of glass. I found an ancient glass and I took it with me and was told off by my brother because I stole it and I still didn't forget it. So these little things you don't, you never forget.

–And you said your house was at the beach.

–Yeah.

–Correct me if I'm wrong, but because of your surname, I guessed that your dad was the doctor that everyone has been speaking about.

–Exactly, exactly. Yes, yes. His clinic was on the beach and we lived on the top and my grandmother next door.

–And was it because of this your dad started to practise in Varosha because of your grandparents House was there?

–Yeah. Exactly, yes. Yes.

–And were you visiting that clinic a lot?

–Yes, a lot because the house was on the top, so we were really everyday there and at the grandmother's house. Because my parents were working and so my grandmother was the one who was looking after us.

–And what would you do with your grandparents?

–She would cook for us, of course, like every Cypriot grandmother, she would cook for us and make a cake.

–Was there a place that she would take you to go?

–Go for ice cream. There was a famous ice cream cold Iraklis in Agios memnos. And that's where the grandparents took us for a ride, on the weekends, on Sundays and

we got an ice cream. And there was another place where the grandparents would take us. It was like a Luna Park from Limos, it was not very far from our house and the Russell Street. There's still one little hut standing there and that's where he took us to the Luna Park. So it repeated every weekend, my grandmother got us into the car and took us for an ice cream to Iraklis or when we were little. She take us to the Luna Park, which is on the Rueful St.

–I didn't know this.

–There is a small hut still existing. And there were some small aeroplanes and these.

–And if I asked you what does a ghost town mean to you, what would you say?

–It hurts. It's not a ghost town for us, for us it's our home and we really want to go back. It is, to go and see them, it gets you angry because we saw the houses after so many years, all destroyed. We're not allowed to go in in our house. And we would like to, but okay a lot of people or my friend thinks that the lost time is going to come back. That's not true because they were young in those days, they had the first kisses, the first boyfriends and girlfriends, and they think that this time will come back. But maybe that's what we think. Also, this childhood will come back. But it's also our roots, and that's what I think all Famagusta people would like to go back, to the roots.

–Because until 2003, the checkpoints were closed. After the opening, did you visit the surrounding of the fenced off area?

–At first, we were standing 12 hours into the road to go there. Of course we didn't see anything. And we had a lot of hopes that we're going to go back.

–And what did you try to see from the fenced off area?

–When we came it was dark. We couldn't see much. We came to Glossa and from there you can see my house. But it was so dark we couldn't see anything but alone to go there, that was like a miracle because when we went again after, it was, it was also a shock. Because our houses, we were little, and we thought they were great palaces and then you go back and you find ruins. So, it was for a lot of people there was a shock. But then you say okay, it doesn't matter. It's a piece of land you want. You don't want the houses you want to rebuild them. But it's the memories we have, and I think that's the most important. What is very bad is that we broke with the traditions. You know the big difference between the Turkish Cypriot refugees and the Greek Cypriot refugees, is that the Turkish Cypriots were kept as a community. They went to the same village, so the traditions still exist. And the traditions of us stopped 1974. So, all these festivals we had the Orange Festival and the Katakismos and all these that makes Famagusta, culture of Famagusta, are lost. And that's what we, sometimes we try to revive them, but all these people that were living in those days, most of them are died or very old and it's a pity to lose all these traditions. That's the history of the town, and it's a pity to let it go.

–I will turn to these traditions, so you went back again to see your house from the fences and you can see your house from the beachside of Constantia. Did you have any memories coming back to you once you saw your house?

–Yes, yes, yes, Yes. Well, somethings I couldn't remember. But then it started coming out like, OK, we went near it, I must say. So you shouldn't tell this. I didn't know that we had, on the staircase going up to the third floor, we had round windows. I didn't remember that at all. But other funny things like, pot still on the balcony. And of course you can see that the house of my grandmother and next to it our...

–And you went after the opening of the streets as well?

–Yes, of course. Every summer, every weekend we went for swimming there. It's a different sea. It's a nicer sea ever.

–You said lots of memories came back to you. What were these memories?

–Of our childhood. Like how we managed to swim, the first time to go to the rocks. I was four years old, and they had to push me to go there and we had these rafts in the sea and how we could climb up and get into the water. Or my father shouting because we were too loud for the clinic, we were chasing around and all these things from the childhood. Nice memories.

–And your dad, I have heard so many, so many great things about him from both the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots and he was a great man. And apparently he was also having the Turkish Cypriots to his clinic as well. So I'm guessing he had a really good relation between them.

–I remember, I remember some Turkish Cypriots there was a child in, and of course he was not alone because their parents were there. And we will play together. So, we visited him in the clinic and he will play. And I was surprised, he taught me some Greek songs, which I didn't know. I don't remember his name, though.

–So, do you remember like because of your dad's relation between with the Turkish Cypriots, do you remember visiting the Old Town?

–Yes, I was privileged cause my father was allowed to go in. So me and my family is probably one of the few Greek Cypriots that were allowed to go in there. And we had a nurse, a Turkish Cypriots nurse. She took us to the Bayram. Which was in the mould of the Old Town. And I have memories from Old Town too. But the last time I went, it was 1974, and I saw some soldiers and I was afraid. And then came the occupation.

–I know you were a child, but were you recognising any difference between the Old Town and Varosha? In terms of social life and how developed it was?

–Of course, I mean I didn't understand it in those states. But I understand that there was a big difference like Varosha was this thriving city and in the Old Town everything was closed. There was a soldier there checking who's going to come in and out and you could tell by their houses it was small houses and poorly built and there was a difference.

–And you didn't add any of these in Varosha? You wouldn't see soldier or any conflict?

–No. I did. I remember 64, I remember. Because my father was away, he was in the army as a doctor. And my grandfather we had a field out in front of our house and he would dig a hole where we had to hide when they said the aeroplanes are coming and then to understand what's happening, why is the Aeroplanes are coming and I remember also in school must be 67 or something. All the windows had you know, the stripes on it so they don't break and we had to do exercises with the teacher if there will be some bombings to take us into the holes and I don't know what you call them, ditches or whatever. So, I do remember this, and I remember how once ,they came banging on our door to call my father because some, I don't know when it was or what it was. Maybe it was in Aloa that they killed children and women? So, they called my father to go and stop them. My father would never talk to us about these things, but I remember, that I remember how they came banging on the door and then he went straight away. But I can't tell you what it was. Yeah, couldn't be 64 because I was too young then. Maybe was 67.

–And you said you were at the school. Which schools were you going to?

–I was going to Agios Ioannis, which is now the lyceum and to the ballet on the girls high school.

–So what was it like to be in the Likeon Ellinidon?

–That's where we had to practise piano. That was also, all the young girls had to go to the ballet or had to learn piano. That's what my grandmother had us to do. So, I had to practise piano and I wasn't good in it. I prefer the guitar, but for that I wasn't not allowed.

–How was it , to go there? What was it like?

–It was a meeting place for the, let's say, the good ladies of the town. So they were meeting there for tea and we had to play the piano so they could see what we- it was for charity reasons- collected. We collected money for poor people. So it was the meeting place when all these ladies of, they were all friends of my grandmother. Famagusta was so small that everybody knew everybody and that's what we miss. All the ladies would, I told you we had a house in Kantara and the same neighbours we had in Famagusta, we had in Kantara too. So it was, it was like a big family.

–That sounds amazing.

–Yes, it was really like this.

–When the streets opened, what in particular did you want to see when you went back?

–Our house, our house, the house.

–And apart from the house, was there in your place that you wanted to see?

–The beach, of course. That's what we missed the most. But I think the most I missed was the house.

–And you said because of the swimming you were going to the Anorthosis club as well?

–Yeah, no. Anorthosis club was the basketball, I was only watching. And the nautical club was in the beginning it was near Palm Beach, Faliro, and then it was one on the Island of Jerry, where this beautiful house is. That's where we had our club. It was for swimming and sailing and. So all the kids, we were away for the summer and the parents didn't have to look after us.

–And you said at first it was near the Faliro? So, would you spend too much time in Faliro or?

–Really, from morning to 5:00 o'clock, when we had to go home, yes.

–Do you have a like really remembered memory from there?

–Yeah, even now, yesterday we went to a place to have something to eat and brother said it smells Faliro. Because he was, you know, they had all these oils. It's not only seeing things, it's also the senses.

–And you said the traditions have been lost and they are the history of the town so and you said the traditions were the festival's Orange festival. So do you have a specific memory about Orange Festival that will take place in town?

–It was in this park we have in front of the Likeon Ellinidon. I remember because the all these charity ladies used to have certain parts to do, the mother of my friend used to do hot dogs. So we had free hot dogs and there were all these games and of course everything was decorated with oranges and there was singers coming. I remember once. What's it called? Nana Mouskouri came. Of course, I didn't know that she was famous, but I remember her and after when I went to the high school, we had to do every year like, it was a parade of some, but we call them, like a car

decorated with different themes and so we had to do it at school. Cut oranges all the time and we were eating oranges so we couldn't do anymore. So it was something special for the schools too.

–So is it the school Agios Ioannis or?

–No, Agios Ioannis is a school when we were too little, when we went to the high school we did these. But Agios Ioannis, we had also a festival called Anthesteria. So we had to do dancing and I wasn't good in it, so we had to, where we were just like fairytale. And so came in the GSE. GSE was the stadium of the town, which was not very far from the school. And also there we had a lot of festivities.

–correct me if I'm wrong, the Likeon Ellinikion wasn't a high school, was it?

–No, no, no, It's called likeon, but it was a music school. Nothing else was done there, ballet and piano lesson. My brother had guitar lessons. Only for charity.

–Which high school did you go to?

–I went to the girls high school, which is behind, it's being used now, it's in the Kato Varosha, near Agia Katerini.

–So you would walk from the girls high school to your house every day?

–I thought it was a long walk but it's not. Now, I walked it again it is not long.

–And on your way to home, would you stop in any of the places on Democracy to get anything?

–I didn't buy anything but there was a place, he made chocolate out of stones and I was fascinated. There were friends of my mother also, they got pebbles from the sea

and polished them. And they would make beads out of them. And there was the also Curiosity Shop, where we bought all the presents for Christmas. I remember the shops.

–Do you have a favourite cafe or shop inside of Varosha?

–Edelweiss as a café. Everybody will say that. But for my parents it was Boccacio, was next to Likeon Ellinikom. That's where my parents went. And for us it was Edelweiss.

–And why Edelweiss for you and why Boccacio for your parents?

–Edelweiss was newer, so my parents didn't have it when they were younger when they used to go out, but my aunt said that they used to go for a coffee and that was the Main Street that was sitting there and watching people's going up and down. And Edelweiss became the youngsters cafe because underneath there was a discotheque. Labyrinth. Of course I was not never allowed to go there. I never went.

–And from any of the clothes shop or any of the shops, was there a place that you would go?

–No. It wasn't so much for shopping in those days. I went with my mother, I remember there was a shop, was a friend of my grandfather. So every Christmas and every Easter we got new shoes. So he took us there to buy shoes.

–What is the name?

–Condos. And they had to be black, shiny, and they had to do click, click.

–And were you or your family, were you going to any of the hotels?

–My parents did a lot. They were always invited. One was Mariana Hotel, I remember because the manager was the cousin of my father. Then I think Grecian, they went a lot to these places.

–Did they ever take you with them?

–No.

–And if I asked you, is there a place that you feel very connected inside of Varosha?

–It's always the house.

–And if I asked you if there is a place that carries a value for you, sentimental value, apart from your house?

–Maybe the Likeon Ellinidon because it has symbolic character and it's one of the nicest building in the town.

–And most of the places that we spoke about their either on the beach or the Democracy Ave. Were you not using the Kennedy Ave at all?

–On my own, I was not allowed to, so my radius was until Alasia. Alasia was a restaurant and I was not allowed to go further. It's true. And I didn't know how nice the sea is on the other side until it opened and we went swimming to where they made this kiosk. And I said, Oh my God, sea is nicer than the piece we had. But we were not allowed in those days to go there.

–And were you going to Alasia restaurant?

–Not as a family no, no. We didn't go, we went to Avenida. Avenida is near there. They had the good food.

–Do you see a future for Varosha?

–I hope so. We're hoping a lot. It's a pity, we can't be in this town. I had a lot of hopes in the beginning. But I'm very disappointed and the disappointment is against our government, the Greek Cypriot government, because they had so many opportunities to get Varosha back and they said no. We were even given it back 1978. And the Greek side said no. And then with Annan plan. We didn't get it back and now, Kran Montana, so I'm blaming most of it to the Greek Cypriots. But of course, now with the with the government in North Cyprus, the hopes are getting less and less. If the old president was much better. OK, that's politics. We shouldn't talk about politics.. We had so many hopes and it's painful for us when we go and see we get nearer to our houses, and we're not allowed to go there. We did a major application to for return. Of course there was no answer. And so yeah, the hopes are getting a less and less.

–If we become optimistic and you said you have hope for future. What kind of future do you see for Varosha?

–I would like it to open for both sides, no borders, to build it up together. That we have a united city. With the Old Town, which this Old Town is a jewel. Which it has to be shown. And I think there will be a lot of opportunities. But I don't want to see a Las Vegas, I want to see the town as I knew it when I was a little girl. And I think the most important part of town is the people of the town. But we must learn also to live together with the Turkish Cypriots. Because that's a thing I didn't realise when I was little. But of course we had, I knew a few Turkish Cypriots through the clinic of my father. But we didn't really have any contact to each other, and that shouldn't be. So, if we build it up, we have to build it up together.

–And did any of the things that happened after October 2020 changed your mind about the future of the town, like the opening of the streets?

–Yes, I am pessimistic. It makes me feel very, very sad. Before I had some hopes but now hearing they want to bring investors and were had all these television people going round and opening peace by peace, but not giving it back to its people. But it's being lost for us now.

–And when you went inside, what was your impressions of the town that you found?

–I said, my goodness, what quality we had? If you see the roads, if you see the pavements and compare them to the pavements now in the South or in the north anyway. They still exist and they are not broken. And all these high rise buildings of course they made a lot of mistakes building them, so there's no sun, but if you see the way they were building them, the gap between them. So the one behind can see the sea. And the quality was quite high, even the names of the streets, the signs. I don't know, they look new. I don't know if they changed them but they look new. So it was really a very for the time, was a really amazing town. Look at all the other towns in in Cyprus. You have the roots, but our roots are better, still standing.

–And again, going back to the traditions of the Famagustians you said, we talked about the Orange Festival and the other festival that you said you were doing?

–Anthesteria, was a flower festival.

–And what were the other traditions? T

–The other one was Kataklysmos, was Holy Ghost day. So it was done on the water, on the sea, probably has ancient origins. So, they used to make all these huts on the beach and selling souvlaki and sweets and everything and it was bond on the element water. In the old days they used to wet the people on those days. So probably there was the origins were an ancient festivity for the deaths and they had to do occasions. So we had on those days competitions, in swimming and in sailing.

So that was for us a highlight. Because we took place in all these competitions. And we will get our cups, if we won?

–Did you ever win?

–Yes, yeah. We have four of us, four kids in the family, so we were all swimmers. I wasn't very, very good but I could swim butterfly, so I was on my own competition.

–Do you have any highlights from this Kataklistmosis, these competitions? Anything that's you remember very vividly?

–Not really. We were waiting for them all the time to come because it was also nearly the beginning of our school break. So, we had the whole summer, but not really.

–And you said your parents were going Boccacio, was there any other place they went a lot as well?

–They wouldn't tell us. But they went out a lot with their friends there. They had, Famagusta had a very big social life. So, they were always invited to parties and friends events, so I know from a lot of parents. But they have, we always had a grandmother to look after after us, so it was okay for them.

–And did you go to any of the cinemas?

–Yes. Hadjihambis.

–Do you have a highlight memory from going to Hadjihambis?

–Yeah, there was a highlight. There was a Kung Fu film and they were showing a lot of blood and somebody shouted, hey, you made it the clinic of Hadjidakou. I will never forget that.

–And do you think any of the places inside Varosha should be protected as how they were back in 1974?

–Yes that's Likeon Ellinidon and the gymnasium of the boys, which is opposite, the park of course. And this historical cinema Hadjihambis and the marketplace. I think these, this area should be protected.

–And you said the marketplace as well, were you going to marketplace?

–I remember it, yeah, I remember the coconut.

–How was it inside the market?

–It was as one bandabulya should be, not like the ones nowadays. Was full of the merchants selling everything, baskets and around they had all these places where you could buy souvlaki, and there was a big fountain in front. I remember there was somebody selling, selling coconuts and you could he was breaking it for us and there was a water inside and went out to drink it with a straw.

–And was there any relation between the gymnasium and Likeon Ellinikion?

–Not actually a connection but from the architecture, yes, because they have the facade is like a Greek temple. So they resemble it.

–But the architect is not the same architect?

–No, no, because the one is much older the school. Likeon Ellinikon was, I don't know, remember. Was it built in the 60s or something? It wasn't very old in those days, no. But it was a marble house in which is very rare for Famagusta or for Cyprus.

–And from the social life of the locals. Which places were the most used and important for the people?

–All these cafes we mentioned , Boccacio and Edelweiss and of course the ones in the sea like Faliro, which was a pity that fell down because it was a sign, it has a history. And for them going swimming was also Alasia. We never went there because we had our house on the on the beach, but I think Faliro is for people, it was very important.

–And why was it important?

–Because it was the place on the sea to sit and have fish, near the water, good food. That's why I was spending too much.

–Oh all my questions was like this. Do you want to add any answer, anything to any of the answers that you have given to me?

–No no. Think. I don't know.

–Do you think there is a question that I should have asked you but I didn't?

–Can I ask, how long did your father practised in Varosha?

–Until 74, from 1960 or 61, we came to Cyprus. And until 74, he was in Varosha. And then in Larnaca.

–Do you have any memory from your dad practising that you remember always?

–Yeah, because we sometimes we had to help him. He wanted us all to become doctors, so he called us in and especially when we're not allowed to play with dangerous things like bicycle, so when they had some, fireworks. So, if he had somebody injured by fireworks, he used to call us and show us what happens. We shouldn't do it.

–And one last question, you said it was your grandparents' house that you were living in, was it your dad's side?

–Yes, yes.

–And how long have they been living in Varosha?

–My grandfather built the first part of, it was two houses next to each other. So, the first one he built, in 1950. And then when my father finished with his studies, to make him come back to Cyprus, because he was working in England, he built him the clinic and later the house on the top where we were staying.

–When did he built the clinic?

–The clinic must have been built in 61-62. And our house was built maybe in 67.

E35 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Maraş?
- In other words, what I say is connected, that is, we miss those days, so yes, it is true. So the old stuff is true yes.
- So what is your connection with Maraş? You said you are from Famagusta in the old town, so what was your connection with Maraş at that time? What would you go there for?
- Here we used to go shopping and sightseeing. There was also a Camel port. We used to go there, for example, the thing we had in common, the bathing place. Then my father had friends, Greek friends, we used to go to visit family.
- Do you remember these visits clearly at that time?
- I remember, of course. But we would go, they wouldn't come, I don't know, I mean, why did they have fear, what was wrong with them, they never came, we always went.
- So, if I ask you, is there a memory that you remember the most from these visits at that time?
- I swear to God, I went with my father as a family, he had a friend, a very close friend, I don't know his name, I don't even know if he is alive or not. His wife and I used to go there, and he had a daughter. They would have hosted us well. So we would have a good time. So that's what I remember.
- Well, you said you were 16 years old, when you ran away from Cyprus, in what year did you run away?

- Yes. I left on December 13, 1971.
- So why did you leave?
- To get married. I was engaged, and when I was 17, I got married, and we went for marriage.
- So what do you remember from your childhood until December 1971, until the age of 16?
- About Maras?
- It was within the city walls before Maraş.
- We had a lot of good days. In other words, the circle of friends was beautiful during school time. After that, we used to go to secondary school, for example, in Namık Kemal. Family things, neighborhood things, conversations were good. So there was a very warm environment, not like now. Our childhood was very good.
- Well, the time between 1960 and 1963 was the more normal time of the city wall.
- Look, in '64, we used to live in Sakarya. And my mother was pregnant to her fourth child. And that's when I saw the '64 war. I remember the house we lived in Sakarya, where we were always riddled with bullets. So it was the beginning. In that line, the Greeks took my father captive, I think 3 days, my mother gave birth to my brother and my father was in prison. In other words, such an unrest started in '64. I remember him very well.
- Why did they take your father prisoner?

- Well, At the customs he was a porter, they took it, you know, because he was Turkish. But after that, they freed him. It didn't take long. The United Nations intervened, they took him. Maybe my dad was in prison because of TMT. Because my father was also a brave man. I mean, you have to look at the things in length thing, but that's what it was. Maybe that's why I don't know?
- Would you have visited Maraş before 1964? Before these conflicts began.
- Look, I don't remember him. I don't remember because we were younger. It's time for us to be a little bit mature now. I used to go to the family with my father, but I used to go shopping with my sister-in-law and so on, not my parents. I mean, I don't remember him very much.
- Yes, but when did you go back to the city wall when the fighting started in '64?
- They took my father prisoner in '64. My mother was scared and we left our house. My brother was born in 64. He wasn't 65 or so anymore. My mother said, "My mother is intimidated." Well, there was a coldness in Sakarya. We moved to Famagusta in '65, to the city walls. We stayed there now, so we never went back home.
- So what was the life like within the city walls in 1965?
- It was nice, the neighborhood was very nice, every thing was nice. I mean, I wish those days would come back, there was conversation, there was everything. I can't tell you, our family ties were strong.
- So, where did you spend your time within the city walls from those times?
- Within the city walls, my mother's house was close to the Canbulat tomb. The family home, the families were always there, but we were tenants. We were tenants, let me

tell you on which side, there was a wheat mosque, there was a girls' institute next to the wheat mosque, we lived in the new municipality houses until 1967. When my mother first escaped from Sakarya, we stayed there first. We stayed at my aunt's house. After that, we went to the tenant in our last house in 1967, I left that house and came to England. It was flooded again. There was a wheat mosque and we sat there. After that, I always came back to England. For example, my mother built our current house in 1974 and my mother settled there, our little sibling was born there. In other words, I didn't know that Ebru was born because I didn't live in Cyprus at the time.

- For example, were there any places you went to spend time? Event, cinema, grocery store?
- As you know, we used to go to the movies all the time with my friends of Sateen. After that, it would be a thing to women. For example, on Tuesday nights, the women were free, it was always the women, all the neighbors, we would always go to the movies. In other words, our entertainment was the cinema and the children's garden, you know, there was a honeycomb there, there was a public garden on the opposite side of the Petek. We used to spend it there. We used to go to the sea in the summer. So that's how it was, our thing, our activities.
- Did you always go to Maraş in the summer?
- No. We started the last thing, Gülseren, now it is the Gülseren sea, or we would go there.
- Well, after 1968, things probably got more relaxed within the city walls.
- Of course, because the Greeks were no longer there. I mean, the Greek Cypriots wouldn't do anything to us anyway, but how can I tell you, they would be scared now. So after '64, they got too far away from us.

- So did you say that you would go to secondary school in Namik Kemal? What was it like back then, for example, how would you spend a day?
- It's normal, we were at school until noon. We would come home in the afternoon. Then we would get friends, we would go to each other's houses, we would chat. So it was good, our good days.
- When did you first go to Maraş?
- I remember going to Maraş when I was little, but I don't remember much, but what I remember the most is that I went shopping when I went to England. That is, in the late 1970s. But we used to go there from time to time, they would make popcorn and chestnut kebabs. We used to go and there were lights like this at night, it was beautiful. As I said last time shopping, I was going to go to England and we always got all my dowry from there. I had my sister-in-law and my aunt's daughter-in-law, she took me, my mother wouldn't come out. My mom and I didn't go shopping because she was a housewife, and my dad didn't go shopping with family like that. The last time we went back to 1971, that is, as far as I remember.
- Was there a specific store you went to for shopping?
- I swear I don't remember, I mean, I tell you there was, there was Marks & Spencer. There were a lot of stores. But I mean, which one did we go to, I was mostly like sheets, towels, clothing items, but in my mind, it was probably a Greek store, not an English store.
- So what was the reason you went there for shopping?
- We would have found what we were looking for, and it was cheaper. I guess it's because it's cheaper, and because we found what we were looking for, I don't know. In other words, when it comes to shopping, Maraş would immediately come to mind.

Even my engagement dress, my mothers-in-law took me to Maraş and we bought it from Maraş. I bought my engagement dress and engagement ring, so there were more options on that side. And there were a lot of ready-to-wear. On our side, maybe there were few places where fabric was sold, but there were not many ready-made clothes at that time, that is, on the Turkish side.

- So, when you went shopping, would you just shop and run away, or were there cafes or kiosks where you sat down?
- No, we would have run away. There was no seating. Maybe there was, but we wouldn't have done anything.
- And you said you would go to the camel port as well?
- Yes, we started to go to the camel port, or rather, when it was an engagement. Because he wanted a car, I mean, my dad, because he was a little bit backward about us, he wouldn't let me out in the sea. When my mother-in-law came, they came, so we went for a walk, not to bathe. Because we couldn't go there alone, we went there for sightseeing.
- Would you just go sightseeing and walk along that stretch of beach?
- Yes, yes.
- So, is there anything you remember from your visit to that camel port?
- I remember the beauty of the beach and the sea was very clean and like Glapsides, so it wouldn't be tall like that. The level of the water was a low in the sea and it had such a sparkling water, so it was beautiful.

- So why do they call camel harbor camel harbor?
- I don't know, I really have no idea. I don't know what I know because it is far away and the beach is long.
- And you said you would go to visit your family, in Marash?
- What I call a family visit is that my father had a co-worker, we used to go out to him, he would take me a lot, only my father, I mean, he had a daughter of my age like this, we would go to that friend's house, the woman would cook for us, they would chat, I would play with her daughter.
- Can you describe the house? Do you remember that much?
- None, not at all.
- Was it by the sea?
- No, it wasn't by the sea, it was just like that, but I didn't have it in my mind. I mean, I don't even know which side you're on.
- Well, did you ever go to Namık Kemal on your own, with your friends?
- No, we've never been.
- Have you ever been to the cinema or theater in Maraş?
- No.

- Did you attend any events there?

- No. They wouldn't let us go.

- Would you hear about the events there?

- Well, we'd hear it. I mean, when I was engaged, and my fiancé and I went on a night out. The nieces and nephews were always my brother, my fiancée, my nephews. But we wouldn't go because we were angry, the family wouldn't let us go.

- Would there ever be any activity inside the city wall?

- It was always in the city walls, we had fairs, it was very beautiful, it was in a moat. We used to have very nice days, celebrities came to the fair, we went there with my parents. Good things would happen. Every year there would be fairs, there would be events. Then I would see Barış Manço in the cinemas, Funda Postman, Ertan Anapa, Cem Karaca, Neşe Karaböcek, there would be a few more to my mind, good things would happen and the filmmaker's daughter was our friend. We used to sit in the front, so they would also give us popcorns, we would go to the cinema and sit in the front. No, I mean, we've had a lot of good days. In other words, our student days and school age were very good.

- And how would there always be Turkish films in these cinemas?

- No, no. We used to go to English movies as well. Both Turkish and English, believe me, I mean the idiom is a day, you know, we used to go to the cinema at least 4 times a week, both English and Turkish, we never missed it.

- Well, I'll go back to the fact that you were shopping, would there be anything that caught your eye in Maraş when you went shopping? Maybe it's in the city or from the people.
- By God, cleanliness, beautiful shops, in that respect, we would like it, so it would feel like we were living in another world like this.
- So, were most of the people in these shopping places Greeks or were there a lot of tourists shopping?
- There was it, there was a tourist, there was a rum. It was a crowded city, so there was a lot of liveliness.
- Have you ever been to bandabulya?
- Eyya, I used to do all the shopping, and my brother used to do it after me.
- This is bandabulya but inside the city wall?
- Of course, yes.
- Have you ever been to Maraş?
- No, I didn't go to the one in Maraş.
- Do you have any memories of the bandabulyayn within the city walls?
- I had a landlord, I mean, my mother's last landlord in that house, you know, there was the landlord we lived in, she had her thing, she had groceries. I went with my nephew,

I wanted blackberry, I asked for dried blackberry, look, I will never forget that day. I wanted dry bellowing things, I was a little bit of something, my mother used to say to me, don't let the goods you buy be wormy, not old, I was afraid, so I wanted good quality things, let me take them home, we looked and saw with my nephew, oh my goodness, the blackberries are always wormy. Sister meedihe mercy, come girl, she said, what should I give it to you, I said I was going to buy it with a belly, but I said these are also worms, what is a wolf, he said to me, he said to me, he said today, how many kilos, I sold it to the soldiers. I said, well, I said to the soldiers, if you sold worms. I said I wouldn't take it and she went to my mom and complained? There was also my father's friend, my mother said, for example, I will buy this much meat. E man would take meat, bone-in-bone darts, and still is. I said no to the man, who took out the bone and didn't put it on the scale. The man separated the bone from the meat so as not to offend me and put it on the scale as meat for me. I mean, look, they're in my mind, I mean, I'm a little bit open-eyed, but believe me, I can't do it now, so if I go now, I'll buy it with a worm, I'll buy it with a bone. But then maybe I was afraid of my mother, I wanted to bring her something good, so that she wouldn't be angry with me. I remember these two things a lot.

- Well, for example, you said at the event, there would be fairs, there would be a lot of concerts in the ditch. Were there any activities in terms of sports?
- No, it didn't exist. Every once in a while, we would go to the game. For example, maybe Lefke would have played with the Famagusta team at that time. Well, we used to go too, so women always went too. So it was just that, it was the game, there was nothing else, and April 23 was beautiful. For example, all schools would always be united. For example, no matter how many schools there are in Famagusta, we always used to perform at Canbulat Stadium. April 23 and May 19 were very good. But now there is no such activity.
- So what does a ghost town mean to you?

- It's an abandoned place, I mean, I wish it hadn't happened, so it's very beautiful, I mean, when you think about the old thing, it's such a beautiful place, now it's a ghost town, so it's sad, I mean, it's really sad to see it that way.
- And you said that after escaping in 71, you returned to Cyprus 50 years later?
- No, I came back 35 years later, at the age of 50.
- In what year?
- We came back in 2005 and I'm here to this day.
- So, when you came back in 2005 or until this street was opened and now the streets are opened, did you ever enter Maraş?
- I didn't. I didn't go in 1-2 times, I mean, it was my friend, the commander's wife. They could have gone to those closed areas. They took me to the sea several times. That's it.
- Well, did you recognize the places you saw on the way to this sea?
- I didn't know much about it, so how can I say the places close to you, okay, but I don't remember the far places at all.
- Where do you say nearby?
- Now, from the beginning of the doctor Fazıl Küçük, for example, I remembered the closed place a little bit, but I don't remember such internal things. Where do you remember there?

- There were houses, those people lived in and so on. So there was no one familiar. But I mean, I kind of remember residential areas.
- So did you enter this October 2020 after the streets opened?
- I've never been. I've never been there because my wife doesn't go out much. I didn't want to go at all, I don't know. We went to the army house 3-4 times when my father was alive, the army house probably belonged to the Greeks. We went to the army house, we went 3-4 times, but now I have never been there after things opened up.
- When you went to the army house, for example, did you recognize any place on those streets?
- No. Not at all, because it's already crumbling and ruins, so I don't know?
- So why didn't you go now that it opened?
- By God, I don't know, if I go, it will come to me that I will get lost there, I don't like to go alone, my wife is not curious at all, to go to such a thing. No, we didn't do anything for him. If someone says to me, let's go together, maybe I'll go, but I've never been willing to go alone.
- So, is there any place in Maraş that you feel connected to?
- No, there isn't.
- Is there a place that is valuable to you?
- There is none.

- Wait, for example, what is personally important because you said you bought your engagement dress from there?
- Well, it was an okay shop, but I mean, I didn't even have it in mind. I mean, I was 15 years old at that time, many years have passed, I don't remember, I used to go to this shop all the time. You know, I've been there 1-2 times, I don't even think about it.
- You said you went to get your dowry. And an engagement dress. Other than that, for your everyday outfit?
- No, I didn't go, no, we wouldn't go. Because who was going to take it, that is, there was no one who took it. Because our mother never left home My dad and I wouldn't go shopping like that anyway. Whatever we found within the walls, we would find it there and take it.
- But this was different for men, they would go.
- Of course, men would go, they would go on trips, to the movies, everywhere.
- Do you think there is a future for Varosha?
- I wish it would be opened, but I don't know, we are in favor of opening it. But I don't know if there will be a deal or not. I don't know, I don't have any hope. Because we've been hearing this for years, I don't know what it's going to happen.
- Well, let's say there's a deal. If we are optimistic, what kind of future do you think of for Maraş?

- By God, I think if it opens, there will be a lot of job opportunities. It will be good for young people. So I hope something like that will happen, there will be vitality everywhere. There will be job opportunities. Look, for example, from time to time we go to the Greek side with the children. By Nicosia, by Derinya. It seems to me that I live in England like this, the liveliness of the shops. I think it would be a much, much better Cyprus if it was opened.
- So, have the decisions made after October 2020 changed your ideas about the future?
- I don't know anything about him. Because, as I said, we don't have any properties, we don't have anything. The only thing like that? I don't know, I don't know much, so I don't know.
- Do you think any place inside Varosha should be preserved as it is?
- Err.. it should have been preserved, but did it stay? There is no left, what is left to protect? There is nothing left. Mashallah, they stung, there are no windows left, no things left. So there is nothing left to protect. It was literally looted.
- So, if a different method of protection comes, what do you think should be protected from the inside? Should anything about that new time be preserved?
- I don't know, I don't know, I mean, what's left in it will be preserved. So what is left but the skeleton of the buildings? There is nothing left so that it can be preserved.
- So, if I tell you to tell me about the social life there when you go inside, how would you describe it?
- Liveliness, people were smiling. There would be no distinction at all, that is, as if it were rum. It was nice to mingle. There was a conversation between people, that is, Greeks were Greeks and Turks, there was no difference.

- Was there a difference between life and the city of the city?
- No, now, for example, there were no Greeks in the city walls. But in the past, we never discriminated, but we never found it strange. Let's treat them badly, it was like they were family.
- Is there anything you'd like to add to any of your answers?
- I don't know, I wish there would be peace, I wish it would open as before, for example, shops, everything. If there were 2 separate states, they would be at peace, but I don't know, I don't know. I don't know, I don't know if there will be those days or not.
- These were all my questions, you should have asked me, but is there anything you said you didn't ask?
- No. I can't think of it.

E36 Transcription

- They stopped people from visiting. They didn't allow anybody to go inside this central area because it's military zone. And even now I know - a Turkish Cypriot policeman-, when I went there he said look, this area is controlled by the military, by the army, it's a military zone, and it's, you know, and they control everything and we have to do what they tell us. And he said if we do something wrong, we have problem with the Turkish military. Because I wanted to go to see my house and it's very near to the center from the street which is open. Do you remember the centre? where the garden is where the municipal garden if you go down this street at the end there is a building belongs to Turks, I forget the name of this thing that they opened like a Turkish mosque. On the left there is a church Agios Nicholas, just from off the street. And if you go behind this church 5 minutes you come to where we used to live. And I told this policeman that he was there and he was the nice guy, but he didn't speak very much English and not Greek. But he said my wife was working in Protaras in Paralimni before the corona in the shop in tourist season. And you said I don't have problem with the Greek Cypriots and they wish they gave back the town and the Greeks could come back and we can fix everything and everybody will be happy and we can work together. But he said, I can't do nothing. You know, I'm just a policeman. And the army is in control. And I said, well, can I go to see my house just for 5 minutes? I won't tell nobody, he said look, I cannot tell you to go there because it's not allowed, he said, if you go there, I will be, I can be arrested by the army if you go there. I said, look, if I give you my telephone, you go and take some photos for me, he said I can't go there, even I can't go there unless I get permission. And I said, what can I do? He said I will call my senior officer and I will tell them that you are English, that you have a house in this area and that you used to live in here and you want to see your house and after he call them, and they said you must show the documents that you own this house and maybe they will decide if they can take you to see your house. Somebody must take you. Then they will let you know. But I said when? he said, I don't know, maybe they will say no. So I said, I know another way to go to house not here where the church is, but there is another street which you can go there and he said, look, I don't know nothing. I didn't see you, but he said if you go there and maybe the buildings are very old and they're dangerous. And he said if something happened, then they fall on you and maybe you can get killed. And nobody's gonna help you or see you. But he said it's very dangerous, these buildings are very

old, like the church. It's very old. And the things are falling from the top. So he told me, if you go there, I don't know nothing and please don't say that you told me and don't come and tell anyone. And he said just go for one minute and he said take a picture and leave. But he said if the army see you and they catch you, you're going to have a big problem. Are they gonna say why did you come here? You are trespassing. It's a military zone. They said maybe they take you to a military police. Maybe you're gonna pay very big fine. Maybe you go in prison even for one night, he said I think it's up to you and he said maybe the army don't come there because they don't come so much now, after we open some streets and the police are here. But he said I cannot tell you it's OK. But he said it's your risk if you want to do this. But anyway, between you and me, but don't tell anybody in the authorities, I went there for half an hour. I took many pictures and I went out from the back road where nobody saw me. Well, from this place in the street there are some trees there. And if you go inside after the ropes, I said if somebody see me coming out or going in, I say I want to go to toilet, that there is no toilet. And I went to the toilet for two minutes and I thought I will go and try this and if nobody sees me. But in many places though, there are cameras. On top of the building where the church is. This is where there are many people. There are cameras and they can see everybody that goes. I went inside and it's very dirty. There's with lots of pigeons, birds that go inside and they leave a lot of dirt and everything. But of course everything was taken. Downstairs was a pastry shop, like this downstairs in our house was a shop called Dimitsos. It was like petek, but everything is stolen from the house and from the shop. I found some things. Some bottles, Coca-Cola bottles and some labels where they used to wrap the cakes with the name of the shop of Imitos and I took these in my pocket. But I was told if the police see that you took anything from Maras. That you have a big problem yet that they will not let you take it out. Some people went to their house and they found some things, some shoes last year, one guy, but he didn't have a bag to put them, and when he went back to the gate, the policeman say where you, what's this? Where did you get this? No, he said it's not allowed, you have to put this back where you, where did you find it? But he said this is my shoes. I left them in 1974 when I was a boy and they said no, you can't take anything, you must get permission. And f he said one policeman will go with you. You must put the shoes back exactly the same place that you found them. But it's too difficult psychologically for some people to go there and see everything in this condition, you know it it's very hard for them. With the Turkish Cypriot girl, she's very nice lady. She works for the Mediterranean university. I can't

remember her name, but she has a newsletter and she introduced me to a woman. Yeah, she she made a plan with together with a Greek Cypriot academician, who lives in the USA. She's Greek Cypriot and her mother was from Varosha. I know her. She and her parents, her mom, she they both live in the USA. They teach in University of Maine. One of her parents teaches ecology in the university main and her daughter this plan, called Eco Project to rebuild Varosha and all of Famagusta to make it an ecological new town with green energy... And no cars and very interesting things. And if they can do this, it would be wonderful. The problem is politics that unless there is political agreement, nothing can happen.. They cleaned some streets. They put some new barriers where the entrance will be under control. But it still didn't open. You still can't go in this area. I went three times last year to Varosha and the last time was in October, but they didn't clean it to me, it was the same. They only changed the barrier where there's a police box and they can open this if this for people to go back. And if you go where I told you before where the church is and the mosque they opened at the end of democracy, there is another gate there where you can go in this new area. Nobody has been allowed to go. And Tatar said no, the Greek Cypriots can come back and live if they want and get their houses, but they must make application to committee in the north. You know my mother-in-law asked about this before some years ago, she paid an advocate to make application to this to get compensation. But so far about Varosha, they have not done anything because nobody knows what will be in the future if it will be given to property owners or not? What will happen and how nobody knows anything. And if you go on the other side and you ask there, they can't tell you nothing. They say no, we don't know. You can only go in the streets which are open. We don't know about the other places. Maybe it'll open, but we don't know when, and that's all they can tell you. I think I was lucky because I managed to go three times to see my house, and nobody saw me. But everybody said to me don't try and go again, because maybe you will this time somebody will see you. Yeah, but of course, they said if the Turkish army see you, if you go down towards where the church is near to the area that's open, there is a camera on top of one of the buildings. And when I went there, luckily, I didn't go to this end of the street. But when I looked in the picture. No, I think it's very risky to go in the closed streets. Especially near the seaside in this area. there's a hotel there, ordu evi, that was the Sandy Beach Hotel and these buildings there and Golden plage hotel and some apartments. It was these three buildings. It's used by the army. And you can't walk through there. You have to go round the back road, down another road and come

back to Kennedy Ave where Asterias Hotel is. And you can go down there and about 2-300 meters. There is a beach. But yeah, afterwards there is Venus Beach Hotel. And you are not supposed to go there. I think if you go, if you go anywhere in these places where it's not open, they will see you because it's very open there and it's fields and big buildings. And I think maybe the soldiers, they are on top of some buildings and they can see if anybody walks down the street that shouldn't be. But I think in the Town Center, it's easier if you're careful to go in some side streets and look around you. But if they see you, then maybe you will be lucky. They will just tell you no, come back. It's not allowed, or maybe they will arrest you and take you to the police. And then you have a big problem. Maybe pay. I heard it's a lot of money, €2000 that you have to pay. And if and if you don't have the money, they will keep you there until somebody will hear from you. This means that from South side, someone will send the money and now they will keep you inside the police prison. And it is not a good place to go.

- Before talking about the open parts, I want to ask you questions about your connection to Varosha, Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yeah, very much.
- And what is your relation to Varosha?
- My wife is from and her family is from there.
- And you said you came to Cyprus in 1979?
- Yeah, but my wife was living in England.
- During the 1974 events?
- Yeah, yeah. In the war she we were lucky. We weren't in here.

- So you were visiting before 1974?
- Yeah, 73. I came for the first time.
- And you stayed in the house that you said close to the Agios Nicholas.
- Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- And how long did you stay there?
- I think two or three weeks.
- How was it? What was your experience?
- No, I mean. Then it was very exciting because we were planning the following year to come to live there in Cyprus and we were going to come in actually in June 1974 to live. But because I was working in England, the prepared said to me if you stay two more months, you will get money for your holiday from the company when you leave. And it was worth it to get this money at that time. It was quite a bit of money and everybody said, yeah, don't go to Cyprus in summer. Because it's very hot and you'll find it very difficult to go from England suddenly in July or August, to go to Cyprus. It's very, you know, better to go September, October, it's cooler and it will be easier. So of course we agreed and we were very lucky that we agreed and we didn't come here because if we came. We would have got, we don't know. What would have happened?
- So you just went in 1973 and stayed in Varosha for two weeks. And what was the month that you went? Which month?
- I think it was. I think it was June or May or June, I can't remember.

- And do you remember living there?

- I remember what the tone was like and that there was it was very a lot going on and they were building some new apartments and hotels and they were very they were building a very big hotel, the Golden sands. This was under construction right down the end. And it was going to be the biggest hotel in Cyprus in the whole of the Middle Eastern Mediterranean, and it was owned by trust houses forte at that time by this international company. But it wasn't. It was gone. I think it opened in May 74, finally got it closed. Of course, after the war.

- Did you go to see the construction site? When you were there?

- Yeah, I remember the beach there. I remember the seaside, but not many Cypriots were going swimming then because they said it's cold and we go in July when the sea gets very warm. But there was Swedish people and British people going in the beach.

- And what was what is the most vivid memory that you have from that two weeks?

- When we left, I was just thinking ohh it will. I can't wait till next year when I will come back again and I was thinking what I was going to do if I was going to get a job in a hotel and I was thinking, oh, I'm sure I will find a job. There's so many tourists and it's. I was thinking I have to be patient now till next year.

- What is the biggest memory or the most remembered memory that you have from that two weeks?

- No, I remember that the old city of Famagusta, it was Turkish Cypriots inside and Greek Cypriots, they couldn't go there, but they allowed tourist and when I went, people said no, it's dangerous. You should be careful if you go there and they know that you have great Cypriot friends, but there were some great Cypriots that they had Turkish Cypriot

friends that if they had invitation. They did go there, I remember, but I went and I went to see the old mosque. You know, the center of Lala Mustafa Pasha, and the area around there. I went for a couple of hours and when I came back again, everybody was very relieved. They said, oh, well, did you see what was it like? It's old, lots of old churches. The people were OK that some of them spoke English because they had been to London and they had relatives and for me it was very interesting. But because I lived in Berlin before, in the 1970s, when the wall was there, I was used to these situations where there were borders. So, for me all this was very interesting.

- And what was the life difference between the Old Town and the Varosha?
- I know that the shops were small, there were some a lot of old cars, and everything was more simple. I would say there was some cafes, some restaurants, traditional, you know, but the standard of living looked much lower than in the new city.
- And in the new city, what was the places that you were visiting the most?
- Mainly the seaside and the you know the gardens. The central part of the town. But my wife's father comes from a village in Caracas called Yesilkoy. And there, there were Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. And now there are still some Turkish Cypriots there, old people, they speak Greek. And they knew all of the Greek Cypriots, and they didn't have a lot of problems. Only when it's 74 after the war thing were difficult for the first few months. But then of course. In 76, most of the Greek Cypriots they left from the north because they said to them, if you don't, if you don't agree to leave, maybe you have to leave and they brought settlers to them. And I remember when my wife, grandparents, they left from there and they came to London to stay and they died in London. But then in 2003. When the border opened, I went with my father-in-law and mother-in-law. When they came from London and my wife and we went to Yesilkoy and people were there were OK, they, they speak Greek and it was very nice that we liked it but the people who live in the old house they come from Turkey they were a family. But when my wife's grandparents left, they knew they knew the people that moved into their house. The old

people and they were friendly to them and.. When we went there, they were, they were OK to us, they weren't angry and they asked about my wife's grandparents, but they died. Of course we told them, and we used to go there sometimes to the village, you know, and go to a restaurant there. There's a place called Mehmet Kadi, that makes them what you call kleftiko and now, but it's a very nice village because this forest is near there and we like to go in there very much. There are still two Greek Cypriots that live there. The last two they're very old and they're related with my wife's father, so we know them very well.

- And what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- To me, it's a place where nobody lives anymore, but I always get the feeling, you know, when I go there that it's like the souls of the old people that live there. Maybe they're watching when you go there and they maybe they're glad that you remembered the place. And that you remember their names and you remember them. I'm very interested about these things like ghosts and some Turkish Cypriot told me that he was in the army. When he was in Varosha, when he had to be in the army, that he thinks that that many soldiers, they, they were afraid, they heard noises at night time, and they saw some strange lights. And they said that maybe there is really ghosts in Varosha, and I think this is possible because, you know, there was some people killed there in 74 there was some people were murdered, some Greek Cypriots by the some Turkish Cypriot paramilitary groups. And it's a place where people left everything. So, for me, I think it's understandable that there could be ghosts in Varosha. It's very, very. Some people don't believe in this, or they say it's not true that there is not ghosts. It's silly, but I get the feeling that there is something, but it doesn't feel like the ghosts are bad when I go there, not like they are evil or they want to hurt you, but like it's very sad. You can, you get this feeling. You know, not angry, but you just feel very sad when you walk around. Then you see the places and the shops and the buildings and the houses. And you think? Yeah, this man used to live there and his wife. I remember them, you know. And and you just feel very sad that all that it's it's everything is the way it is. That we can't go back there, and we can't be happy and we can't just continue with our life in the way we were happy.

- After the checkpoints opened, did you visit the surroundings of the fenced off area like the Palm Beach?

- Do you know something? In 19, I think 86. I met some guys from the United Nations. And who were on this site. They were from Austria, I think the people that, they were in Varosha at that time. And they arrange with me one day, they took me in their car because they have a place there. It used to be where Edelweiss cafe is now, but now it's not. They moved it now to Riviera further along, but it was that the Austrians were in Edelweiss Cafe and I asked them and they said look. We can take you, with our car. Well, sometimes we to go to our place and we take in some new soldiers and bring out some old soldiers. When we change over the people that they're on duty. And we can get make out that you are that you are one of our people. People and that we think that we can take you and but they said if we take you. You must. You must not go anywhere outside where we take you. You must not take any photographs or take any camera and you must not speak to any of the Turkish soldier. If they ask you or the policeman because it's prohibited. And you mustn't tell anybody anything and just stay with us and you, we will stay for about one hour in Edelweiss, and then we will bring out two guys and then you will bring you back. They did this for me. And it was very interesting, but I couldn't go anywhere. They said you mustn't go outside. From the 1-2 years ago, it was only there was only this way to go in for UN and military because nobody else ever went there. It wasn't allowed only for Turkish army. And you know, it's not the people with invitation. But when we came out. You know, there was a young soldier there and he didn't say anything. He just opened the gate because they moved it sideways. But he looked at me. And when we left, I saw that he made some note in his paper, and he called his senior. And when we got back to the camp, on the Salamis Rd. The commander was there and he was very angry and he said to me, why did you go there? Who are you? And he was very angry with the soldiers that that took me. And he said, you know, it's not free. Just wanted to go to see because I used to live there before and he said, look, I don't care if you live there, but it's not allowed to go there, and we have problems all the time with them with because the Turkish army they very, they try to cause problems for access. They don't like us to go more than in a couple of places, and if they, he said you're very lucky because the person who called me, I know him

well and I said maybe one of the soldiers was a bit drunk and. He wasn't wearing his proper uniform and they were bringing him out because he was not feeling well or something. And he said OK, but really they should wear their cap and wear the proper uniform when they go in through the control points. And he said, I told him, yeah, when he comes back, I will warn them. But he was very, very angry. And I thought it was funny, you know, because this guy was very small and he looked like a comedian, one famous English comedian and I when he told me all this, he was shouting. I drank some beers with the guys and when we went to Edelweiss and I thought it was funny and I was laughing and he got more and more angry with me. And he said to me, look, where do you live? And when he said, look, where is your car? He said you go now, and you go back immediately and don't ever come over this, like he said, if you don't go, I will tell the Turkish police that you went there illegally and that you live in Limassol and he said you will go in the prison, he said don't ever disturb any of the men in the personnel in the UN and ask them for such thing and they got into trouble, they stopped them from going out of the camp for one week and I saw them in agia napa, about two months later. And I said, I'm really sorry you guys tried to help me. I know that you got into a lot of trouble. And they said, oh, it's not, they said, we don't blame you. We shouldn't have taken you. But they said it was just unlucky that, that soldiers saw when we came out. He wasn't wearing a uniform and he reports that if you said it wasn't, this boy didn't say anything. Well, nobody was going to know anything. But that was it. And that was in about 1985-1986 of course. And I tried sometimes I used to go over to the north. If you were a foreigner, not too often, but they allowed you to go for like tourist visit, but not but anyway one day, I decided I would like to go Guzelyurt and Lefke, and when I asked in the border. There was a very horrible man that used to give the permits, who he looks like a gangster. And when I asked him, he said no, you're not allowed to go in these places with your own car, only to Kyrenia and Famagusta and Salamis and if you want to go there, you have to get a taxi and. because I said why. And he said that there is some military places there and we don't want any problems if you try to go. But anyway, I did go, but when I passed from one of these villages, I think it was maybe Yilmazkoy. There is some Turkish army bases there. They obviously took down the number of the car I was driving, which is from this site and I didn't think anything at the time, but when I got back to Ledra palace in the afternoon, the man said to me. Oh, just one minute, he said. Where did you go? And I said, well, I went to Kyrenia and he said because I think that you went to some other places like Guzelyurt. And I said, well, actually I didn't,

I took the wrong turn and I ended up there and he said to me. Look, he said you came over this site quite a lot of. And he said, what do you do in Cyprus? Why are you living here? I said my father works in the British bases in Akrotiri. And he looked at me and he said, what does your father do? What's his job there? And I told him. And he said, look. He said, I don't know, I don't think you're telling me the truth. But he said, I think that you're trying to be very clever. And he said, I think that you're coming here to look at things which you're not supposed to, he said this time you can go. But, he said, did you ever see this film called Midnight Express, this old film? He said you wouldn't like it if you ended up in this situation. And I was scared, said no, no, no. OK, I'm going. But unfortunately, it was bad luck when I was in a restaurant in Yedi Dalga. I went in this restaurant. And this man, his Englishman, said my name and said Hi, how are you? What are you doing here? And it was this guy, he died, but he wrote a book about North Cyprus called the Cyprus types when he went to Varosha and he was allowed in 1983 to go on a visit and for two hours and he took pictures anyway. I wrote to him and he said when you're in London. I will be glad to see you and I will take you. But please meet me at the Turkish Cypriot office in in near Trafalgar Square in Cokes. Street and there is a guy who is then the representative and when I went there though, he said to this man, now this, this Englishman, he's interested to see my pictures. His wife is Greek Cypriot and I feel very uncomfortable. But anyway, he showed me some pictures and gave me some of them, but I wish he didn't tell this man that my wife was Greek Cypriot, but anyway. When I saw the writer with his wife in the restaurant in Yedidalga, he was with the man from the you know, they're what you call it. Press Office of North Cyprus. And he said, come and sit with us and have a drink. And he said to this guy, this man is English. He said I know him from. He's a friend of mine and then he said that his wife is Greek Cypriot from Famagusta And I said what I was so afraid that when he told this man that he would make problem for me and and he said why don't you stay and eat with us. And now I said I have to get back. It's very late and I have to go all the way to Limassol and I was very afraid and when I got to Ledra Palace and in the beginning they didn't say nothing and. I was just going in my car and leave. And this man called policeman, he said. Ah yeah. One minute. I want to ask you some questions. And then he asked me all these questions. So I didn't go to the north again then for about one year or two years because I was afraid. So, I asked the British High Commission in Nicosia, to check and they said we will ask for you with the aothorities if they have any problem. If your name is on any list or anything and they said no, they just said that you

went quite a few times and that one time you went to some places which you didn't get permission and they said you can go there, but you must only go to the places that they are allow for tourists and you shouldn't go too often. They said we don't recommend. You go more than 2-3 times every year because they will be, you know, maybe they don't like it. But then of course, in 2003, they opened the border for everybody and you didn't have these restrictions, you could drive over. As long as you have an insurance for your car, you could go there and you can go as you like actually in in North Cyprus, except for military places. But you can go anywhere. There is no restriction now, but I remember when I used to go in the 1980s. I used to go to Famagusta and I was always looking for to find a way to go to Varosha to find our house and there is some roads you can go in Varosha, where there is, even now there is a fence where the closed area and on the right there is people living. In this areas near Agia Zoni, Agia Katerini, the roads, this area on the left there is a fence and all the area is closed. On the right there are people living and one day, I ,one afternoon it was very, very quiet. I found a hole in the where the wire was near to near to wire in Agia Katerini and I was looking around and there was nobody. And I managed to go inside and I went about 100 meters. And then I heard a dog. I heard the sound of a dog barking. And I though, maybe there is soldiers and they have a dog. So, I went back and when I climbed over the fence, there was an old man. He was outside this house. Because he came from Limassol, and he said no don't go in there because it's not allowed. You will have a problem. If the soldiers will find you, they're going to, they'll arrest you. And he said that he is not allowed to go in. Inside this area of Varosha, this closed area. And then I said, yeah, well, I wanted to go where my house is. And he said, look, I didn't know this area because I come from Limassol before 74, but I tell you that. And you shouldn't try to go there. It's quite great, very, very dangerous. And he said you can ask but he said they don't give permission for tourists or anybody to go there. It's only for army and for United Nations people. But I remember I did this year. I think now though in the closed area, there's not so many army like they used to be. It's because of police now are there because they open some roads where you're allowed to walk, so the army is not so many like it used to be in the old days, but I know in one area near. You know, there is Derinya Halk Plaji, it is actually nea Agios Memnon in fact, more than Derinya. And it's open from May until October, but you can't go there. Only people with ID card and Turkish nationals are allowed and you have to go on the road towards Derinya and before you come to the checkpoint, you see on the left, there is a turning there, there is an Army base and you go there and

you can go to this beach in Derinya and you go via the village of Agios Memnon, which is interesting. There's some old houses and a church there, but you can't go there unless you're a Turkish Cypriot card or a Turkish national, and you have a car registered in the north. They don't let tourists. But I heard there's a bar there and you can get some drinks and sandwiches and there is about 200 metres of the beach, which is open and it's very nice there, but round it, it's all everything is closed and derelict all the hotels and you can't go outside this area. This area of the beach. You mustn't go on the road, there is one very big hotel in Varosha called the Golden Sands. It was owned by a British company called Trust forte before, and it still has all the furniture and equipment that was left from 1974. And it's very dusty, but all the rooms still have things, there is some films on YouTube, you can see of this. And it's quite interesting, but you can't go there. They told me, well, if you go to Kennedy to this area, you mustn't try to go after Venus Beach Hotel because it's military. And if you go to Golden Sands. I think there are soldiers near there that they are watching and if they see anybody they will, they will stop you immediately.

- I'm gonna go back when you visited in 1973 you stayed for two weeks in Varosha?
- Yeah, that was the old days.
- How was life? Where would you spend most of your time? Where would you go?
- I used to go to the beach because it was so nice and in the town there was some nice restaurants and places you know, and we knew some people we used to go and see them. My wife's godmother, she lived not far from the sea. It was very nice. And of course we went to the village to Yesilkoy to see my wife's grandparents as well with the bus.
- Where will you take the bus from to go to Yesilkoy.

- From Famagusta. Near the Church of Agios Nicholas, there was a bus station in the old days. And the buses to the villages. They used to stop there. Then you could go and was very cheap, but then of course the prices in Cyprus were much different from what they are now. But I remember we went there, but most of the time we stayed, we were in Varosha, we went to Salamis, went to see the ruins and some monastery. It was such a long time ago. So you know, you're talking 50 years ago when you think about. And I remember things, but of course some things, but I don't remember every day what I did, I remember different places. And there's some different people we used to go and see, but I don't remember. You know, I mean, what I did every hour of every day, I just remember going there in different places. We saw at different experiences, you know?
- Do you remember the name of any of the cafes or restaurants that you were visiting?
- Boccacio, Edelweiss. Of course. And the goldfish on the Kennedy Avenue was famous. And the cafe Cambana at the Golden Mariana Hotel was very, very famous place.
- Why were they so famous?
- You can walk by it now, actually. And I was very tempted last year to go in because there's lots of trees in front. It's right next to where you walk the pavement and I think maybe you could get in there, but there are people walking by, so I decided not to, but I really wanted to go and look in the café Cambana. There was also White Horse pub. This was very well known. It's burned out now and smoky Joes we know because we knew the people that Pavlos that used to run this restaurant. Faliro by the sea. But it's gone now. They did knock it down last year because it was ruined and there was another restaurant along the beach called Akteon. And they took it down as well. Because it was falling and they destroyed it, they demolished it last year. And the other restaurant, of course, is the Alasia further down. Now this place, this place is still there, but one of my wife's school friends, her house, it's just opposite the sea where the Alasia is, senior Turkish army officer lives in this house with his family. They always did. Since 74 or 75. And you can't go there. It's prohibited. You can go with about 200 metres of this when you go towards Kennedy, but you're not allowed to go to Alasia to this area where there.

Because there's a beach there with some umbrellas for the senior officers to use and I think the UN? They're allowed to use this beach as well, but you're not allowed to go there if otherwise, if you're tourist, that's prohibits it.

- You're going to all of these places, did you go?
- I remember them before we were when in 73. These places were busy because everybody used to go there. They were famous, you know, and the Faliro was very old restaurant. And the men who ran it was Tasos, of course. But he died. He went to Limassol after 74. And there were some shops there that they belong to friends of my wife's family. They knew them. But they both died now they had a electric shock near to the gardens, but they both died now. And another friend of ours, he was a dentist in Famagusta. His wife was a school friend of my wife's mother. They both died. Their house is still there, it just inside the closed area where they are. They said they were going to open this area last October. But nothing happened, it's still closed.
- And you said White Horse Pub was also famous. Do you remember going? To that pub.
- We were going for Keo beer, but it's burned. It was damaged in the in the war. In 74 you can see it now. If you walk to the sea in Varosha, you can see it. But it's was burned. I think there were it caught fire, but you can see it there at the sign and everything, but it's destroyed, and Smokey Joes is still there. That this restaurant we know. Because my wife, the daughter of the of the owners is a friend of hers and some of the things are still in the kitchen. Some people went inside and took some film and there are still some things there and there is another place called Lion House near there where the British Army used to have their offices for the families, they had a clinic and a tea room, and some people went inside there and they took some film. Go there. It's near Faliro, where you go to the seaside, 5 minutes walk. Like the King George Hotel was a very famous place, but it's in very bad condition. The front of this fell down now. And if you go inside, it's not allowed, but because it's dangerous, you know the building, maybe it will fall down if you try to go upstairs. I think it's not, I wouldn't recommend it. And there's another old house belong to a very famous artist called Paul Georgiou, which is,

actually, in the same area and some of his old murals and the walls are still there. You if you look inside, you can see it. There were lots of orange trees in Varosha especially from the centre towards Derinya. There were many orange Groves and the trees were lovely and this time of year they used to smell they used to smell the orange trees at this time of year.

- And did you visit the Lion House when you were there in?
- No the army, the British Army were in there, but I saw army, the English families there and with children going in and out. But I have a friend and he was in the army in 74 and he is on one of the Famagusta sites and he's got pictures of it and he's friendly and he told me what happened in Varosha when the war happened and what happened afterwards and he told me about what was going on in those days. So he's very interested about it as well.
- And did you visit King George Hotel in 1973?
- Yeah, everybody go to King George. You could go there for many English ladies used to go there for tea in the afternoon and cakes. It was a nice spot because this lovely view of the sea and it's very old-fashioned small hotel. It belonged to one Cypriot from South Africa, but the men who ran it I think his wife was French. He was a fat man, and he came and lived near Paphos after 74, but I think he died. He had a nice house in a village in the 1920s, and he was living there, my father-in-law recognized.
- And was there any places that you were going, like, cinema? Did you go to any of the cinemas?
- Yeah, the Olympia was opposite our house. I went in the Olympia last year with my brother-in-law and took some photographs. It's, everything is ruined. Of course. It's all abandoned but we went into cinema and took pictures and there was another cinema called the Hadjihambi on democracy street. This was a very famous city. And you can

see it now if you go in democracy, in the street, you can see and Heraeion cinema was there and there was another cinema further then called Ideal in Stavros area opposite there lived the cousin of my wife's mother but their house was bombed in 74, it caught fire and it's destroyed.

- And have you visited Hadjihambis in 1973?
- I didn't go to see a film, but I remember it. It was the building is very famous and you can't miss it if you walk by it. Everybody knew this cinema. Some people now, they went inside this cinema. And they took some pictures, and you can see them on these websites. Yeah, maybe they found, like I did went in when there's nobody looking. They went for 5-10 minutes. And there was also a library in Famagusta, in the town in this area with lots of books. And of course, they're missing. And in the museum in Varosha, there was some very valuable things are antique things, and we think most of them were stolen. And of course, the very famous house by the sea was the Marangou's House. He had a collection of books. Very valuable books and it was called Sophie Loren's house by many people. But it wasn't actually Sophie Loren, but it was a beautiful, old, very big old house.. Lots of luxurious books, but now it's completely ruined and derelict and all the books are gone.
- And did you visit the library and museum in 1973?
- I went to the museum, but to be honest my wife was not interested a lot in these things in museums and this type of stuff. So I went just to look around. But you need to spend it time and to read about what things are there, if you want to see it properly. I think I wanted to go there. It's not far from our house, not even 10 minutes' walk. But when I asked my wife's brother, he said, look, I think we've been lucky. We came twice. We managed to see our house, he said. I don't think we should. You know, try to be too clever and go to places where somebody, he said if they see us, we will then maybe they will wipe all our pictures off. All our films will be taken, maybe we will be in prison and you know, and maybe we will pay a lot of money, he said let's be pleased and

grateful that we managed to see our house. And we managed to stay some time and look around and send pictures, he said. Let's be happy and say we were lucky with this.

- And what do you remember from the museum? Was it just the antiquities, or was there actual?
- Yeah, I thought. Different things in there, some old, like, you know these, some statues, some paintings. But I'm just. But I can't, you know, I vaguely remember just looking in there. And there were some other people, some Swedish people in there, and they were talking with the man that that was in charge, where you could go in and they were discussing some things that some archaeological things with him. So I didn't really look very much. Because my wife was said I don't want to go in museum, to waste time in this, weather is nice and it's better to go to the sea. I didn't stay very long.
- And there was a book shop on Democracy Ave. Have you visited?
- Yeah, that's Pavloss. But that's Kyrakou book shop. I know the man who has it, he opened in Limassol after 74 and he opened in Paphos as well about 10 years ago.
- Were you visiting the bookstore?
- I remembered this bookshop and I remember. I didn't go inside, but I remember it. And there were some travel agencies in this area. I'm trying to remember now. Patsalides travel was there as well. He opened in Agia napa after the war. He opened the travel agency, and I remember I used to talk to him. And he always said, oh, no, we're going to go back to Famagusta in sure by next summer, we're gonna go back. And he was like me, he said no, they're the Americans, they will fix something, the United Nations, and I'm sure. And I remember the man who was the mayor of Famagusta, he died Prodomos Vasiliou, he after Mr. Resigned, he was the mayor in 74. My wife's company from London, Tourist Company. Their agency was Mr. Papavasiliou's office, Johan in Limassol. They deal with Israel, with Zim lines. They're the agent for them and he was

an old man, but he kept saying to me ohh, you know, the United Nations are said to me that for sure that we will go back to Varosha very soon. And he always used to say that and one day I said to him, look, I don't think that the government on this side and that they really want to make a solution very quickly. They want to get everything like it was before 74 and I said I know he's not a good president and he got very angry with me and he said you shouldn't come and see these things. That is wrong what you say, but he said I don't believe Kyprianou is the person that he's gonna make an agreement about on the Cyprus problem. But of course, Denktas was in the other side and you know they didn't have anything. They agreed. You know, they didn't like each other. There was no, not like Klerides and Denktas. It was different that they knew each other. They were both advocates, but with Kyprianou and Denktas there was nothing to share between them.

- And do you see a future for Varosha?
- I want to go back very much, very much. But you know now, you know, I saw so many years have gone by. I told you when I came back to Cyprus in 79, I was 25. I'm nearly 69. The place is completely ruined. It will take billions to repair everything. And when will this happen? And by the time they rebuild, it's going to take minimum five years and how they will rebuild it, I'm going to be old. I want to go back, and many people want to go back, and many of them died waiting, like my wife's mother that we wanted to go back. She wanted to go back so much, and this was all she wanted, and she didn't even manage to see her house. Before she had died, which was very sad. My wife, though my wife doesn't like to go there very often, she says look, if there is no solution, what's the reason to go to Varosha to see everything like this? You can't go and stay there. You can't go and do anything she say why go there and waste time just to walk around in the sun and get tired? She said unless there is a solution, why keep going there.
- Did any of the things that happened after October 2020 changed your mind about the future?

- I myself, I was very angry but I didn't blame the Turkish Cypriots only for this I blame the Anastasiadis because I believe in 2017 there could have been a solution to the Cyprus problem and I believe that it was his fault that they didn't reach an agreement, not only the fault of Turkey.
- And when you went inside after the opening, was there any place in particular that you wanted to see again, apart from your house?
- Of course, the house was the number one, but I told you what happened. I tried to ask if it was possible. They said it's not allowed. And then I decided I'm going to try to find it. I know how to find the way. And I was lucky. And I did.
- Apart from your house, was there any place that you wanted to see?
- All of Democracy, the seaside, the hotels, the King George. The faliro, as much as I could see, I wanted to see. Everything I could, everywhere I could go, I wanted to see everything. And then I met some other Greek Cypriots walking around and we were talking and it was very. You know it's like it wasn't real for, you know, like it's the film you're watching. Like, it's that you're imagining that you can do these things that you can go there, that you can walk down the streets again when you couldn't before. And it was like, you know. Something I can't explain in words very strange feeling.
- And is there a place that you feel connected inside?
- The area where we lived, of course, and the gardens many places there because you know Varosha was, it wasn't just the town, it was a way of life, it had a culture. It had people, they knew each other. They had many modern things. It was very progressive town and it was very clean. The streets were very nice. They had a good people were very, very open minded, very friendly. It wasn't just that we lost the town it was that we lost the whole way of life. And the Society of who was broken up.

- Was there anything that was different to you when you came from Britain to Varosha?
- How do you mean?
- Like, was there anything that you were surprised to see in Varosha that was very different from what was Britain?
- Yeah, I mean. Obviously, the buildings are all abandoned, the houses are in bad condition, the signs of shops are faded, everything is wild. There's grass and trees growing everywhere.
- What about in 1973 when you came to visit what? Was there anything that was surprising to you or to see in 1973?
- Of course, Famagusta was very nice. It was very modern, and you know, there was a lot of things going on there. It was nice weather. When you go from England, people were very optimistic and positive about things. Which you know, no, we didn't imagine. What would happen the next year? We couldn't even think about this. That such thing could happen.
- Do you think anything inside of Varosha should be protected as it is now?
- I think they should allow everybody to go to see their places. And then see what before they knock everything down before they destroy anything. They should allow people to go and see it and take pictures. And maybe if there's anything left there that they want to keep, like souvenirs, they should allow them. But of course, they have to make a decision eventually. What they're going to do with the town if they're going to rebuild everything, how they're going to do it, it's a very big question. But I think they should allow people to go and see their places for sure.

- Do you think anything should be protected though, like how they are? How they were?
- Yeah, historical places, churches, museum maybe old buildings. They should try and protect them.
- And what about the places that carry sentimental values for the Varoshians?
- If possible, yes, but it depends whether they can be protected or if they are destroyed and they can't be protected. It depends, if possible, why not.
- And where would you say these places are?
- Some old buildings, some maybe places, public buildings, the market, the churches, these things.
- And what do you remember about the markets? Have you visited it?
- Yeah, I remember going in the market and it was very noisy and lots of fruit and and meat and everything there and a lot of people were very crowded. My wife didn't like going in there, she said I don't like noisy places that are crowded. And directly, you know, there was a lot of men smoking in those days. Nobody cared. But I remember.
- Thank you so much. This was all my questions.
- Good you can please e-mail me Nilsu, if you have any others, or you want to talk again. I'm glad anytime.

E37 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- I am very much sentimentally connected very much but also connected because we have lots of properties in Varosha. We were building in Varosha before we left. We were building, if you ever visit Varosha on the Kennedy Avenue, there are many buildings which bear the name Lordos. There are we build, we are developers and we have 5 hotels in Varosha.

- If I asked you what is your relation, how did your family start in Varosha? Were they always there, or did they move from another city?

- No, my mother, my father comes from a village called Avogoru. If you know the geography Cyprus, Avogorou now is on our side. And it's near the, it's one of the red villages, as you call them, red soil villages, and near Rachna, if you know that better. And my mother comes from a village called Aysergi, Agios Sergios. Which is near Salamis, ancient Salamis, and they were introduced to each other in 1937 as it was done at the time. There was no discos and the places to meet and flirt they were introduced by common friends and they got married in 1938. My brother Constantinos, who is an architect now, who was an, sorry, studied architecture. But he's a big businessman now. He's a successful businessman. Costantinos or Dinos was born in 1940. And I was born in 1943 in November. Three and a half years after him, he was born in March 1940. In the family we are two sons and two daughters. We all now are grandfathers and grandmothers. We were working together in Famagusta before the occupation and after we came here we again we started together and we built again, our old business. Which was property development and hotels. And we built again, we started again. Now we are all retired and pass on to our next generation.

- And how did the business start in Varosha?

- How did the business ohh OK, that's a good question. My father never finished school because his father in Evagorou, was a farmer, not a farmer he had a small land, small

field. And he also had a coffee shop, and he had a Barber shop. He was doing many jobs because he had seven children to feed. So my father was taken out of school at the 4th grade, after he finished the 4th class of the elementary school. So do you understand any Greek or no, not at all?

- Not at all.
- No, OK, he finished that in the elementary school 4th class and he started work in the fields. But he didn't like this job because he knew that he was going to spend his life in the fields. I mean working for the rest of the family. So, he escaped. He decided to immigrate to London. And in 1934, he immigrated to London. Where he was working as in a hotel as a waiter or was selling ice cream in the streets. He was doing two or three jobs at the same time. In 1937, he had collected at the time 250 sterling, he was saving, or 300. He came back to Cyprus. And he started his first job, which was job in a grocery shop. A grocery shop in Varosha. He didn't go back to Avagoru and in 1940, because of the war, there were no supplies. Like now, with the war in Crimea. When supplies are short, there were no supplies to buy or sell. So, he decided to buy a land in order to cultivate. He knew of farming. He decided to buy a land in order to grow some products to feed his family. There was no money from the grocery shop anymore. He opened, he bought the land and after six months, somebody, another from Varosha, went to him and said, George, my father was George. George, will you sell me your land? He said how much do you offer me? And he offered double the money that he paid in six months. Now that double the money was the amount, the profit, was the amount that he could have made from the shop in three years. So that started him and he said just a minute. So he went and put the money on another land. And then he divided the land into two pieces and he sold half. For three times as much as he had bought it. So in this way, he was investing again and slowly, slowly he was buying and selling land like this. In other words the war benefit, he benefited from the World War because he had to think of other means to feed his family. Then, in 1956, he sent my brother to London to study architecture. And he sent me in 1959 to London to study civil engineering. And we therefore, we were educated as architect and civil engineer, and we came back and we started with my father building on our lands and selling. And so slowly, slowly, you know you have to do the first mile to do 1000 miles.

So first we started building and selling. Then from 1967 until 1974, we have built and sold maybe 1000 flats on the beach, Kennedy Avenue in Varosha to mostly British buyers. And we had built five hotels. Small hotels, not the size of today. And then in 1974, everything ended that then we came over here. So, this was our start how we started.

- It's so crazy to think that you are one of the startes of the developments in Varosha. And you said you studied civil engineering in London, right? Do you remember the first work you did in Varosha?
- The first work was in a building that we had started. I think the name was Apollo Court. Apollo court and I was in charge of building that. Although I had just finished university, I had no experience, but then I learned a lot from that first job. That was Apollo court. And then other courts followed other buildings, like the next one was called the Edeal court, Cyprian court, Sunshore court, Les Sirens Court. But these were huge, huge projects of eighty hundreds units each. The last one was Seagate Court, which is outside Varosha, is near the Palm Beach water. You know the Palm Beach in Varosha?
- Yes, do.
- Where there is a huge building next to it. And you can see the picture. Let me see if I can find the picture. Can you see this? [Timestamp: 12.12] That huge building consists of 120. You want to take a picture with it. You can take a picture.
- I wasn't aware that those buildings were done by you as well.
- Yes, that this building is done by us, but not the island. That one is ours.
- The high rise ones.

- 120 units. My family still owns 60 units there.
- And that was the last work you did?
- There is one opposite to this. Where the army now Turkish army is there. That one is, we called it. This is called Seagate. This one is called Seagate, the other one opposite is called the Waterfront court, where the army is. That is also we built it also that one. And that smaller but again about 60. There are five shops there and 60 flats there, but this one is unique, this one I showed you.
- And did you have an office inside Varosha, where this all began?
- Yes, yes, of course. Our offices were at Kyriakos Bachi street, inside varosha. Since the Varosha has been opened, I have not been. And I have been all over Cyprus. I mean, our side and your side. I went to Trikomo, I went to Kantara, Agios Apostolos Andreas, you know the monastery. I went to Kyrenia, the old city of Famagusta where I have many, many Greek Turkish Cypriot friends. And I am very active in reunification. The reunification of Cyprus and when, you were young then but in 2004, we did the one huge cataclysmos on the beach at the Palm Beach Hotel. We cooperated with the authorities of Famagusta the mayor then was Oktay Kayalp, if you heard of him? He is a good friend of mine and we did it together. He helped us very much with all the structure, the setups, music, megaphones, microphone, drums. So, we had 4000 people that came over from our area to watch Cataclysmos. Cataclysmos is called is the deluge in English, deluge is we celebrate the Christians celebrated on the day of the Holy Spirit. Which is 50 days after Christ's resurrection. So we did the cataclysmos together despite Papadupulos. If you know politics, Papadupulos was the one who said no to the plan, ANNAN plan. Are you aware of our the politics of Cyprus?
- I am aware of it.

- You are aware, OK. We voted yes, of course, to reunite Cyprus, but we were the minority. And despite this, we went and did the lounge inside the Palm Beach where this building is near this. And because this is near the Hotel Palm Beach. So we did it and we did it again two years after that and we had the American ambassador, the British ambassador, the Swedish ambassador who came to support us to show their support. But the Greeks said wrong, the Greek Cypriots. And they left the Cran Montana again in 2017. Am I talking too much, too fast?
- No, no, no. You are giving me lots of information and the speed is fine. You said you didn't go back after the opening and I will have questions for that later on. But first where was the office building inside of Varosha?
- Now the inside Varosha, our office was near the municipal market, you know, what is the municipal market, where all the people used to go and take their goods to sell. It was Kyriakou Matchis street. We had our office there, we had our architecture, our civil engineering, all our things.
- So the architect was your brother. Civil engineer was you, who else apart from you?
- We had employed, of course, many other architects, engineers. We didn't do any design anymore, we became businessmen, developers. We were buying, selling, making loans from the bank.
- And when did you stop designing and became businessmen?
- At first, from 1967, when I went back to Cyprus, I did my one year military service and I started designing the buildings myself. I did the, I designed the one hotel and two buildings only. And then we gave them out to or to our people who are associates, who are working in our office with us. We gave them out. We didn't do because we were so busy marketing, you know, have to do marketing to promote, to make pictures and videos and videos that were not available at the time but we used to advertise trips

abroad to find customers, sign contracts with selling etcetera.. The first four years, yes, I was designing and this year, the Seagate Court, was designed by my brother, This Seagate was designed by my brother, but I didn't do the structural engineering. We gave it out.

- And you said you designed one hotel in one building. Which ones?
- The Golden Plage Hotel. Not the design of it, the structural statics. And the Golden palm hotel, I also did. Two hotels, Golden palm hotel.
- When you first came back from UK, I am guessing that at the time it wasn't as touristic as how it was by the end of 1970?
- No, no. Famagusta was not so touristic at the time because first of all, from 1960 until 1967, there were still wars and between Greeks and the Greeks and Greeks and Turks. There was also there were fighting, Greeks were fighting each other, unfortunately. So from 67 or 68 when I went into the business after I finished my army. Until 67, there were no, very little business from abroad, very little tourists. My brother had started his own hotel, Golden Marianna hotel. Over 80-85 rooms I think. Which at the time of the occupation, it was bombed by a Turkish airplane but not destroyed. Rocket went through one floor and came out of the other. So there were no hotels in 67, for tourists to come, there are maybe two or three hotels and then my brother added his own hotel, Golden Marianna. And then three or four hotels only by the time we left, there were many big hotels. Many Big hotels, not only for the family hotels, our familys', but also the government built one and were rented out to some Scottish company, the Salamis Bay was built by was built by Greek and British people, Salamis Bay. There were huge, massive hotels those.
- And when did your brother did the Golden Mariana Hotel? Which year?
- He did it in 67. 1967 he started.

- And when did it finish?
- It finished in at 1968.
- One year?
- Yeah, it was a small hotel, but we had our own people and we were doing it ourselves.
- Who was the suppliers for the construction? Were you getting any of the supplies from foreigners from outside of the country?
- No, no, no, no, no. Everything was from Famagusta. We were importing. There were importers and we were importing our own iron our own but most of the material was also sold by local merchants.
- And where was the main countries that you were getting the import from?
- I think it was England, Britain. I think the main country we were buying from was England. I don't, remember, any other country that was our main supplier, UK was our main supplier at the time most of the supplies were British. Five forks at the time and still from England and then mostly from England, from I mean England means Britain, buying everything from there.
- Was there a huge difference in Varoshaa before you went to university and after you came back?
- Of course I was away from September 1959, I went to England when I was 15 1/2 years old. I was a just a boy. I went there to start a level, to learn English, etcetera, because my father decided that I was wasting my time in Cyprus. It was true, in the

high school in Cyprus, so I came out of the 4th class. When I finished fourth class in September 59, I went to England with my brother who was there already. So I used to go back in summers. The change was, there was changes everywhere, but not so much change took place from 1967 to 1974. Not so much.

- What do you think was the inspiration behind that huge change?
- The inspiration was always what drives people progress, profit. This is what's driving the societies towards something to the next thing. It was better life, everybody works for better life. So we all work for a better life sometimes, of course we lose our targets and we become very greedy. As you know, everybody, it's human thing.
- Was there many construction companies inside of Varosha apart from yours?
- Yes, well, we were not doing any construction for any third parties. But there were constructors who were doing jobs for third parties. We were, we were called property developers. But we had our own, in-house construction department. We were developers and we were building our buildings ourselves. We didn't contract out.
- And did you or your brother, did you do any buildings that were public? Or owned by the government or the municipality?
- No. Only for our business, either to keep and rent or to sell.
- Is there a reason behind that or very guys not interested anyways?
- To make public buildings?
- Yes.

- We didn't want to get involved with government and municipality, that was not our line. Our line was to build and sell and make our own product. We designed it, we built it, and we sold it. We didn't need the government or the municipality to buy them from us.
- And what was the architectural inspiration behind all the buildings?
- Ah. The good views to the sea, most of our buildings were on the sea. So the inspiration was what did the market want. The people who came to buy, in England where they live, they didn't have sea views. So they came to buy and live on the beach, but not just live on the beach, walk to the beach and also from their balcony to see the water.
- And you said to advertise that you were doing trips?
- Doing trips to sell?
- Yes.
- Mainly, our main clients were in England. But my father also, who was, a very dynamic person and laborer, he took the airplane, went to, at the time, there was a lot of British, our market were British. And he went first, for example, he went to Iran before it became Islamic and fanatics. You know, at the time in the 60s, early 70s. He went to Iran, where there were oil installations, run and were run by the British, British people, I mean. So he went there and found these people in what is what is it called the town where he went? I forget the name of the town. It was a town on the Red Sea, I think. But it was, I mean, Iran was a normal, peaceful country, the Shah, if you ever heard of the Shah of Iran, who was overthrown by, I don't know, maybe, I don't know who overthrew him, I don't know the story, but he was overthrown, before then there was peace and prosperity in Iran. And my father went there to Iran. He went to South Africa.

And also other than British, buyers were Greek Cypriots of Australia of London. Of England I mean, of South Africa. So wherever there was a community of Cypriots immigrants I mean, who wanted to buy something in their own, in their patria, you know, in their homeland they were buying and they were introducing to others. I mean each one was introducing the other and it was a introduction by word of mouth. They used to say to their cousin, Mr. Lordos, George Lordos, my father is here, you want to buy something? He's selling property in Cyprus, flats in Famagusta. So if he was selling a lot of property like this by visiting, South Africa, Australia. Maybe at the time Zambia, and the other ex-colonies of Britain, London itself and Scotland, wherever there were Cypriots. And as I said, the British people who were working abroad, British expatriates who were working in Iran in the Arab countries, Kuwait, etcetera, yes, all this changed now. I did a few trips but after the occupation, I did a long trip to Singapore and Hong Kong. I did a trip to Russia and I found many clients at the time and brought them to buy from us but that was in 1990s, when I did this.

- This is really big story and it must have been hard after the 1974 to start the business again.
- It was a very difficult time because we had no money, nothing. We were finished financially destroyed. And the banks were not willing to give us a loan because you didn't have any mortgage. You know, what's a mortgage land for mortgage. We came out from Famagusta, hoping that we would be going back. We started our first building in 1976, small building, on a small plot that belonged to my father in Larnaca. That was whatever was not in Famagusta, we had very little outside Famagusta. We had this small plot in Larnaca, and we decided to take a risk. And the bank trusted us because they knew that we knew the business. We were honest. We had a good name. They trusted us and they gave us at the time a loan of £24,000, at the time. And we soon sold it without needing the loan from the bank. And then we start from that you have to do the first one and then all everything else grows follows.
- And when you left the office inside of Varosha, did you have a chance to get any of the project plans? The papers from the office?

- To bring them out with us here?

- Yes.

- We just saved our lives, you know, Famagusta was being bombed continuously. You were not born at the time. I don't. But we were, bombs were raining on us from the Turkish Air Force. Who would dare? And anyway, what to do with them? Since our designs were for lands inside, Famagusta or in the north? We never had any lands on our free areas, on our land where we came to save ourselves, so we didn't even take our the title deeds, you know, , the title of ownership, whatever to get anything out, we just, like this, it was summer, the 14th of August, and when started the bombs were falling. We just went into the car and ran to safety, without food, without anywhere to go. What happened to us is what is happening today in Ukraine. We went through with this 48 years ago. We know what the Ukrainians are suffering now.

- So after you went, after 1974, did you ever consider to rebuild any of the designs of the buildings?

- No, no, no. Because each design is designed for a specific land. You cannot take a design which is for a square land and feed it on a rectangular land or a triangular land. You have to take a land. As the shape is and then that start again. This is the easy part of it. It's not difficult to design again.

- Which project was your favorite inside of Varosha?

- The one here, the Seagate.

- And why is that?

- Because wherever, I own 20 flats on this still. And I have applied to. I'm going to the European Court of Human Rights. Of course I'm going to save my rights. So wherever you see, it's sitting on a peninsula wherever you take a flat, has a view to the sea. All over it's 360 degrees, so you need land in Cyprus. Evkaf is trying to demolish it now and give it to Turkish developers to build the maybe 50-60-70 storeys, they will not succeed I hope because we took it to the European Court of Human Rights, then they cannot succeed. But that was my favorite. Yes, the other favorite was Les Sirens. I gave you a name Les Sirens on Kennedy Avenue, that is where all our families had our, each one has a front sea view flats. I mean we joined two flats together and we made a big one about 200 square meters each. And each of the family, my father, my brother, my two sisters, myself and my wife, we had one and we were one above the other. My father was on the ground floor so that the grandchildren will go and stay with them and play in the yard. And then one of us was on the 2nd floor, third floor, 4th floor, fifth floor. We were all on one floor above the other, and we used to get together. All our kids who were born at the time, were friends playing on the beach. It was really a unique time for us. We were very united. When we came here, we cannot be all in the same building again because each one found somewhere to buy and or to rent. We couldn't do the same, repeat Famagusta.
- And I can imagine that you remember almost everything from Varosha because when you left, you were 15 and when you came back, you were 20 years old..
- 23, no 23.
- So if I asked what memory is the one that you remember the most, which memory?
- Memories of Famagusta or London?
- Famagusta, that comes to your mind.

- My best times were London, when I was free and had no responsibilities all I had to do was study. It was a student life like you know. In Famagusta, the best memories were, first the best memories were when I was born. You know, coincidentally, yesterday I was interviewed by another young man who is from France, who came to visit me on Wednesday, sorry, not yesterday, on Wednesday. Yesterday I went to and I made the mistake of with you. Yesterday we went to Protaras. On Wednesday very nice young man, French came with a very nice Turkish girl, her name is Aysu, she is vice Dean of the University of Eastern Mediterranean University. Very nice girl. And all the people I accept to speak to are those who want reunification of Cyprus. I don't want to speak to people who are for partition. I cannot tolerate any of this. Its unification and the Turkish Cypriot side to be inside European Union. Like we are. This will happen eventually. After what happened to Ukraine, I believe that Turkey now will know that also to. And this, of course, is not Turkey to blame our politicians, they are afraid or they had too much interest in money. They were selling passports here on our side at the time. So they didn't want to interrupt the business of selling passports in order to unite Cyprus, but this is parentheses, so the best I said, the same questions came from them and the same answers. The best memories are when I was at the age of say between 4-5 and 11-12, but we were in a small house in Yelasiou street, in Famagusta. It was no asphalt roads, it was earth roads and you are all children of the neighborhood playing until 9-10 o'clock at night. And that was my best time when I grew up at 11, in 1954, we moved to another area, which was a first floor house, but I lost all my friends. And when you change house and change school, you lose your friends. And that's something parents don't understand. My parents didn't understand what happened to me. I had lost my confidence. When you lose your friends and you lose them when you go somewhere else, you have to reassert yourself and establish to be accepted by others. So the best times were those first eleven years or 12 years of my life in that house where I was born. Yelasiou street number 10 in Famagusta.
- And where did you move to at the age of 11?
- We moved to another street called Yuripidis street near the stadium. And then I went off to London in 1959 and we moved to Yuripidis street number 34 in 1954, until 1959, but those were the years of EOKA. You heard of EOKA? So everything changed in our

life. It was an unnecessary struggle. That divided our society, Greeks were killing Greeks, Greeks were killing British and Greeks and Turks were killing each other. Hell broke loose. Our good life under the British was destroyed because some of us and eventually all of us, want to believe that we wanted Union with Greece. What union? Now we are European Union and we are all united 27 nations. This is the best union and we are independent. And that's where we want you to come in the Turkish Cypriots. You must join the European Union.

- Correct me if I'm wrong before 1960, Greek Cypriots were allowed in, going to the Old Town of Famagusta?

- Before 1954, yes. Before 1955, yes. And we used to go with my mother. We used to go to Agios Sergios Exarinos church, inside the old city of Famagusta. We used to go, yes, inside the Old city, because you were friends with Turkish Cypriots before 1955. All that changed in 1955. And some Turkish Cypriots who were living in Evripidi street, next to us, they were afraid and they left. They went inside Famagusta, the old city. So we had to, between 55 and 59, I don't want to remember. It was a time of fanaticism, a time of ethnicism, and this I hate now, I hate. Other things that I remember was the weekends at my grandparents Aysergi is the village near Famagusta, Agios Sergios. I don't know the name today they changed the names, Turkey changed the names and we don't like that. We don't change names. I don't like changing names. I mean, here we have still Turkish Cypriot villages on our side, which we kept the names. It is not correct to change the culture and the tradition of the other side, but Turkey is doing it. Not the best country to have a war with to fight with. Turkey is very difficult and they are Turkish politicians are really extreme. So not that ours are better. The nationalism both sides, nationalism is really sin. So I used to go on Saturday and Sunday and stay with my grandfather and grandmother in the village that were really memorable. I used to go to the field with them when they were doing their aloni. What's aloni? You know, when they were cutting the weed and then running over it and then throwing it in the air to separate the seeds from, you know from that was really the best time I lived the village life. They had the goat we were milking. They had pig that they were slaughtering once a year to make their jar, to preserve meat in the jar. They used to have chicken and cockerel. That was the best, really memorable. I wouldn't change

that with the all the wealth of today. I love that. So this was really the best time I remember. The other things remember I was playing with my friends football, volleyball, pirilla. You know, balls, the glass ball. There is another game that you called sgadulliga, you pile of stone and try to break it with the throwing money at the pile of stone and if I demolish it, he has to pile it up again. And until then, I have to go and collect my wallet. And if I if he manages to set it up again. And he can touch me and then I have to stand guard. And this pile called scadulliga. I mean, you know, SCADA, SCADA is shit. Yesterday she knew it yesterday. The lady who came yesterday. What did I call her?

- Aysu.
- Aysu knew the word scadulliga. We used to play with our sling, go after birds. And the best times were three months of summer in Kantara.
- My house is on the Kantara Road.
- We used to drive through Trikomo than Ardahan, from Ardahan to Kantara. Or otherwise we used to go from Irani to Kantara.. But our normal way was Trikomo, Ardahan, Ardana is after Trikomo, I don't know what is the name of Ardana today?
- I think it's Ardahan now. Yeah, they didn't change that a lot. So which schools were you going to?
- Have you been to Kantara?
- I did.
- When you go to Kantara. There is a huge house at the bottom of Kantara, on the Cliff. The last house near the church there is a church there. It has not been demolished.

That is Kantara Panagia. You know, what's Panagia, Russian mother, Russian Mary. Our house is the one which is touching there. That today is run as a hotel by somebody... That we built that house and we had 12 rooms for our family, all of us.

- Must have been lovely to do holidays there.
- We spent three months there when we were children we didn't have that house, of course, that big house was built in 1970. Before that, we had a small house, no electricity, no water, nothing, but we still loved it. We used to walk from Kantara to the castle, the 100 castle of Regina. We call it Castle of Regina or the 100 rooms cousin.
- It has an amazing view. And at the age of 11 till 15, which school were you going to? Was it the gymnasium?
- The Greek gymnasium? No, I finished the elementary school in when I was 12, 1955. From 1955 until 1959, I went to the gymnasium of Famagusta, the Greek Gymnasium of Famagusta. Which is today, you can see it. It has been opened by Tatar and they put the Turkish flag on outside. With Greek columns and you know. Now that was my school, but much of the time it was closed because we became fanatics and we were going up the roof and setting up the Greek flag and the British Army came there running to take it down. And we had the fighting with the British. That was in a bad time, very bad time. I remember poor, poor, young British English soldier was killed there one day when they surrounded him. The big ones, the bigger students. I was only the first class I was 12 at the time. The big ones of the school were 18 at the time they surrounded him and they killed him with a stone. Terrible, terrible. I cannot forgive this this crime. They killed an innocent young soldier.
- Is it because of the conflict that your most memorable times are before 11 years old?
- Yes because it was a quiet time, peaceful time, no war, no conflict. We were living the life of that every young boy and girl deserves. Playing carefree when I became 12 and

this conflict started. Everything changed and since then everything is going from bad to worse and worse.

- Do you have anything favourites or good memory from your times in the Greek gymnasium?
- I don't have good memories because the memories at the time were of conflict and most of the time the school was closed by the authorities, the British authorities, because you were demonstrating. I don't have. I have bad memories from that time. Very bad memories. I hate to remember because it was a time of conflict and hate and we had become fanatics also ourselves we didn't understand and we just accepted what Archbishop Makarios and Grivas were telling us about ENOSIS. Which was all wrong and brought all this disaster upon Cyprus. I don't want to remember those times. Very bad memories and because I also believed in that, believed them. So you now that you are, I don't know how much history, you know, try to be yourself. Try to be on the side of reconciliation. To bring people together, Greeks and Turks and everybody, it's the time we must forget about conflict and nationalism. These are poisons. So you are a young girl, try and bring people together in friendship and love. Tolerance is tolerance is here. You must tolerate. Learn to tolerate. Look at the war in Ukraine now. The Russians went in. Putin internationalist, imperialist and he wants to recreate the old Soviet Union. He cannot be allowed to do that. People need to live in democracy and freedom. And they cannot accept that dictatorships like the one of Putin, can't be tolerated. The West must not allow him. If he is allowed, many others will follow.
- Hopefully not.
- Hopefully not. It's up to us. To support the public opinion to support the West against Russia, Ukrainians deserve democracy and peace.
- On that note, what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?

- It is very immoral and very unjust situation. Famagusta belongs to the people of, the citizens of Famagusta. It has been closed for 48 years, although there are United Nations decisions that declare that Famagusta must be returned under United Nations auspices returned to Famagusta, until the problem is solved. So it's very unjust, very unfair. It shouldn't be closed, become a ghost town for 48 years. This is wrong. And this is when I say that we cannot allow Putin to do what he's doing in Ukraine. This shouldn't be allowed either by the West. Turkey should not be allowed to keep Famagusta closed and keep it as a ghost town for 48 years. They should give it back, according to United Nations Resolutions 550 and 789. These are the resolutions. If you want to look at them and find them. There are two resolutions 550 and 789, which declare that Famagusta should be returned to its rightful citizens. No Evkaf come now and say ah, Famagusta belongs to me. No Evkaf has no rights in Famagusta. They sold the rights to the British when the agreements of Cyprus or establishment of Cyprus. And anyway, there is a decision already in the European Court of Human Rights, Famagusta doesn't belong to Evkaf, Famagusta belongs to its rightful citizens.

- And you said after the checkpoints opened, you went to the Palm Beach area where you celebrated Catoclysmosis. And after that, were you visiting the surrounding area, next to the wires to try to see inside of Varosha?

- Yes, we went to the wires and we are the ones who put that sign there. That says open up my soul is inside. If you remember, near Faliro on the wires. One of the boys who was in that Cataclysmos went there and he stuck this, which said open up my soul is inside Famagusta.

- Did you try to see any of the buildings inside or where you just?

- I have not been since it opened Varosha, I have not been. I don't want to go.

- But before the opening, were you trying to see inside of Varosha from the wires?

- The wires only. But when we approach there, the soldiers say go back. And no photographs allowed.

- And what was the buildings that you were specifically trying to see?

- Nothing, I wanted to see my town. Not just one building. I mean, we can see Famagusta, from Derinya, from the heights of Derinya. But Famagusta, you cannot see from the wires, you can only see a small part of.

- Why did you choose to not go after they opened the streets?

- It's too sentimental for me. I don't want to go. Although I have, we have 5 hotels there. We have many blocks of apartments. We have so much property. I have my house. I don't want to go there because. If I am not allowed to go and live inside my house or live with peace. They say now come back and take your homes, they say, who dares? If there is no solution, I shall be surrounded by soldiers and by enemy people. I mean enemy, you know, not Turkish Cypriots like you. I mean, like we need peace. So I don't want to go back because I shall feel very sad.

- And I'm guessing you have seen the photos taken inside of Varosha, right?

- Yes, I have seen of course.

- And did you have any memories coming back to you from those photos?

- Of course, of course I have seen the photos and memories came back and one lady who went inside Varosha, went up to the floor where I was living because she had also a flat on the same floor, Les Sirens. She went there and took a video and she sent it to us. It's all derelict, you know, derelict, I mean, ruins dirty, no windows, no doors, no lifts. That building, Les Sirens, was eleven floors. I was on the 4th floor. Who is going

to go up there without the lift and it doesn't belong to me. It belongs to many, 90 different families. There were 90 flats in there, I think. So somebody has to pay to make it work again, that building, make it operational. Who is going to pay? Am I going to go back and stay in my flat? And walk up the four floors, even if they allow me to go back. Will they? I'm moving my hands while. We're so I must. Tell this you can see my hands also, am I going to? Go there with my wife, at my age and live there alone, in ruins. No water, no electricity, no lift, no windows, no doors. Everything is taken away. Why should I go back? Just to see and cry. So what they are saying come back to your homes. It's hypocrisy. Give me repair, repair my house, repair my streets, put electricity and put water supply, give me all the substructure economy. And when you do that, I go back. But I go back in security under United Nations Security.

- Apart from the apart from the video inside of Les Sirens. What else? What kind of memories that you had coming back?
- Apart from the video. We have good memories. Because we used to walk down, go down to the beach and we had swims. You know that the water there is uniquely beach, the golden sand and the water there is shallow. So these are memories, I had one daughter of two and a half year old at the time we all used to go down with our other families, my brothers, cousins, etcetera and sisters, and we used to enjoy the swimming, we get together there dance, make kebab and have beach parties.
- Is there a place that you feel the most connected inside of Varosha?
- Most connected. What do you mean most connected?
- Like a place that you feel you are connected to.
- I'm connected to Famagusta, Varosha.
- As a whole?

- The soul of Famagusta. I have no one building that I'm connected to. I am nostalgic of my town. And I shall die in nostalgia of my town. I shall die nostalgic of Kantara, of the village of my grandparents, that they used to grow. Of salamis where we used to go and pick mushrooms. And Karaulos, is the snails, kapari and all this that we used to go in the forest and pick. Apostolos Barnabas was, is in my heart, the monastery of Saint Barnabas, has Christian Bishop of Cyprus. Who was buried there Barnabas Monastery? You know, the Barnabas? I am connected to all this. Saint Barnabas, Kantara, Famagusta. The soul of Famagusta, the spirit of Famagusta. I'm not connected to my house only. I'm nostalgic for all this.

- So after you came back from UK, the conflict was a bit less and the life started to get back to normal a bit more.

- It became worse, after I came in 67 then EOKA B was alive and there was a fighting between Greeks and Greeks. And that is, unfortunately, we were too busy with our business. We didn't get involved on either side either. We never got involved and we were busy with our business. And meeting people, entertaining people, clients and friends, and having beach parties at Trikomo, Trikomo beach our lands there. So it became worse until 1974, the 15th of July, Very bad memories for a small country. Now, of course, there are hundreds of thousands like this dead in Ukrainian either side, the Russian soldiers, young boys from both sides being killed. I feel very sorry. Not just I am on the side of Ukraine, but it doesn't mean that I don't feel sorry for the young Russian boys who are being killed. The same happened with the occupation. War is like this. War is where parents bury their children. Peace is where children bury their parents. Did you hear? Did you know this? Write it down. If you don't know this. Parents bury their children in war. In peace, children bury their parents. But people will not learn.

- You said in 1955 and until 1959 they were closing the school because of the conflict. But in 1967, after 1967, you said you were too busy, that you didn't get involved. So would you say that the reflections of the conflict was less in Varosha after 59-60s?

- The reflection what do you mean?
- Reflections of the conflict, like I'm guessing the school hasn't been shut down after 60s?
- In 1950s, EOKA, they were closing, the British were closing our schools and we didn't get any education. In 1967, after that I was a grown up man and you know it was different. There's no comparison for me.
- How was life then? How was the daily life? What were you doing?
- In when 67 to 74?
- What was your daily life like?
- Like every normal life of every normal society. Normal society in England, where is peace. When there was war in 1914 with Germany and England and Britain, and together, that was a conflict, there were no normal life. But they fought, thank God, and they won. The one dictatorship of Hitler and Hitler didn't have his way, but millions and millions were killed in the war. So there is no comparison. In 67, we were living a normal life without realizing. But we didn't realize that it was going, it was so serious.
- And at the time from 1967 to 1974, what was the places that you would spend most of your time?
- At the time Nilsu, there were not many, but some cafes. Which didn't exist in the 60s or the 50s. So as young men not married at the time we used to go to the cafes, there was a cafe called Boccacio, opposite the gymnasium, that was our meeting place, Boccacio. And every afternoon, all young men of us and few ladies, not many, we used

to get there and have our coffee and chat and gossip. You know, the usual cafes. There were some discos. The Peroquete, but we didn't. I didn't go there, but we had in one of our hotel, the Golden Pladge, on the beach of Famagusta, which has been used by the Turkish army since 1974, the golden Pladge was used by the Turkish army and I think still use. The golden Pladge we had, inside there was a club on the ground floor. Which was very nicely designed with caves and I think it was called the Golden Pladge caves. I'm not sure. And we had a very talented entertainer, there, he is dead now, Mr. Putunzas. He was so funny that he brought people from Nicosia. He brought people from Famagusta, nights and weekends to dance and spend their time at the Golden Pladge. There, there was dancing and singing and eating and drinking. These were the places we used to go. Other ways we were not much interested in other, you know, frequenting other than the Boccacio, the cafes. Our life was outside, usually with in the having our private our practice at the Trikomo Beach Kantara houses entertaining many people.

- And before you said there wasn't many cafes. Before Boccacio, what were the things that you and your parents would do?
- Before 67?
- Yes.
- Before 67, I don't know because I was in London. There weren't any anyway, very few nonexistent because from 60 to 67, we still had trouble this time it was again trouble between Greeks and Greeks, killing each other. And between Greeks and Turkey, the National Guard and Turkey. So there was no peace that people would enjoy, peace came to Cyprus after 1967-1968. All that was finished in July 74. But before 67 I was in London enjoying my London student life.
- And you said the office was around municipal market?

- The office?
- Was near the municipal market. Were you visiting municipal market or what? How can you describe me that?
- Or yes, the municipal market is like all markets, we don't have them today. Today we have the malls. But at the time, the municipal market was a place where you could go and buy fresh vegetable, fresh meat, fresh fish, like in shepherds Bush market in London, for example, an open street markets. Here in Cyprus, now on our side, there are no such. No, there are there is one every Saturday. There is one in Limassol, for example there is one where people go and buy their fresh vegetable fresh. But that was only on Saturday here. Like in other cities, only once a week. Now there that was a municipal market. With cover, roof. And inside there were small shops selling vegetables, selling groceries, selling meat, selling fish and then yes inside that was the market of the time. I didn't go. I mean I didn't go to shop. But I knew it. I have been many times there and I knew what it was.
- And in front of the municipal market, there was this small park as well with the fountain and there was kebab shops around it as well.
- Bravo, there were kebab shop. How do you know that?
- I know a lot about Varosha by now.
- You interviewed many people? Outside the market were kebab kiosks were selling very nice kebab and sandwiches. And also selling peanuts. And selling at the time, you know what? You know something, they used to that is where they used to there were many Turkish Cypriots there outside selling muhallebi, this street vendors, gannauri, you know gannauri?
- I know.

- At the time we used to love gannauri, because it was dried seeds, that they used to kasanizzu, roast them, roasted gannauri. The most delicious seeds that I have ever, ever taken down. They were sold in, you know what, they used to make the huni, and they used to put them in the paper shaped huni. And we used to buy them and enjoy salted roasted gannauri. You understand what this is now? Made from gannauri, but I think gannauri, I have not tasted, ymaybe you have gannauri when it is green, it is drug, when it is dry like I described, most delicious and not addictive. Cannabis.

- And there was a cinema close to the municipal market where you going to any of the cinema?

- Heraeon. Heraon very nice cinema with that was our time as boys, young boys we used to go there on weekends Saturday afternoon, Sunday afternoons where they had Greek movies or English movies. The first cinema I saw at Hadjihambis cinema. Hadjihambis on the Democracy Avenue. Still there, I saw my first cinema scope, which was the rope. The robe. It's the story of the rope of the Christ when he was on the cross. They divided all his clothings, but the rope was not divided. It was given to one soldier. They played dice, the soldiers and one of them took the rope and then the rope changed hands. And this is the story of the rope. The rope of Christ. And that was made into a cinema scope. You know, it's a cinema scope. It was a new technology at the time. The second cinema I remember cinema scope was Dimitrius and Messalina. Messalina was the wife of Emperor Claud Claudius who fell in love with a slave gladiator called Dimitrios. And so on. That were really memorable at that times because we used to go as children in the cinema. We were eating our pistachio, peanuts and when we left the cinema there was a pile of peanuts on the floor of the cinema. It took them hours to clean.

- And on Democracy Ave. I'm guessing because you were living on Les Sirenes court, you had to take the road of Democracy Avenue to go home from office.

- From my office, from my office? No, no. From my office. I took another road. I didn't need to go from Democracy avenue to Kennedy Avenue, I took the roads that led to Kennedy Avenue also. But Democracy Avenue was the Center Famagusta, the life of Famagusta in the 50s. We, my father had a shop there on Democracy Avenue number 14.
- What shop?
- Shop for it was a big grocery shop at the time, George Lordos. And then after he left there and went to Kyriakous Mathics street, my father's brother, Michael took over and he made it the clothing shop. Number 14, democracy. Ah, Democracy Avenue, became after independence. Before that it was called the King Edward the 7th, the 8th, before becoming the Democracy Avenue, it was King Edward the 8th. Avenue or street and perpendicular to that was Hermes Street. Hermes and democracy are going to democracy, going down to the sea. Now, Hermes, my father had his first shop on number 77 Hermes Street, Hermes is the God of trade in ancient Greece, the ancient God of trade, Hermes.
- And what else on the Democracy Avenue was important for you, places buildings that was playing role in the life of you?
- Hermes Street was my first Street, I used to go when I finished school. When I finished elementary school. My father, who was very strict and well, so. He didn't allow me to go and play with the children in the streets. He wanted me to be right there at the shop. And I learned to sell beans and patches and oil and everything that my father was selling, soap. That was a grocery shop of my father, so I used to be there after I finished school until the shop closed, I learned to work from childhood. And little playing not much. And then when he moved to this King Edward the 8th Street 8th or 7th? I think it was king. Ohh no maybe King Edward the 7th. Edward the 8th, I think. I used to go there in the afternoons also. So these were the first jobs of my life jobs say, you know, I used to go there to learn, to weigh, you know, on the balance I used to learn to put things on the balance and weigh them and sell. Then the next important street was

Kennedy Avenue of course, which was my house where we lived and we used to go down to the beach. And Matsis street, which was I think 31 number Kyrakios 31, I think. Where we had our offices, our architecture, civil engineering office and the development, you know where we used to design buildings and work from there, meet clients etcetera.

- What else there was around the office. What was it on the on that street?
- On that street, which one?
- The office Street?
- Our office street, next to us, there was a meat shop, I think Mr. Tangaras opposite was Mr. Dimitriades. Who was agent for Subaru, no, not Subaru. Hatch cars there. The Hatchet cars I think. There was Armenian photography shop next to us, Mr. Agob, Armenian, nice, nice man. He was a photographer of the town. There was a pharmacy next door. Above was pharmacy of Mr. Spanos. That's it. Nearby, 50 meters away, was the old electricity house. Before the electricity stations of money and they gave yeah. The electricity was produced in that old electricity house next to our, in the 50s. In the 50s, electricity was produced in that place and distributed from there it was a different time.
- And on Kennedy Ave. was there any place that was for public apart from the beach? Was there any place that you would go?
- No, no, no. There were lands, that we were aiming at them to buy them and build.
- What about Alasia restaurant?

- Alasia restaurant. We used to go in the 50s. And it was a very nice place, Alasia restaurant. All Famagusta used to go to Alessia to eat nice chop, nice souvlaki. They had good food in the 50s in the 60s it became less popular.

- And what about Faliro?

- Was a good place. We used to go and eat good fish. In the 50s and 60s. And the Akteon, Faliron and Akteon were near each other, and King George Hotel was on the other side of that road that came to an end to the sea. The King George, the Akteon. No, Faliro, King George and Akteon, I think now all these were very popular places. The Faliro and Akteon, we used to go in the 50s with my parents to eat and enjoy Cataclysmos. Cataclysmos is as I said before, at the beginning, is the day that we celebrate the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit that came down 50 days after Jesus resurrection. And but for some reason we also celebrate cataclysmos of Noah. You remember Noah from the Bible. Noah was the only one that survived Cataclysmos. God in the Old Testament, God informed Noah that there was going to be a deluge all over the earth. The Earth was going to be flooded with water. And so knowing this, Noah started building his ark, his boat. And in there, he took his family, his three children and their wives and all animals of Earth so Bible says. And waited for the rains to begin. So the rain started falling down and they were raining for 40 days nonstop. And the earth was all Cataclysmos, I mean was flooded. And the only man and his family and his belongings and animals, was the Ark of Noah survived. Now that ark of Noah, finally went up to Mount Ararat. Mount Ararat is in Armenia or maybe Turkey today. It is the one of the highest mountains in Asia. Other than Everest and things at the time. So the Ark of Noah, he, put it on the Google search and you'll find it. The Ark of Noah, so that it went there and then? Noah sent out a pigeon to see if it would, what would happen? And the pigeon came back. That means it didn't find a tree to sit on. And then again the other day, he sent another pigeon, and again the same. And on the 3rd or 4th day, after 40 days, the pigeon came back with an olive tree, an olive branch. And then NOAH realized that the water level started falling down. And when the waters fell down, his ark was trapped on the top of Mount Ararat. You can put in search in the Google Earth. It's very interesting. So this is what we celebrate the day of the floods, fifty days after the, I don't know why this tradition. I don't know why we

celebrate the day of the Holy Spirit we celebrate together with cataclysmos. So what did you ask me about Cataclysmos?

- So you were talking about Faliro and that's why you explained to me why you were celebrating it.
- Yes there we used to go there for cataclysmos also because cataclysmos was taking place in Famagusta at that place.
- Apart from cataclysmos, there was other festivals of Varosha as well, which is it?
- Other yes, there was the orange festival. Every I thing, that was taking place in front of the Greek gymnasium of Famagusta. That you will now see with the Turkish flag on, you know those. Greek columns. Now the Greek, this orange festival, you know what it means that we were celebrating the oranges, which was a product of Famagusta. Famagusta orange Groves were famous for the oranges. Other festivities I cannot remember Nilsu.
- When you were in the elementary school, were you taking part in this orange festival?
- No, I didn't take part in the Orange Festival. I was only just visitor. Yeah, there were also ancient, the ancient drama in the in the ancient theater of Salamis, we used to go there very often when there were. And now I know that every year there is something going on in the ancient theater of Salamis.
- And did you have any connections to Likeon Ellinidon or have you visited for any particular reason?
- Not myself. My mother and my sisters and my wife. I didn't ever participate personally.

- Is your wife also from Famagusta?

- No, my wife was born in Nicosia. But she grew up in Famagusta. And we met each other and we fell in love. Actually her origins her parents come from Morfou but her father was, at the time of the British, he was one of the commissioners. District officer. So he became the district officer of Famagusta in 1963. He came from Paphos, he was going around and from Paphos and then in Famagusta, we met.

- So when we talked about Alasia, Faliro and Akteon, you said you were going there in the 50s. After you came from UK . So after the 1970s, what were the places for you?

- For eating?

- Anywhere.

- As I said before, we used to go still to Boccacio. There was another the Edelweiss, next door, these were two cafes. Other than that, we used to go to our own hotels because we had five hotels and we used to go and eat there or meet there. I mean, we were grown-ups by then and growing up business. We are business man and we didn't have so much time to spend other than the Boccacio for coffee, we didn't go dancing etc. that was not our age. It was by the time I left; I was 30 years old, in 1974.

- Did all the hotels have the same facilities like restaurants?

- Yes.

- And I don't know if there is a connection, but when we were talking about your marketing and your main customers, you said it was all British and UK, mainly British and there was this bookstore on Democracy Avenue Kyriakou Bookstore..

- Kyriakou bookstore which is now in Limassol. And I go there and buy books and whatever I want to. If I want to order a book, I order through Kyriakos here, Pavlos Kyriakou. Also there was a politis bookshop. When we were children, there was politis bookshop before Kyriakos. There was a good bookshop called politis Angelos Politis. And as children we used to go there and buy cartoons, you know Mickey Mouse, you know, or classical books with pictures. Those were two good book shops in the 60s in the 50s, angelos politis, in the 70s, Pavlos Kyriakou.
- And their customers were mainly British as well. Did you have any connection with that bookstore or any connection between your customers and theirs?
- No, the British didn't come as buyers of books. The British visited, they didn't come to retire. They were only buying in Cyprus because they love Famagusta, the beach. They loved the Cypriots, then of the time. And they loved to spend their holidays in their flats when they were away, we created a company called Flat Management Services and we used to rent the flats out for them. So that they collected that some income to pay for their common parts and their upkeep. So we were offering service as well.
- Do you see a future for Varosha?
- I don't know. I don't know. Unless I don't, I cannot tell you this, because now they're talking of two states. Most unfortunate is that our President, who was a friend of mine before, after, after 2017, I don't want to know him. And I write on Facebook against him, and I write on Twitter against him. I say that he betrayed Cyprus without calling him traitor because we don't want to start again a conflict. But then he went to Cran Montana and Montpellier ran and instead of solving the problem because then at the time Turkey was ready to give concessions to be without the guarantees, we don't want guarantees from Turkey, we are in the European Union now and what our target is for you, for Turkish Cypriot side to go also in European Union, this is my dream. And this is what I am writing about all the time in the social media. Now instead of, Anastasiadis went to cran Montana and he didn't want to solve the problem according

to the Secretary General, Mr. Gutierrez, proposal for a normal state Cyprus to become a normal state without Turkish guarantees or Greek or British. Without the influx of settlers without the right of occupation, become a normal state and for the both sides to enter European Union there instead of saying yes, it's about given opportunity. I don't know what will happen to Famagusta Nilsu, I don't know. I feel very sad when I think of the future of not just Famagusta, Cyprus. I am afraid of Cyprus.

- Did the opening of the streets changed your mind? Did it have any effect on how you think of the Cyprus problem or Varosha?
- No, it became worse because they didn't open Famagusta to give it back to us, under United Nations security resolutions that we go back and feel safe. I don't want to go back and then be run my life to be run by Turkish soldiers. Never. I don't dare.
- Do you think any of the places inside of that Varosha should be any of the places or buildings inside of Varosha should be protected as how they are right now?
- How do you mean, protect it?
- Preserved as how they are is right now.
- Right now, many buildings are they are 48 years old, not ever renovated or kept up repaired, except few buildings on Kennedy Avenue, including our own hotel Golden Plage, including a hotel of my uncle called the Sandy beach, where the army is again, those were kept up because the army was in there. I don't know of any other buildings that, since I have not been there to see. But uh, when one girl went to up this the, as I said before, I think she was visited my flat. She was on the same floor. She took a video and sent me, and in there only rats and mice leave now. No windows, no doors, nothing there. In my building Les sirens. So what? How can, who will ever repair this Turkey? They need billions. Billions to repair them. The only way to say, OK, I give you Famagusta and you each repair your house with the help of funds from the European

Union, from whoever to bring electricity, roads, sewage and the water. We need all this to live in a town, so by repairing the Likeon Ellinidon and the gymnasium opposite, that's propaganda. That's not, they didn't repair it to show that care. It's propaganda. And I'm too old to be carried away by propaganda, by whoever, Turks or Greeks or anybody. I don't get carried away from propaganda anymore.

- Then I will change my question. Do you think any of the places should be renovated just to preserve this soul of the Varoshians?
- Who will renovate them Turkey?
- No, I don't want to discuss the who but if we were to protect.
- I don't think that many buildings are Likeon Ellinidon and the gymnasium have been renovated. I don't know any site, but they have been renovated the frontage now as other buildings to be renovated. I don't think, other buildings should be renovated because they will be claimed by Turkey, Evkaf. I don't want to entertain such, accommodate such a, you know, and I mean public buildings you mean?
- Yes.
- Because Famagusta doesn't have many public buildings. They have the mayor's office, which has never been. It was always outside the fenced off area, the mayor's office. That was used by the Turkish Cypriot mayor I visited there many times, when we were doing the cataclysmos, I met with Oktay Kayalp, the mayor. Then we became very close friends and we cooperated to do the cataclysmos. Yeah, that has been kept. The other buildings of the district officers building, I think they were bombed the last time I visited, they were still ruins. I don't know if they repaired them. But they are outside the Famagusta fenced off Part. Inside Famagusta there are not many public places other than the Gymnasium and the some schools, I don't know if they repair some schools. As I had said to somebody who telephoned me six years or five years

ago. A friend of mine telephoned me, Turkish Cypriot, to tell Akis, do you want to sell your hotels? I said to whom he said there are Turkish developers who want to buy? I said over my dead body, I said not for a billion euro. I don't sell my hotel. Why? Not my hotels, my family's hotels. He said. Because I said Famagusta belongs to its rightful owners. No Turkish developer will just buy and legalize the theft because this is a robbery. These are my feelings. And I don't blame just the Turks, as I said I blame all fanatics and opportunists. And all money, greedy people, whether they're Greek developers or Turkey developers who just grab and they say which is illegal, we bought it from Lordos not for a billion euros, I don't sell. And they're all worth a billion EUR. They're worth, maybe all of them, maybe 60,000, EUR, 60 million, 50 million. All of them there anyway they are old the hotels, it just the land is valuable, not them. I don't sell. Famagusta belongs to the rightful owners, whether they were Greeks or Turks, there were not many Turks at the time.

- That's what I was going to ask, was there any Turkish Cypriots working in in your office?
- There were few Turkish Cypriots who in 1955, when our stupid revolution against the British started, they became afraid and they left. They went in to inside the walls.
- So after that, there wasn't, there wasn't any?
- There were Mr. Ahmed, a very nice person. I think he was a policeman for the British in Evripidi street. And one day we were having dinner with Sevgul Uludag, if you know, is the girl lady who is doing the work for missing persons and I discovered that her uncle was Mr. Ahmed who was staying in Evripidi street, two houses away from us. Now he was such a nice man on his bicycle, I remember and in his uniform he had to leave in 1955-56 he had to leave the street because she was afraid of EOKA. Everything started from EOKA. Everything.

- My last question is, do you think Boccacio café, Faliro, Alasia, or Hadjihambis cinema, do you think these kind of places represents the social life of the Varoshians. Would you say they are the landmarks of the city?
- Yes, they were the landmarks. The cinemas were the landmarks and in the 50s, and in the 60s, 70s was Boccacio and Edelweisse, and these are the landmarks of varosha, yes. The cinemas are really memorable places. Who is going to preserve them? Heraeon , Ideal, Rio Cinema, Hadjihambis cinema. I think there was an Apollo cinema in the Kato Varosha. Have I answered many questions two hours passed?
- You did, everything you have given me is so precious. And believe me, it is an honor to be able to speak to the man himself that took part in the developments of Varosha.
- How did you find me and approach me? Who told you?
- Your sister. Aridni.
- She gave you my contact details?
- Yes.
- OK. She knows. She knows a lot also, a lot.
- I interviewed her and I asked who would you suggest me to interview when she was like you need to speak to my brother and give me your contact details.
- She lives many more years, no she didn't live because she was also in England for many years because when she married to a doctor and they went to England from 1960. And they came back in 1970-71. She was away from 65 to 70-71. But all the years from fifty 60s until 65-66, she was in Famagusta.

- Yeah, I had a really lovely chat with her as well.

- She knows a lot, also much. She wrote the book in the last 12 months. About, fantastic book that's in Greek. The unfolding of memories, she called it. And it was very successful book. Let me just a minute. Let me show you. My library has 2000 books very, but I found it. [Timestamp: 1.59.03] The middle one is my sister Aridi, this one is my cousin Christo, who grew up in Aysergi, with her grandparents and mother because her father died when she was one year old. And this is my other sister. And this is the book she wrote. It's a fantastic book, unfolding memories that you are looking for of Famaguta.

- She told me and I was like, if it translates into English, I will definitely get it.

- Yeah, but who can translate for you? It's very, she didn't translate it. I don't think she'll translate it. She spoke to you about this book?

- She did, she did, she told me.

- OK. Do you want any other help from me?

- And that was all of my questions. Thank you so much. Thank thank you for your time. I took two hours of your time. I'm sorry.

- I have no problem. It's.. I am on holiday and anyway I'm retired. So it's a pleasure to speak with you. And I wish you success with your PhD. You'll become doctor Nilsu, soon. But don't rush to come back to Cyprus because Cyprus is not a place for young people like you. I say the same to my grandchildren. Don't come back live and if you can live there and visit only for holidays. Every month, every two months, you can be here with the cheap flights. But don't come back. I mean you will find it difficult to find

a job anyway. If the problem is solved yes come back. But if the problem is not solved, I am afraid there's going to be a war One day. I'm afraid.

- Hope the mistakes of past will not happen again.
- I hope so, but who knows? There are fanatics on both sides. Fanatics on both sides and fanaticism is really a poison. Poisoning, nationalism and fanaticism and poisoning the minds and the souls of people.

E38 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Yes.
- What is this connection, why do I feel connected?
- Of course, I saw it now in my thirties or something, it was closed for the first time, when I went, I could enter because my wife was a police officer, and we didn't enter there for a very long time. Then, suddenly, we decided to enter. I saw it then. It depends on me as a thing, so I live in a country, and every part of that country is my homeland. That place was also closed. No matter what, how can I get into Nicosia or enjoy the things we do in Nicosia. I can go there too. That's why I see it as a place that has been cut off from us from my life.
- But you don't have any connection to any anthem before '74?
- No, I don't have any familial ties. I just see it as a part of my homeland that I can't go to.
- Have you ever heard from your family that they go there?
- No, my family is from Paphos. My father's side is from Turkey. My mother's side is from Paphos. They have nothing to do with it. As I said, I don't have a familial connection, I mean, I have a connection like I love other cities. It's that kind of bond. If it's a family bond you're asking, of course, it's not what you asked at the beginning.
- So what does a ghost town mean to you?

- I mean, imagine a city that has disappeared, a place where only souls remain. That is, it is a place where no human beings have lived, only the actions of spirits and dreams, that is, people who have lived before when we go there. I mean, this would be done here, this would be done there. But at the moment there is nothing like that. It's a slum place, that's what comes to mind when I hear it.
- So, for example, would you use the places around this closed Maraş before these openings happened and before you entered with your spouse in your 30s?
- Go to Famagusta and build that closed space, those wires and so on? Of course, we would see it, I mean, we could have gone in curiosity, we could have gone in that time. So, like I said, I got engaged at a very young age, I got engaged when I was 18. Even then, I could have entered, but I would have been afraid. I mean, because we were soldiers, we were always afraid of the approach, no-entry sign, so we have to enter. Later, of course. When we realized that there was nothing to be afraid of, it changed a little bit. After that, I entered. But I wish I hadn't.
- I'm also going to ask you about the time you entered, but for example, what would you use the places around it for before you entered?
- For sightseeing. In other words, since we live in Kyrenia, we used to go to Famagusta when we went to that port area, when we went to the area near Palm beach side, we spent it at work and we used to say that this is closed Maraş. We would try to look into the distance like this, we would try to predict what was inside. In fact, our curiosity about Maraş increased more after we saw it as a whole society. In other words, when it was closed, it was as if it did not exist for us. I mean, I'm not saying for the people who live there. So for those who were away from there, it was as if they didn't exist. When it opened, I started to wonder more about it.
- Okay, so when you went on this trip, was there anything that caught your eye when you looked at it while it was still closed?

- In other words, what catches our eye is that when we look at it from a distance, such a very intricate thing does not stand out, but for example, buildings with bullet marks, collapsed buildings, a very intense military construction, positioning, wires, that is. It wasn't a normal city image, and it still isn't.

- Did this abandonment make you feel anything?

- In other words, for me, Maraş is not abandoned, but occupied. And I always experience bitterness. So no matter what, it's not me, it's their owner. He wasn't one of my family, but my family left their own property and came here. It was looted, his house was destroyed, and when I think about it that way, it's a painful thing. So no matter what.

- Have you tried to find out what the buildings you see are? This is in the time before you go inside.

- Not at all. In other words, according to my own curiosity, either from the angles I looked at or from the point of view I looked at, the hotels were already clear. It was clear what the hotels were, but for example, I don't remember any schools or churches or anything like that, so it caught my eye, but the hotels are very obvious, because in terms of the thing, that is, in terms of the return of the beach, the hotels are always chosen because they are by the beach. In other words, even now, we would understand the hotels when they were open, whether they were open or closed. They made us understand that the hotels there were full reservations until 2000, so I also remember something I heard. We went to the White House once. This White House is here in St Hilarion, in our house, here on the /Bogazköy village-Bosphorus, and when we went to the White House, behind the plates was Sun Royal, there was a hotel with something in it, we used to hear that these glassware were distributed to the military units, I wondered and turned it like this, and there was the emblem of the hotels behind it.

- Well, you said you came in in your 30s.
- I've been going in and out of that for more than 10 years.
- So, for example, what is your first impression when you walk in? What caught your eye?
- My first impression is that I am not speaking for the Greek Cypriot side at the moment. When I think of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, there was a great civilization there. That is, which is now not existing in our homes. Imagine the models of the houses used in the evenings, you think of the lamps that have been exposed for 40 years and 50 years, looted, and glazed. For example, the handle of the doors still stand firm. How high quality are the handles of the doors? So I was amazed that the things that were solid remained intact. As I said, models of houses. Gardens, trees of houses. Some of the flowers faded and died, the hotels were also on the beach, and when we went to the hotel, I went inside the hotel. Hotels were very luxurious back then, so I don't think like I do now, when I think about 74 again. It remains very luxurious. I was intrigued by them. For example, there are a lot of things, showrooms of whole cars. All from Alfa Romeo to Toyota. Shark brand, that is, all technological brands, car brands, all of them had a gallery, I liked the room there, for example, that's it, did they exist at that time?
- So, is there any change between the time when you go in and the time when you enter now?
- At that time, when we entered, we were only allowed to go to the beach by one road. What I saw on that road. After that, when it opened, they opened other routes. Of course, we also saw places that gave us the impression of a school, and we also saw places that gave the impression of a church. As I said, shops. But what's interesting is that how would those shops sell to me, how would they sell to me? It's a very old time,

and as I said, all the technological things, that is, everything, now there are even many brands that we do not know as a brand. But the strange thing is that they have changed the paths, and there are still roads that we have not yet entered. I don't know if there are other things out there. There are things, for example, traffic lights, which is also very interesting. Traffic lights with light lit by 4. I mean, like I said, it seemed very advanced to me, it still feels that way. In other words, I go to the Greek side in Nicosia, for example. There is no such thing in Nicosia. It's a completely different place.

- So what was your impression when you entered after this 2020?
- As I said, since there are newly opened places, you know, different houses from the houses on the route we went to, and obviously the first route we went to was cleaner. I mean, they didn't leave anything to see from the outside, there was already a warning, that is, it was forbidden to stop, get out of the vehicle, take pictures, and we would pass straight like this. Later, when we got off at work and started walking around, we also had the opportunity to enter some of the houses. I mean, try to imagine more or less what kind of stuff was in this house? What was this house like? Because when you look at it, for 40 years, 50 years, no people have lived in them, they have not been painted. And some of them were doing just fine. Some of them have toys, boots, shoes, belongings, of course, looted items. That was also a thing, I mean, it was very heartbreaking. It still is. Moreover, in some of them, they made décor on toys, children's toys, for example, on stools, what is the need, I mean, they bought and decorated the dolls on the stools. And then they opened them up and gave them to people, I mean, it's like, exhibits, like this. What's the point, if you threw it, let it stay where it was thrown to the ground.
- Was there anything you expected to see before you went inside? Specifically, you'd like to see that.
- No, as I said, since I don't have any information about the buildings there, I don't have anything that I want to go here and find and see.

- So, after you went inside and toured, which building or place caught your attention the most?
- There was a building that I saw a picture of, but I couldn't find it. I mean, I think I found it on the outside, but I couldn't find the inside, and then I watched a theater. Since I didn't know the building in that theater before the theater, it didn't fit in afterwards. I mean, I'm curious about this place, I'm curious about a theater building, even though it burned down. But I don't know if it burned inside the theater or if it was fiction, I mean, I don't know, I mean, did it really burn? And then there was, there was a girls' school? I saw a picture of her with the clothes thrown away in what was there. In fact, I came back now, I searched for it, so that I could find it, I would show it to you, but I shared it on my Facebook and then access was blocked.
- It is directly opposite the place where they are gardening now, that girls' high school.
- I don't know, I wondered about those clothes. Because someone went and they saw the clothes, and there was a halo in them. If I thought it was a high school, I found it, I saw it, but it was closed. Also, as I said, I'm curious about this thing in the theater that I saw, that is, the theater building of the theater, but as I said, have you really seen such a thing?
- I was going to ask, what kind of theater is this?
- The Nicosia Municipal Theatre has a play called Closed in what was played last year, it is on YouTube. It is a game that tells directly about Marashi. People living in Marash, watch him. Of course, the lives of the people living in Maraş are fictions. Their adventures and moments of separation until the day they left Maraş, the theater ends on the day they leave Maraş. It's very impressive, so if I find it, I'll send you the link.
- Did our Turkish Cypriots do this?

- Yes, Lefkoşa Turkish Municipality Theater.
- I didn't know about it, thank you, and you said a theater burned down there.
- Did they burn or drop a bomb on the theater there, so at the beginning, 1-2 theater artists start their rehearsals and rehearsals, I won't tell you much. The typewriter is dropped, then the typewriter comes, someone else finds it. When it opens, it does the door, it does something, so it goes back and forth in the theater, and so on. Their lives before they were opened That typewriter was left there? And then someone comes along, 50 years later. He goes to the room, he sees the fish there. It was rained off of everything, so I should buy it. Who says it will notice, but as soon as they say no. I have to leave it there. So watch the link I'll find you this.
- Thanks, I have no idea. Well, you said that the building that caught your attention the most was the girls' high school.
- I mean, the building I'm curious about, they all caught my attention. Like I said, there are things I'm curious about from all of them, some of them were open, we could have entered, but I couldn't. I mean, I don't know, I couldn't get in. But I used to wonder if those dresses would really stay in it, as I said, someone shared it. I read his story and shared it. I also shared it on my page. When we meet with you, I will go back to my page and assign it to you, the photo access is blocked author, that is, whoever I am sharing it with, his is blocked. There was even a video. An old woman did not flee from Marash for a month and was kidnapped by soldiers.
- I didn't know about it.
- And then when he was running away, there was a fruit in his garden, he picked the fruits, put them in the basket and ran away. I looked at the video of him and let him find you, they blocked him too. They removed them, so I don't know why they are no

longer allowed, the person who shared them removed it, of course, it doesn't show up on me because I got it from him.

- You said you watched this in the video?

- Yes, have you seen this? An old woman, a Greek woman. When Maraş was moved, people fled Maraş and stayed there for a month. And the soldiers came, the Turkish soldiers tried to get him out of there, but he didn't run away. Then someone came along and convinced him of this. Because they wait for them to come, other people say they will come back, they will come back. They speak Greek, no one will come back anymore, you have to go too, and the woman finds a bucket in a job, collects it, I forgot what it was, she gathers things from her garden and runs away from her house crying. I also shared it on my page, but I couldn't find it, I couldn't find it either.

- When I heard such a story for Nicosia, it was the first time I heard it for Maraş.

- There is an old woman in Famagusta, she can't escape, so she doesn't want to run away.

- Yes, but have you tried to find out what the buildings are that you see after you go inside?

- Yes, yes, for example, the association of hotels, but there were also things like hostels, for example. You know, some houses are single-storey, houses closer to the sea are more luxurious, multi-storey, larger, with basements at the bottom. Some of them have auxiliary houses, the houses a little higher caught my attention, for example, now, they say, there are many lawsuits, Lordos, in many apartments, Lordos apartments, for example, Lordos is written on it. His writings still stand. After that, there are some houses, obviously older structures, maybe Ottoman structures, because there were foundation properties, for example, there are keystones on the arches of the houses, they should be carved like this, they caught my attention. Some of them have certain

inscriptions with carved inscriptions, there are bricks. There are things that catch my attention, but as I said, there is nothing in particular that I look for and find. The one that caught my eye while I was traveling.

- And I understand that you found out what they were from facebook or something, for example, when you entered that the girls' high school was a girls' high school, did you understand?
- Here's it, as I said, because I've seen the picture before, so I'm not sure, but I guessed it was there from the image in the picture, but I didn't try to see if the door was open or something. Like I said, I never went into any of their spooky houses, for example, I mean, I couldn't get in, it wasn't an obstacle, someone wouldn't stop us, but I couldn't.
- So, for example, when you came in, did you try to talk to anyone or ask them what happened?
- Everyone who enters is like us, that is, people who travel with such curiosity. There are also many things, there are Turkish Cypriots and foreigners wandering. Now, for example, when we travel, the perspective we look at is different, their perspective is different. They take pictures, for example, in front of buildings, I am even embarrassed to take a picture of this building and show it to someone. In other words, with the feelings I experienced, I would like to say that by visiting the place, that is, the closed Marashi, with different things. That's why I haven't come across anyone there who knows more than me, for example. Look, for example, there is İsmet's thing, he has a father, he used to paint there, we didn't go with him, let me ask him and his brother-in-law was also in the room, did he serve in the military there? I mean, I didn't have anyone with me who knew the place before, so I couldn't ask anyone anything.
- Do you think there is a future for Varosha?

- I don't know, I mean, if you look at it as my hope, there is, but this is the future of what we are going to have, the future is going to be a future somehow. But I don't know if this is a future with a right to the future or something made up, so what I think is, okay, it is the property of the foundation, it is this, but I mean, it is exactly in the properties of the foundation, you know, it is rented for 100 years, probably their leases have not ended yet. Even if the foundation is financial, these people rented them, they rented them, they paid their rents, surely we have compensation for them, is this considered? Is it considered to return them to them? Let him go, there are houses there. In other words, a future as it should be does not seem close to me at the moment, that is, from my point of view, it should be returned to its owners, because if we look at it from the other point of view, I don't know about your thing, I may not take this view of mine seriously, but as soon as it is given to the Turks, Varosha will be destroyed. Absolutely, because we couldn't protect anywhere. It's true, it's honest, we couldn't protect any place, we couldn't protect it. It's going to be Lahmacunist, for example, so you might not take it into account as I said, it's all my own stuff. Therefore, it should be given to its owners. At the very least, it should be given to the lessors, to whoever has been contracted. There is another dimension of the business, the fact that there are so many hotels in such a small place shows that they do not do very clean work. In other words, it was a place of money laundering. So many hotels, so luxurious. The fact that it's on such a small coast, that's a thing, but it's a different dimension of it, I don't know about it, but my opinion is that the opening that we are thinking of doing right now will not restore it, I know that. I'm thinking about it. From that point of view, I mean, they're going to do something, they're going to do something that's going to get on our nerves. Do you have anything? For example, in the parliamentary speeches, there are speeches of the deputies related to Maraş, do you want me to appoint them?
- It happens, it will be very good.
- For example, a parliamenter has very good things about Maraş, that is, her researches and she shared them as a speech in the parliament. If you are wondering, she did a research on the waqf properties and the procedures of the waqf properties and presented it in the parliament, of course, many people who did not listen to this are not even aware of it. In other words, in fact, they cannot be interfered with much, they

are the property of the foundation, we cannot say that we do not give them, she explained it well, but of course because we are pirates. In other words, since we do not do anything duly and no one pays attention to it, it probably will not be taken into account, so I say to you, that an opening that is in accordance with the rules of international law does not seem close to me at the moment.

- So, if we are optimistic, what kind of future do you think Maraş should have?

- If we are optimistic, a well-intentioned future, that is, a future where everything will turn out well, as I said, is this place absolutely under our control? Yes, it is under the control of the TRNC, although Maraş was not fully given to the TRNC, that is, it is a place standing in a vacuum, when you look at it now, only the Turkish military is there, under its control and there is something inside, there is a peacekeeping force inside. The Greek Cypriot side, that is, the Greek Cypriot side, which offers a proposal at the moment, I mean, I don't understand politics, but as someone who lives in this country and has witnessed the collapse of this country by both experiencing and seeing, I think we need to listen to those suggestions. In other words, it is to ensure that Maraş is definitely opened and given to its former owners and even that the country benefits from it. Because with this opening, they tell us that your airports will be international. In other words, Maraş may be a key to our recovery. But on the other hand, I mean, it's an outcome that I hope for, that I expect optimistically. In other words, Maraş should be really demilitarized and given to other former owners under our control as a touristic city, if necessary, and this will be done, adjusted and opened. Because it's a beautiful place, and it's wrong for it to be under the control of only the military, the world has money there. In other words, it is really developing in this country, so even that is enough. But like I said, I don't think that's going to be the case, even if that's what I'm going through. I don't think that much will happen.

- Well, the opening of these streets in October 2020, and then they say that they will give back the three percent. Have these developments changed your mind?

– They are absolutely, I mean, I don't know how much they are following the country at the moment, but there are no decisions that we have made in the structure that we are in right now, 2 or. It takes no more than 3 days. The new government says one thing. 3 days 5 days. Then he says that the decision does not exist, it is not like that, it was like this. He comes out and says to the parliament that we are going to break the constitution, so I don't know if he has watched the news a little bit. They try to merge municipalities, they are currently trying to privatize institutions. That's why the statements they made in 2020, the government was different at that time, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs was different. It's completely different right now, so I don't think they're going to do a stable project there, they're going to put it on a schedule, and they're going to implement it gradually. They may have even forgotten what they said. They may not even have written it down. It was just a statement, because what they did in no way fits into political morality, that is, it does not fit into anything. So I have to sit down and read something all the time. What is it, so what exactly is the procedure? Nothing is clear. Always with such protocols, here are the things that are suddenly removed, that is, different rules, suddenly he goes and says something to Maraş, it will be like that, but what is your basis, your legal basis, have you taken a decision from the parliament? So did you vote? Have you held a referendum? Nothing. For example, they want to connect my municipality right now, they didn't ask me. So are you happy here or would you like to connect? That's why I don't pay any attention to their statement. Because, as I said, if you ask them right now, they will forget about it. So I don't trust their explanation.

– So, do you think that any place in Varosha should be preserved as it is now?

– How so? It's okay to keep it in good shape right now?

– Either that way, or it looks good, for example, for life at that time.

– There is nothing, there is nothing. There is nothing that looks pretty.

- Or, for example, it reflects the life at that time, so it should be preserved. So you can pull it to all kinds of places. Protection.

- So, now, as I said, houses are already, if we talk about buildings where people live, civil buildings are now in ruins. They don't need to protect it anyway, but like every historical monument, every mosque happens, here is everything that reflects the cultural heritage. As I said, with that eye, how many historical artifacts there are, it is not a very historical place, I did not visit it with my eyes, but of course the places that are like that should be protected. In other words, if it is to be repaired, it must be repaired in accordance with the original. So, as I said, it's not in a very abnormally dilapidated state, but none of it is in a condition to continue as it is now. Everything needs to be renovated at least, but for example, there is a mosque, a mosque at the entrance, know that the mosque is in very good condition. There is no shortage there, it can be preserved as it is.

- You can talk about what they call waqf property now, if there is no mosque.

- You know, the first church you enter is not a mosque, it is a church. When you enter, there is such a thing as a roundabout, I don't know what it is used for. It is in very good condition, but there are also such yellow stone buildings inside, they should not spoil the original in my opinion. In other words, it should not be demolished just because it is old. Whatever it is. So, as I said, apart from civilians, there are no cultural things, for example, there are no castles there, but there are old Cypriot houses, they should be preserved, they can be protected. As I said, there are some houses, such arches, embossed on their arches, they need to be protected.

- Well, what do you think about the changes made by our state, for example, here are the cafes and the opening of the mosque.

- Our government didn't make those changes, I'm a bit of an anarchist, so you see, our state didn't make those changes, no one asked us when they were made to us.

Certain additions, breaks and disruptions were made to certain parts of the existing hotels and they were transformed into themselves. A military lodging was built, a military hotel was built. Can we even stay there? We asked, they said you can't stay. if it is necessary for the current structure, let it stay, that is, for the moment, if there is no other alternative, of course, if those people, those police, those soldiers are staying there with their families, they will stay that way. But in any opening, they must all be one.

- Was there anything that caught your attention the most from the signs on the shops or how did this happen here?
- As I said, all of them, for example, what do we have, that is, a gallery in the TRNC and in that gallery, the man sells all kinds of vehicles. It was very strange to me there, the TOYOTA dealership, 60 years ago, they opened that showroom, how many cars they would have sold and earned. Cruiser, Toyota, Alfa Romeo as I said I have seen . I've seen a lot of things, but I don't have them all in my mind now. The shops, the bar, all caught my attention, so it means that the people there were very rich, I guess they used to do a lot of shopping. It's all there and on the streets. The sides of the streets, that is, the sides of the roads, are always shops.
- Well, over the years, for example, everyone says something about Maraş. What did you see Maraş as? If you tell me about Maraş, how would you describe it?
- As I said, Maraş was the most developed city in Cyprus at the time, that is, the most developed city not only in terms of architecture but also in terms of living standards, that is, it is a city in a position where we can say that Varosha is one of the others, let alone Cyprus. If I didn't read it wrong, Maraş was chosen as the best and most luxurious beach in the sixth or seventh world in the world. But if you ask me about the most pathetic city right now and the feeling I had when I first entered Maraş, it really hurts me, I mean, those people, even though they were the richest people in their own country, maybe they were the richest, I have no idea about their records, but there was a story that my grandmother told me. Look, when I ran away, he bought the seats for

my mother and wanted to sell the seats. And my grandmother couldn't sell her seats. And here is a Greek woman who said, here I will give 2 liras and 3 liras, my grandmother said, I bought it much more expensive, give me some more. Well, he said to himself, you should go anyway, 'alda husol'. My grandmother's seat were made from a special wood and burned the seats. And imagine me, when my grandmother came, of course, when she told us about it, we were grown up. And she told me crying. I think of my own family, when I think of a person who leaves even a seat crying, that is, to be left and run away while living a life like that. And it's sad that you'll never be able to go back home. It is a very sad thing, I mean, how can I say it for all of them, you know, the same thing is the same for immigrants, but Maraş has such a feature: people in Maraş left their homes without knowing that they would be immigrants. So, for example, mine came out of the bafta and said to themselves, you're not going to come back here. We will find you another house on the other side, we will give you another house, but when people leave Maraş, they left their houses saying that your life is in danger at work right now, and you will come back in a few hours. That's why their situation, I've passed hotels, I speak for the people who live there, it's very painful. And I feel sad when I see this, not only in Marash, but as I said, in other things, there has already been a population exchange, that is, an agreement has been made, that the people in the north will go to the south, and the people in the south will go to the north, and they would know this when people are fleeing from there. In fact, I saw a video of people fleeing from Paphos and my grandfather was there. He points to my grandfather, goes to the café and hugs him and understands. The man says it from behind in Greek, here are the Turks leaving their homes, here they say goodbye to their backs, the Turks cry, the Greeks cry, they get into their cars, baskets, quilts and run away, even he knows that he will not come back, something very painful. But knowing that he was going to come back, he left his house without taking anything, even his underwear, to say the least. And they told you that there is no going back, you will be crazy. People go crazy, so when I think about it, when I see that environment, it's very painful. That's why for me, Maraş is a place full of sadness, ghost story, I mean, how can people spend the fate and future of a society so simply, what will happen without thinking? I don't know, where did these people go? Something has been done, though. The practice is very painful, so that's why I always think about it when I go in there. They ran away from here, they left here, I wonder what they thought when they looked back, that is, they could not come back, what they felt. It's a very

painful thing. You know, if they tell me to get out of your house now, they will come a few hours later. My house is a 140 square meter house, I swear I can't live if I can't come at all, I mean, what a bad feeling. That's why, as I said, Maras is a very big impasse for me in my mind, that is, in my idea. Unfortunately, they have done a great disservice to both communities. I've got you covered.

- No, I'm sure I'll interview people who have lived there.
- When I watched that woman's video, I swear I cried for hours. I can't imagine, the woman's grape stands in her garden, waits for that grape to be cooked and eaten. Escape from your home to yourself. She is going to die, she has 3 years left or she doesn't, where will that woman go? I mean, it's that simple. 50 years ago, our fountain would not flow. I mean, don't let it be like that now, but we were ahead of the world, let alone in front of the Turkish Cypriots. As I said, when Maraş was closed, it was not such a matter of curiosity for any of us. After it was opened, it aroused more curiosity and with each passing day, as I said now, when I go there, for example, I want to escape, I feel a little embarrassed, but in fact, if you stop and walk around one by one, find each building one by one, or a life, or maybe someone there, as you said, each of them has different stories, different interesting things.
- That's all I had to ask. Would you like to add something to any of your step answers?
- No, I hope it helps.
- It happens, it happens. Is there anything you say you should have asked me about this and how did you not ask me?
- No, I didn't think about it before. You asked them all pretty much. It's a good thing that it's opened, in terms of people having an idea. If it hadn't been obvious that you wouldn't have found anything, I mean, maybe someone from the Greeks who lived there could have given you information. Other than that, because no one has any idea.

Look, you've been there. I also had some friends, my thesis advisor was a graduate of TMK, and he used to say that when we were students, we used to look at Maraş, but we didn't think of anything, what was inside. At that time, we were not interested in it at all, so we used to look at it and turn our heads off. But after it opened, people were filled with completely different things, curiosities. Of course, because in the pictures, for example, the pictures of the old are always the coastline and the hotels. In other words, there are no pictures of those houses, houses, shops, if there is, they have not been published, there must be somewhere. In other words, the fact that people only know that hotel area shows that they are not knowledgeable. It's a very nice hotel. Okay, it has a very beautiful coast, but what was life like inside?

E39 Transcription

- And do you feel connected to Varosha?
- No, I don't feel that connected.
- Is there any relation from you to Varosha?
- Yes, I had. Well, my mother's family, my mother's parents. So my grandmother from my mother's side were from Trikomo.
- And because they were from Trikomo, you would visit Varosha as well?
- We never visited Trikomo. The only time I visited Trikomo was after the invasion. When I went back with with an aunt of mine who had memories from there and she wanted to see her house, that's all.
- What about Varosha...
- Varosha, no, I had. I mean, our cousin, we had some cousins who lived in Varosha, and we used to go and visit them, like, maybe once a year.
- And do you remember visiting?
- Very vaguely, I just. I just remember the House which was on the beach there with amongst all the big, big high rise buildings it's you can still see it. It's one of the only houses with a, you know, just a house with a red roof and in front of the house there was some swings on the sand now sand has completely eroded away, and the sea is practically up to the wall of the house, from what I can see. We just used to go there and spend the day having lunch and go back. And the other memories that I have from Famagusta was going, I had friends who lived there, so I had a close girlfriend who

had a house towards the end of the strip. And I remember going to stay there one time for like few days a week. I can't remember how long it was and in those days it was really cool. We used to walk along the beach. There was a big scene happening on the beach for young people. There was the Beachcomber. That people used to hang out and have drink and watch people and chat and gossip and that kind of thing. And there was discos in the evening. I didn't go to any. I don't remember going to any. Maybe I did once. And then in the evenings, we used to drive around down the main strip. Listening to music with my friend's father and. You know one of those like, we in Nicosia, we used to go for a drive to the airport here in Famagusta, it was a thing. Let's go for a drive to drive, crazy things people don't do that anymore.

- And if I asked you what is the most vivid memory that you have from these days?
- That's it. That's all I have.
- And what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- I think what it says it's well, there aren't any ghosts, but that it's a deserted town. And it's a shame, and the other, the other thing I feel strongly about that it's such a waste. Such a pity. Didn't have to be like that.
- And after the checkpoints opened in 2003, have you visited Famagusta?
- Yes, I went. We went to the beach to see the beach from, up to where you can go with the fence. We did that as soon as they are opened, that was in 2003, maybe and then I did it again when my sister came to Cyprus but because we didn't have a lot of memories there. It wasn't that, it was just going to see. And then I haven't been back for a long time. But until last year, actually, I went with my daughter and her boyfriend who came from, they live in England so when they came to Cyprus we took the boyfriend to see Famagusta and we spent the day on the beach there and it was very nice. And I loved it so much. Because it was calm. You didn't have all those crowds

that you have on the other side the Fig Tree Bay and Agia Napa and everything. And I thought oh I should come here more often. Well, let's see if we can do that. And then the other interesting thing that I did this year was visiting the part of Varosha that they opened up recently, you know the part with some friends who were from the area who gave us a, you know, this is where the two big cafes everybody used to hang out in and these were familiar names for me. But I don't actually remember being there. I used to hear people talk about. You know kids at school, but it was fascinating. It was fascinating because we saw the shops and the names that I remember from when I was growing up, you know, the like, the, the sort of shop chains that we used to have in those days and. And It was very, very interesting.

- I will ask more about your experience when you went inside when they opened the streets, but you said you went to Famagusta right after they opened the checkpoints. And you said you were able to see the house that you were visiting, right?
- No, I didn't. I wasn't weren't able to go there.
- But would you able to see it? From the beach side.
- Yeah, you can sort of very see it, at a distance, not very close.
- And other than the house that you were visiting, did you recognize any of the places that you could see from the beach side?
- No, I didn't. I didn't really know. I can't say that I did, yeah. Because I didn't really live there, I didn't have any connection there. You know people I went with would say, oh, there's that, that's that's so and so's how so and so so. But it was, I don't know. I didn't even know what they were pointing to.
- And what about your parents? Were they visiting Varosha?

- No, my parents didn't. We were Kyrenia people.
- And you said you visited after they opened the streets?
- Yeah, yeah.
- Did you have any place in mind that you expected to see in particular?
- No, no, not really.
- And did you have any memories coming back to you?
- Funnily enough, I had a memory of a church. This huge church that I could see from the distance. We didn't go up to the church because I remember one time having to go to a wedding, one of my another cousin got married from the area, got married. It was a double wedding and my sister and I were bridesmaids so we had to go there and I remember driving there, I remember my dress. I remember driving there, it was Christmas. So it was like December. I don't know which year it was, so we drove along the Famagusta Road from Nicosia and it was raining and my parents were saying, Oh dear, it's raining. The wedding's going to be a disaster. And everything. And I was saying it's raining here and then I noticed that the cars coming in the opposite direction were dry. And I said it's raining here, so maybe there it's still wet. Ohh, I thought that was very clever of their daughter. So that's the memory that I have and I remember also the wedding. I remember the wedding, and I remember. Because it was cold and I was wearing a coat and I was wearing this long dress and I tripped and I fell down on the outside the church right on my face, and I was barely able to put my hands up to protect myself. I remember getting hurt. But I don't remember where it must have been somewhere on my face. That's all I remember. And I think I saw the church that's the only thing that that memory came back. Nothing much more than that.

- So you can see the church from the opened area now.
- Yes, you can. See maybe you can go to the church, I don't know. I think you probably can. I think you can, but I didn't go to. I'm not interested in churches.
- And do you remember what was there any wedding celebrations?
- No, I don't remember where that was. No, no idea.
- And other than that, did you remember anything on the opened streets?
- No, nothing.
- But you said the shop names were very familiar to you because you grew.
- Not shop the cafes like the. There was two cafes that people used to hang out at. I forget the names right now, Boccaccio was one. And the other one I can't remember.
- Can it be Edelweiss?
- Yes. No.
- Were you going there as well?
- No, I wasn't going. But I just remembered that they used to talk about it. I don't think I ever went, no.

- And you said the second time you went, you went with the people that was remembering the site. What's were they remembering? What were they explaining to you the most?
- Well why don't I put you in touch with this guy that was taking us there? He can tell you.
- Yes, of course. But like I wanna see what you remember the most as well from what?
- Well, no, he was. I already told you. He was saying this is the patisserie where we used to have. I used to buy my cheese pie. This is where I used to ride my bicycle and these were the cafes basically, that don't remember anything else you said. Ohh and I remember there was another. There was another little house towards the top which is like a little mosque now and it was a little mosque then he said and he seemed to remember that we never even knew it was there in those days. Because we weren't aware of it this is another interesting thing.
- And what was your impressions as you entered the town?
- Curiosity, really.
- And if you if I asked you how was social life back then, how would you describe Varosha as when from your visits, what would you say?
- So well for us young people like under 18 it was a cool place to be. There was a lot of tourists. A lot of Swedish sweet people from Sweden used to come in those days and they were very good looking and all the guys were going like over the Swedish girls. And it was a very laid back scene where people would hang out in the cafes and on the beach on in, in this place called the the Beachcomber. And we, oh, and I had another memory. That time that I stayed with my friend, the sea in Famagusta was always very, very calm compared to Kyrenia and but it was also very busy and I was I

a very good water skier and I remember going water we had taken out a boat. And we went water skiing, I went water skiing. But it was really, really crowded because there was a lot of, there was a lot of speed boats, sailing boats, anything, the water was packed, packed full of. It was just absolutely crowded and I fell. And they didn't notice me. The people who were towing me, they didn't notice that I had fallen and I was in the middle of all these, all these boats and it was a bit dangerous. And another boat came up. A smaller boat came up and and there was some English people on the boat and they said would you like to come on? This is dangerous for you to sit in the water and I did. And I got onto the boat. And they and waited for the other people to see me and come round and look for me. And then I waved to them. And they came and picked me up. And then I remember one of my friends told me off for getting onto a stranger's boat because a girl should not be doing that. That's the kind of scene it was in those days. And I remember feeling mortified, but it's ridiculous.

- So would you say back then was there was a mingling between the tourists and the locals?
- Yeah, there was a lot of a, well amongst young people yeah.
- You said you were in Kyrenia. How was life there compared to Varosha?
- The scene was not so around the beach, the scene was around the island, Snake Island and that's where we had our house. So we were right in the middle of it. My house was taken by Denktash so that you know, where do you know where that is?
- Yeah, I do.
- So that that was our one. That was our house. And so from our veranda we always could see what was going on. Like it wasn't as crowded as Famagusta, the water there, but the water around the island was because it was calm because of the island, the boats were always going round, round and round that side, and so when we used

to go skiing, we used to go skiing all the time around the island, not around the island, I mean on the east side of the island because it blocked the wind. And then people would anchor by the island, and that was a social scene would be happening there, depending on who on the boat at the time. And there was a bit of showing off of skiing. There was swimming and looking at the rocks and exploring and flirting. And then in the evenings, it was in the harbour, you know, walking up and down the harbour and the cafe is in the harbour. so the scene was between, it was a different scene, in Famagusta, it was around the beach and discos and in Kyrenia it was around the island and the harbour.

- And the the cafes and the shops in Kyrenia. Was it as modern as it was in Varosha?
- Yeah, it was pretty nice, yeah.
- And did you go to any of the cinemas inside of Varosha?
- No.
- And you said you might have been to the disco one time.
- I might have done. I don't really remember it.
- Would you say you were spending most of your time in the Kennedy Ave. or the Democracy as well?
- No, I've spent most of my time on the beach.
- And when you went after the opening of the streets, when you went, is there anything that struck you the most?

- No, no. Apart from the buildings that are, you know it's a war zone and it's sad.
- And do you see any future for Varosha?
- When I'm being optimistic?
- Yeah.
- I do. I do see a future.
- And what kind of future that would be?
- I like listening to. Well, what I see what I would see happening is, if there's a solution, if there's an agreement I can see that the whole strip of buildings all along the coast, there are going to be dynamited one day and brought down and rebuilt a little bit further behind. And it could be a big event. It could bring a lot of publicity to the island, but I think that might be very difficult to do, but I don't see that those buildings are safe to use. So I don't know about that and I like this project of Famagusta, Ecocity of the city being rebuilt as an eco-city. I like the idea of that very much and as a place for bicommonality or multi communality, you know where Cypriots can mingle and live together.
- Did anything that happened after the opening of the streets on 2020 change your mind?
- No, I see things completely different to most people on the island. I don't think they're going to do anything with Famagusta, I think this is just Turkey saying let's solve the Cyprus problem or else you're going to lose it. And it's basically trying to put pressure

on the Greek Cypriot side, which is the side which is at fault for not solving the problem in my view.

- And what does Varosha mean to you?
- It's just a part of Cyprus that it needs to be, it's part of the Cyprus problem that needs to be resolved. I don't like talk about confidence building measures and giving Famagusta, Varosha back before the Cyprus problem is resolved. I don't like that. I think it should all come as a package. It should all be done once and for all.
- And do you think any of the places inside Varosha should be protected as how they are now?
- Yes, I wouldn't like to see Varosha being inhabited, even if it's going to get destroyed, I'd rather it stays as it is because once it becomes inhabited, then it becomes very difficult to get people to leave and you know the actual owners will lose their property like we've lost our house in Kyrenia. It's the factor.
- Do you think any of the buildings should be preserved. How they were in 1974?
- Now or in the solution.
- Being optimistic this is. If there is a solution, etc.
- No, I'm not bothered about that. No, it depends on what the owners want. I don't think that they should be preserved. That's, you know, people's life changes. And if we're going to make an eco city, a lot of these buildings need to come down. I think we need to sort of think globally and climate change now and environmentally. Yes, people are sentimental. I can understand that, but you know, even if I was to get my house back in Kyrenia, even if I was, I would consider pulling it down and rebuilding it. Houses

have a lifespan of 50 years. You know, under normal circumstances, so they need to make way for something new and more. And a lot of these houses are not particularly architecturally beautiful. Let's face it, you know.

- And you said yes, the people are sentimental. What about the places that carry sentimental value to them apart from their own houses, like the cafes or their church?
- I don't. I can't say. I'm not attached to those, so I don't think I'm the one to judge.
- And again, going back to your visits at the time. Where would you say the locals would spend their most of their time?
- Before 74, you mean? On the beach, I don't know. What do you mean locals? People had life, lived there. I think they would be working at home like normal. Normally people live their lives and kids would go to school and come home and then and I'm sure the beaches played a large part to the you know, to the inhabitants of the town. But other than that, I don't. You know I can't say what people. I don't think people lived a different way of life like the Cypriots, do now.
- And have you visited any of the hotels at the time?
- No, I didn't. I might have visited Salamis Bay when it first opened, I don't think I did.
- And you said, was it Beachcomber you and your friends would hang out on the beach?
- Yes, the beachcomber, word Beachcomber that combs the beach.
- Was there any particular cafe or any buffet on the beach that you would get beverages?

- There the beachcomber.
- And was there anything? Different that they were selling in Varosha. That you wouldn't find in Kyrenia?
- No, I don't. Not that I know I don't know.
- And what about the clothes shop? It was the first time that they were getting ready clothes. Would you be able to find it in Kyrenia or in Nicosia?
- I didn't do that sort of thing. No, I didn't get involved in that. No, I don't remember doing anything like that.
- Do you have anything to add to any of your answers?
- No, I think it's cool.
- Is there a question that you think I should have asked you, but I didn't.
- A question?
- Yeah.
- In fact, you asked more questions than I could have thought possible.
- Those are all of my questions. Thank you so much for your answers.

- Sorry I don't have more memories to give you, but I don't. Sorry I was not that Famagustian.
- These are good enough for me. Thank you so much.

E40 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Yeah, I think something related to my personal experience is that, when we left as a family, I was very little. I have no memories of the events of 74, but after leaving, you know, as internally displaced people with some relatives here and there for as a family, I guess, maybe for a few months. Then we found a place to rent next to Varosha, in a village called Derinya, which is my father's village. So, I think something, maybe unique in my case is that I would see Varosha every day, very close from the space I was living after 74. And that was up to the age of 12. No, not sorry, 10 when we moved to Larnaca. So I have early memories of a place that became the ghost city. From my early childhood that was very close to me, but couldn't somehow go back to my family home. So, I guess that is still sticks with me in a way, this image of a deserted city so close to you that you cannot return in that sense. I think that played an important role in also the formation of my views about the Cyprus problem, even in case of a solution, if we, I won't, if I we need to return back. So I'm one of the people who would say yes, you know, if you ask me whether I want to return, I would say yes. I would like to refurbish their apartment, my parents used to have where I lived my first year of life. Although I don't have memories. It's also in a very good location. I mean, it's just next to the to the beach, golden Beach, which is one of the best in Cyprus. We have the chance recently to visit with my family. A few months ago, during the summer time and we managed to find it, because it just happened to be on the verge where they opened, you know, just on the area there. And it was quite an emotional experience also it was, seeing for the first time what my father, father and mother were talking about. You know, our apartment used to be this and this. And you know, it was on the third floor. And this is how you used to be, close to the beach and everything. So you know, everything became more concrete for me last year.

- And I know your mom and your dad was from Varosha, but can you open that's a bit more. What is your relation to Varosha?

- You know there's something that my father and mother did. They also transferred to me and my sister the title deeds. So, I also have a sense of ownership. Now they belong to me in a way. More officially, I would say even if I cannot access them, I have a sense that, you know, I would need to, I'm responsible for this property now. So, from the early years of just a wish for return, it's now taking also more concrete substance where I can claim it from the committee in the north, to say I want to return, you know you need to return it to me. So I'm in the process now of doing that actually.
- And it is really interesting that your family found a place near Derinya, which, like you said it is really unique. You said the image of the deserted city and seeing it but not being able to go and you grow up like that. What else did your family do to remind you of Varosha? Was there any? Anything that they would constantly talk about to you?
- Yeah. When I was a young boy, I remember my mother used to have the key of the apartment, next to her bed, and they would often talk to me about the life and how, you know, progressed Varosha was and how they were in the early phase of building their life and they had to leave everything back. You know and life changing circumstances in that sense.
- And did they ever try to? Show you their house from Google Maps or draw anything?
- I was asking my father because my mother is not so technically savvy, but I was asking my father, you know, from time to time. Can you show me on Google? He had some problem identifying from Google, the place. But after we visited, we are now in a position yes to also locate on Google.
- And I know that you don't have direct memories from the town, but is there a particular memory that your parents would constantly talk to you about from those times?
- And yeah, sometimes they would say, few days before we left in 74, in August of 74. They would take me for a stroll, you know, some excursion, near Bogaz, if you know

where it is. So once we visited after the opening of checkpoints in 2003, they would show me that place also. They would talk to me about the work they were doing in this company. Avrica, my father was the advertiser there. And my mother was working as a secretary. So, they would talk to me about where that place was and actually, after the opening of checkpoints, we also visited the factory they would use to work. And we found in a drawer of one of the offices, the drawings of my father. So that was very emotional moment also.

- You said at the beginning you grew up with this image of a desert deserted city. So what does the name Ghost Town mean?
- Well, it's a shame, you know, after so many years not to be able to access the space to be kept as a bargaining chip. You know, it's a very, feelings of sadness, disappointment, hopelessness sometimes. In the early years, it's always it was anger also. Now, recently I don't feel so much anger. But I think it's because I transformed, the wish for return to a kind of more political action, you know, reconciliation trying to create the conditions for a solution to the Cyprus problem.
- I don't know how much you were able to look from Derinya but would your family try to explain you places from what you could see from the area?
- Yeah, I remember a couple of times they would point towards the place or looking through binoculars, you know, trying to locate somewhere, there was our home, etc.
- Do you remember what was those places that they were trying to show you?
- The apartments, where we used to live.
- And I'm guessing your growing up like that, had given you a different kind of understanding of the Cyprus problem as well. So how was it like to grow up next to the wires of Varosha.

- You know, it wouldn't let you forget the situation, having it every day in front of your eyes. So it was a very salient thing, you know, every day.
- And you said when the checkpoints opened, you went to the city and?
- Outside, of course, because it was not open. Because our place is in the inside.
- Yeah. And the factory, where was the factory?
- The factory was in the area outside of the fenced area. That's why we managed to visit that.
- Yeah. And how did it make you feel to be there?
- It was very emotional for my father and mother also cause it was theirs, you know, youth years where they were, where they spend the good times, etcetera, etcetera. A lot of memories. So you know they, it was very emotional for them and somehow they transferred that with our experience there.
- Apart from the factory, did you try to go to the other parts of the fenced off area to have a look?
- Yeah, I mean, we visited the old Famagusta and also the port there, close to the port. And we went to Salamina, Salamis. Up to Apostolos Andreas, Kyrenia. No, we visited mostly the north, most of the North.
- And did you go to the beach side of Constantia Hotel?

- Yeah, a lot of times, yeah.
- And was there any place that you were looking to see from the wires?
- No, because, my, our apartment was on the other side. Not there.
- And there wasn't any place that your parents were trying to show you from that spot.
- No, you know, they described the names of the hotels there. This was this. This was that this.
- Yeah. And you said you went after the opening of the streets as well.
- Yeah, after the opening of the fenced area, or part of I, we also visited that last year.
- So it opened on 2020. So, I'm guessing you didn't go the year that it's opened. If you went last year?
- Yeah, but it was because of COVID. That we avoided, I mean, I had no problem going immediately, but under those circumstances it was difficult.
- Yeah. And when you went there, I know you didn' have any memories, but when you went, did you recognise any of the places because of how your parents would talk to you about?
- You know, in terms of memory, I think that two main points of reference was Kennedy Avenue and democracy Street. So in that sense, I wanted to get a sense of both. Cause the one was the in the centre and the other was on the beach you know where my apartment was close, The Kennedy one. So we visited two different days because

we couldn't cover both areas on the same day. And in Democracy, we have seen one of the offices, not the factory, because the factory is in the outside, but they had an office of the advertising agency. So we have seen that also, of my father. And on Kennedy, we have seen the apartment, just on the verge of the open space.

- And was the office on Democracy Avenue as well?
- The office was in the, yeah, yeah, on Democracy Street. You know, on the left of, you know. Not on the street, but on the left.
- And apart from the places that, apart from the house or the offices, was there any place that you recognised because your parents would talk about?
- And yes, they would talk about the lion, which was actually outside. Where people will go and make their wishes. But that was, you know, from the early times of the opening of the checkpoints. More recently, you know they would talk about Likeon Ellinidon or the cinema of Hadjihambis. I remember those places and we have seen those places, yes, when we visited or they would, they pointed out the hotel where they accepted people as congratulations for their marriage. It was one of the hotels, Mariana Hotel of Lordos family.
- And what would they talk about the Likeon Ellinidon? What would your parents talk about?
- You know, they would talk about where they used to go to gymnasium, Lyceum, school, things like that, you know. Their memories from student years.
- And is there a particular memory that they speak to you about?

- They would talk to me about my father at school taking part in, you know, in performances, singing, he was singing in school, you know, things like that. But it was not so much about spaces, you know, it was more about events.
- And Hadjihambis cinema. Is there any particular thing that they would speak about?
- Yeah, they would say they would go, you know, with their friends and you know watch movies, etcetera.
- And when you went inside the city, was there anything in particular that you wanted to see?
- Yeah, definitely wanted to see the apartment. That we used to live and I was lucky enough to be, you know, to be just on the, just included it in the space open.
- And what is the name of the apartment?
- Melusine Hall Melusine Hall, yeah.
- And what was your first impression of that place?
- I thought it was very well preserved. But that was made me, the first impression you know. That with not so much difficulty it could be refurbished I think.
- And apart from the apartments that you were born and spent your first year, was there any place that you wanted to see as well?
- I wanted to see the golden coast and I actually went there with my family. And we also had a swim there. During the summer.

- Is there a particular thing that you are now doing to pass these memories, heritage, if we will say to your children?
- When we went to visit in the summer time, I took my son with me. My son is now 13 years old. And you know, my father showed him also the place where we used to live and. Yeah, of course, you know he was not so much interested because as a family, we don't talk to him, I mean myself and my wife. My wife is also from Varosha. And we don't talk to him because we don't want to create that feeling of you know, having lost something that I need to claim back. I think that's something that we need to do, not to transfer on him, in a way, a responsibility to have this obligation, moral or otherwise. So I don't want to burden him with that law.
- That's really interesting of what you said. Apart from the feeling of loss, you don't want to transfer that, but is there a way that you are trying to make him feel connected to the town?
- No, no, I'm not in that process of you know, trying to teach him to be connected in any way.
- And is there a place that you feel connected inside of Varosha?
- Well, I definitely want to visit the apartment from the inside because I didn't have the chance. I only had the chance to see it from outside. I wanted to go inside, but my father said, you know, it might be risky, you know, we might get arrested. There might be traps or something. I don't know. Maybe the building is not in a good shape. Maybe you get hurt, things like that. So, I didn't have the chance to do that, but I would like to. Have the chance to visit from the inside there. Yeah, part.
- And is there a place that carries a value for you?

- Yeah, I mean, the, the whole Varosha carries value for me. I think it should be returned to the owners.

- And most of the things that your parents were talking to you was either the apartmental offices or their school life so. What would you say that inside of Varosha is a publicly important or a historically important for the Famagustians?

- Well, I hear people sometimes talk about their football teams like Anorthosis, Salamina. About churches, people who are religious, talk about churches. I think these are the most symbolic in a way you know, things that relate to their religion, or their youth memories or their, you know, spending time or their hobbies, football, etcetera.

- And I know that you don't remember any of, you don't have memories inside of Varosha. But how would you describe what Varosha from the memories that you grow up with?

- You know, it was a developed area, a tourist area. We were hear a lot of times that you know, after so many years, the other cities of Cyprus even didn't catch up, you know, after decades with what Varosha used to be. Of course now, this is not the case, as we talked today, but it was, it used to be the case, I mean 20 years ago, for example.

- And when you went inside, did you try to learn more about the buildings that you were able to see?

- Yeah, I would ask my parents for information. You know, what was this? What was that? You know, things like that, yeah.

- Is there a particular building that strike you the most?

- Yeah, the Hadjihambis, the movie, this movie theatre was demolished so that, that create a very good impression on me. But also in a positive sense, some of the other buildings that were very well preserved. Which I thought you know that, in case of a solution in case, people return back. They would need to just refurbish them without the need to throw them, demolish them or in any way.
- And do you see a future for Varosha?
- And in one sense, it was always connected to the solution of the problem because whenever there was a plan, peace plan, Varosha, was always included as the return to Greek Cypriots. And there are also some special UN resolutions about the status of Varosha. So, in that sense, there is the expectation that Varosha would be the first to be returned. And I'm still hoping that if we have a, you know, revived negotiations, we might get somewhere, even if not, maybe they find some confidence building measures to allow people to return under UN administration. But my hope at least I don't know.
- And in case of being optimistic that everything is resolved, and it is returned, what kind of future would you imagine for Varosha?
- I think it should be refurbished, but not change its character. That's my vision. Because people need to somehow take the thread from where they left it, you know. I wouldn't like to see things demolish to wipe off their memories, I would like, them to reconnect.
- Do you think any of the places inside or from what you said, I'm guessing you're saying that some of the places should be protected as how they are now.
- Yeah.
- What would these places be?

- I think. You know things of symbolic value for people, like schools, where they have their memories. Churches, movie theatres. Where they used to spend, you know, positive time with people. This should be respected in a way. Now, if there are some hotels on the frontline of the beach that any way were, you know, environmentally not a very good decision in the first place. Maybe they could demolish those. I think maybe also from a security issue, they are not so secure now after so many years on the beach. So but this, I guess needs to be the result of a study, you know from technocrats.
- And I'm going to go back to one of your answers. You said your parents would talk to you about the lion in the Old Town, right? And at the time, they were not allowed to go to the Old Town. So, what would they tell you about the lion?
- Where the lion actually is on the outside of the old city. So they would have the chance to visit that? It's not inside the old city.
- Is it not next to the old, Old Town walls?
- Yeah, it's next to the old town walls, but I think it's from the outside side, not the inside.
- What would they speak to you about it? What would they tell you?
- You know that people would go there and you know, if they had a complaint, they would complain to the to the lion, something like that.
- This was all of my questions. Is there anything that you want to add to any of your answers?
- No, no, I think. We discussed most of the important things, I think.

- Is there a question that you think I should have asked you, but I didn't.
- Not really. You know, it's interesting also to explore, I guess the views of Turkish Cypriots about this, I mean how they see the status quo over Varosha, but I don't know whether this is part of your research.

E41 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Completely, yes. It's my whole sense of self, because the age at which I left, is when you are ready to start your life, but that journey for me was cut short. I was 21 years old. I have a lot of memories and life experiences and it is impossible for me to forget them. The pain I feel, I would not only say that it remains the same, but it actually gets worse as time passes. It sounds weird but that's how it is.

- What's your relationship to Varosha? do you remember your life there?

I was born and raised there, my life was sort of dreamy, I can't really find the words to describe it, it was my paradise. With all the sense of the word. I was never deprived of anything, I was living a comfortable life, everything was wonderful back then.

-Do you have any vivid memories from Varosha?

- I feel like all of my memories were somewhat similar, in the sense that they were all happy memories, with the exception of the day that I was leaving the city. I can't pinpoint anything specific that actually made me really sad. Just that one day. The only other time would be when I got expelled from school, because I was quite naughty.

-would you like to share this story with us?

-Sure, I remember that every Saturday we were free to participate in any sports that we wanted. And I had the great idea of not going to school but gathering my friends around, and driving my father's car, which was illegal. I took the car, told all of my friends to get in, and we drove towards Deryneia. When we were on our way back, the school principal was going the other way with a cycling group which was another one of the teams in the school. My dad's car was very distinct, it was a red and white Ford Taunus with wings. So I told my friends "Oh my God, the principal is over there". They all jumped on the floor to hide, and I was pushing against the window cause they were unwillingly pushing me. The principal stopped me and asked me what I was doing and why I didn't come to the sporting events and why I was driving a car. The others inside the car were laughing. He opened the car door, and they all came out one by one. So on Monday he called us out in front of the whole school, and he expelled us from school, all of us. There were around 5 or 6 of us in the car. Because it was illegal to drive a car and we also didn't wear our school uniforms, which was also forbidden. We even had to wear our uniforms on Sundays. On that day we were wearing jeans etc. that was it. This and I remember this other time in 6th grade when I was 17, when the

principal punished us again for not wanting to take a test and I remember he hit us on the hand with the ruler. It seems funny to me now, but back then I was thinking “why did this have to happen now?” but generally it wasn’t that important. I even remember those memories as being pleasant.

- I suppose you went to the lyceum as well.

-Yes, I took piano lessons there for two years, and then I stopped going there and I went to a different place, a conservatorium called Seiriotis. I have a lot of good memories from the lyceum as well. A lot of youthful memories from my teenage years. Going on walks, flirting, going to the cafes, Edelweiss, Rodo, and it was all very innocent.

-What does the name “ghost town” mean to you?

- for me it’s something that everyone else uses to describe it. For me it’s my city, my land, my birthplace, and I went back to see it. Everyone else can call it ghost town, but for me it’s the city of my soul. There’s nothing there that scares me when I look at it. It is terrible how it ended up as, but it’s nonetheless my beloved city.

- Did you visit Varosha when it was closed?

- I did yes, I have been to all of the occupied side of Cyprus when the crossings were opened, I wanted to visit Myrtou which is my mother’s village and I wanted to go over there and visit her house. I also wanted to go to Triкомо, the village of my father. I went to the monastery of Apostolos Andreas, Kerynia, Morphou. I’ve been everywhere.

-What could you see when you visited Varosha?

-I unfortunately could not see my house, I went to the beach, I went to Demokratias and Kennedy Avenue, and to the hotels. I went to Demokratias Avenue to visit my father’s shop there. It was a barber shop and it was called Petit Paris, because my father spent 25 years in France. So he opened that shop when he came back to Famagusta. It was a unisex barber shop that opened in 1953. The original shop was not there however, as it had closed down 3-4 years before the war and in its place a souvenir shop was opened. He closed the barber shop down because he was tired of the women that were coming in the barber shop.

-What more could you tell us about the shop?

-It was at the beginning of Demokratias Avenue, there were always a lot of people coming in, and a lot of friends would come over and hang out there to talk. There was a souvenir shop next to that, there was a lot of tourism in Famagusta. In fact it relied

on tourism, it was a very developed city and had a wonderful beach that doesn't exist anywhere else.

-How did going back make you feel?

-I was speechless. I could not believe that it would be as it was. It caused me a lot of pain and sadness, and there's unfortunately nothing we can do. It is over now, it is done, and unfortunately, we lost Famagusta. To me at least there is no hope. Watching all of the development taking place everywhere – apart from the closed section – makes me think that we are never going back, because I don't think they are repairing everything just to tell us come back we fixed everything for you. It is over because there were a lot of lost opportunities. They were always saying that regardless of what happens Famagusta would always be returned back to us, its citizens, apparently, they fooled us all because there were so many lost opportunities. In 1978, in 2004 with the referendum. I voted yes. But unfortunately I don't see anything happening anymore.

-Did you visit Varosha after it opened in October of 2020?

-Yes, as soon as it opened, I went back.

-Did you have any memories come back to you?

-Yeah, one vivid one was the cafes. And I remember, since we were young people that the boys would sit a bit further from the girls and they would casually just flirt with each other. I remember that it was really lovely and pure. I remember those cafes being always full. Especially during the afternoons. Not so at night, because those were different times, there was this somewhat stricter approach when it came to girls. We were supposed to be home by no later than 8 pm. So we would always hang around there in the afternoon. I specifically remember 3 of them. Edelweiss, poukatshio/Bougatcio (Idk how to spell this sry :D) and Rodo. We would most often go to Edelweiss and Rodo, but sometimes it would depend on which one would have the most boys.

-What was your impression when you went back?

-I couldn't really believe that those were actually the places that I used to hang out at. Apart from the names on the signs, it could not remind me that those were the cafes that I used to hang out at.

-How did you feel when you back?

-I felt really angry, I cried, but then came to my senses and realised that that's the reality of the situation now. When I was returning home however, back to Limassol, that's when I released all of my emotions. I cried a lot more than when I was actually

in Famagusta, because I realised that I am never going back there. When I was in town watching everything, I was really anxious to see everything, but returning back was a lot worse, honestly. I was shouting, I was crying, I felt really angry because I truly felt like we lost Famagusta which we did. There is no fake hope left either.

-Do you not see a future for Varosha then?

-I am almost 70 years old. When there were these opportunities to solve the Cyprus issue, I was making plans, I thought to myself, I'll repair this, I'll live there, I thought to myself that I still have time ahead of me, but now that I'm 70, what can I do? It's not that I don't want to go back, but I don't have the time to make something, because say Famagusta is returned right now, do you know how many years it would take to become what it used to be? Too many, which means that I will even be older than now, I'll be 80, and if for me to be taken there by others, I'd rather not go. I want to go there, not be taken there by my children. We are the last generation to live in the city, after that there's nothing, because whatever I told my children, because I talk to them about the city, it's not the same thing, because if you don't have experiences from the place, it is not the same thing. They already have their own families. They do say that they are from Varosha even though they were born in Limassol, I took them there, showed them everything, but that's it. My one desire is to see my house, my neighbourhood, it's one of the things that I really want to do.

-Could you describe your house?

- My house was on a main Avenue, it was on the cross parish, cemetery road, it was a literal palace, I have photographs to show you as well. I have a lot of photographs like this one. 10 years after the war in 1984, someone from the UN, had access to Famagusta, so we gave him directions and asked him to go to the house, so he went in and found the house, took photographs and gave them back to me. It was a huge shock, to me and to my parents as they also viewed them, they are not alive anymore. It was a really big house, it had four bedrooms and it was separated in two houses, upstairs and downstairs. It was big, it had a big backyard, with loads of flowers in the garden, and my swing, we also had a hencoop, and a laundry room downstairs. All of my childhood memories are there. It was a 10-minute walking distance from the beach, really close.

-Did you expect to see anything particular when you went back?

- not really, I heard some descriptions of the city from others, and I expected to see what I had heard. To be honest I did not believe to see all that destruction. I thought I

would see something better, I did not expect what I saw, and it is really painful watching tourists roaming around the city, looking at what? What exactly? Is Famagusta a sight? That bothers me, watching people roaming around looking at WHAT? I really do not understand that. For me going to Famagusta is not a walk, it literally is a pilgrimage. As you can see, I don't know if you can see clearly, everyone is wearing necklaces with their names, mine says Famagusta. This is my name.

-Is there a place in particular with which you feel connected?

-Yes, the beach in particular, it was called louloudies (flowers in Greek). We called it kounos club (slang for lazy). That and the cafes. Keep in mind that back then our parents would not allow us to go out to parties and disco clubs and if I was to go, everything would happen in secret. So I have so many memories from Demokratias Avenue, because it was the place where I was allowed to go to. The beach on the other hand, was named kounos club, because all of the kounoi (lazy people, usually guys) would go there. And you would always meet the same group of friends there, and I would always hang around with them, they were my friends. They were good people, but they were a bit lazy, they would do everything at their own pace. If you were looking for one of them at any point, you could definitely be sure that they would be there, playing backgammon.

-Is there a place that carries a lot of value for you?

-One place? Just one? there are so many places. For me it's the entire city. But if you want thing in particular, I will definitely say the lyceum, where they now covered the name and added flags of Turkey, that and the public garden. It became more Turkish, the most Greek place in the city now has a Turkish character. Those two were the most distinct places in Famagusta. All the celebrations would take place there. Festivals, like the flowerbeds, the orange festival, we would often go there as students to walk, sit on the benches etc.

-What does Varosha represent for you?

-My entire life. Here in Limassol I'm just a body, without a soul. My soul is back there. Still trapped over there. Whatever you do where you are, if you are not at the place you feel is your home you do everything robotically, you do them because you have to. You essentially feel like half a person. I feel like half a person. I used to believe that having children, marrying them, having grandchildren would change something, but Varosha was always there, it doesn't leave.

-How would you describe a typical day? Say a Summer Sunday?

-I would always expect a phone call from my friends, “Kounos club”, that they would all be at the beach, my friends would call me and all of them would come gather around at my house, we would grab our towels, and we would go to the beach in the morning and would leave when the sun set. We would also take a lot of family trips too, we would go to Apostolos Andreas, which back then I found to be really boring because I would rather be with my friends. But it was mandatory to go there with the parents. Another good memory that I have is with my dad’s car. When I legally started to drive, all of my friends would chase me to drive them to places, which was something that I really enjoyed, I would drive them wherever I wanted.

On a typical school day on the other hand, we would always go to school on foot, and looking back it was a fairly large distance, that looking back I think “did I really walk all that way just to get to school?”. We didn’t feel the distance back then. We would always pass in front of each other’s houses, we would turn into a group and all of us would go together, and we would also have fun at school too. In the afternoon I would always pretend to study in my room and I would have piano lessons after that, and then I would go to Demokratias Avenue, to the cafes, because it wasn’t far from the conservatory and I would return home as soon as the sun set. I remember my mother asking me “how long did you spend in your piano lesson?” because the lesson was typically only an hour, but we would spend a lot more time sitting around at the cafes. The conservatory was a very big opportunity for me to go out because it was near the cafes. For the piano lessons, I needed around two more years to finish and get a diploma, and my aunt in France, was a piano teacher, so my parents told me to go to France after the war to finish and get my diploma, but it seemed to me that it was too far to go there, because I would be too far away from Varosha. Whereas I believed that if I stayed back home in Cyprus, I would be able to go back to Varosha once the city would be returned. I was afraid to go to France, so I didn’t go.

-Do you see a future for Varosha?

-Not for the original citizens of the city. Not for us because of our age. Now if the city is returned and young people decide to go and live there then maybe, but even so, how? Everyone have their lives here so it’s not easy.

-How would you picture a future for Varosha?

-If it happened earlier, let’s say around 1978, Famagusta would be connected to Ayia Napa and Protaras, it would all be connected, and Limassol and the other cities would not be as developed as they are now. If we went back Limassol would not have all this

development that it currently has. They would of course have some development, but not as much.

Now, if Famagusta was to be returned now, it'll be missing the people who actually made their lives there. So some people who fled the city when they were 10 or so, they still have memories of it, but it's not the same, because since the generation who actually built the city, the ones who were forced to flee when they were 50 or 60 are gone now, it's hard, I don't really see it having a future.

-Did the October 2020 opening change your thoughts about the future of Varosha?

-Not really, because I always had hope about returning to the city, just like I did in 1978, and in 2004. When you feel like your life should be there you always dream of a life there, but it's not the same, because your plans change, mainly because there is no more time left. I don't feel like I have time to wait for the city to be returned and then go back, even if it was returned in 1 or 2 years from now. I still hope that it will be returned though. There at the cross parish is the cemetery, I just hope that I get to get buried there, and also take my parents. Which they asked me to do.

-Do you think there are places in Varosha that should be protected?

-I can't think of any specific ones. The ones I mentioned were the ones that I have memories of. For me the whole city should be protected, and everyone's house, regardless of how small it was should be protected.

-Would you like to talk to us about the church?

-Each parish had their own church. For me it was the church of the cross. That's what it was called, with father Pieris. The church was next to Sunday school where we would usually go to. We would always go to church on Mondays and on religious celebrations. I really enjoyed decorating the epitaph during Easter, and the festival of the cross that would take place there.

-Do you have any final thoughts you would like to share?

-I just hope that at the very least, the people who didn't get to see their houses will get to see them before they die so that they don't pass away with that longing, and that hopefully we'll manage to go back home. That's the one thing that we all want. It's unfair that a city like that should be destroyed for no reason at all. My one hope is that I will get to go home eventually, regardless of how the city is. That's all from me.

E42 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?
- Of course, for 50 years I see dreams. I never saw a dream. I spend years in London studying, I spend years in Greece, I mean most of my life is in Nicosia now, but I never saw a dream in my house anywhere else except Varosha.
- And may I ask what is your connection to Varosha? You said you were born in there. But when we started, you said your generation, the generation.
- Yes, my mother, my father from years and years, you know, generation to generation, they are coming from Varosha.
- And how did they start in Varosha? Did they come from another city or?
- No, they were coming from both of my father and my mother family. Both were from varosha.
- And what were your parents doing?
- And my mother was, you know, looking after the family, a housewife. My father was had a factory of tobacco in Karpaz area in Leonaris, I don't know the now what they named the village after 74. Still, they are the part of the, and is used by a Turkish company anyway.
- And you said you were 15 years old when 1974 happened? Do you remember living in Famagusta?
- Everything everything. Yes, yes.

- If I asked. You what is the most remembered memory that you have from the town? What would you say?
- As a kid of 15 years old, first of all the people. I mean you cannot find these people anymore. How we were connected. But as a, the town of Famagusta was a beautiful place at that time very safe with a lot of culture, a lot of beauty and respect. The people they were respect. But if you see even now, like a ghost town, you can see that as a town at that time it was hundred years in front of any other place in Cyprus.
- And at the time which school were you going to?
- To 2nd gymnasium of Famagusta.
- And where was this?
- In Kato Varosha area, it's on the open area. I mean it was you know, it was open from before, it was not in the closed area of Famagusta.
- Was it only girls or boys?
- Only girls, only girls until the third year. And then we were moving. Depending what we were going to study in different in different, other secondary schools.
- What was it like to be a student at the second gymnasium?
- Oh, it was. It was an amazing life. And we had amazing teachers. I will not OK, all of them were amazing. But for that time to have teachers in art to give you so much culture to say you are history, wood carving or painting, or all this. I mean, even now it's very difficult to find on this, we used to go and see the monuments, the archaeological sites.

I don't believe now schools or children, they care about this about our archaeological sites or to go and see in Salamina we used to go and see, plays, they used to come from abroad. Othello's or so or you know from old times theaters.

- Was it only arts that they were teaching, or was there any other subject?
- No, no, no. Everything, everything, everything and normal. 12 subjects. Maths, history, Greek, English, ancient Greek, biology, physics, maths, everything.
- And what was your day like when you were going to school?
- We used to go, but it was not like now, who our children, they have a hectic life. We used to go in the morning, come back 1:00 o'clock. We used to have one or two afternoon extra lessons in languages, mainly. But we used to have also other activities in the afternoons, not every afternoons, at school like people they used to like music or gymnastics or art. And we used to go back in the afternoons depending what we were, we have chosen for.
- Was there a place that you would spend most of your time with your friends?
- Yes, we used to time. Yes, yes. And there were places. OK, 50 years ago you can't imagine but two or three places for coffee places for young coming teenagers. We used to go in the afternoons. With sometimes behind our parents knowing. But it was, you know, very close and very safe everything.
- And what was these places that you would go?
- It was Edelweiss. It was mainly for kids and one or two discos. Even afternoon discos we had at that time. I don't remember the names of those. It was in Kennedy Avenue, behind my house. I remember one of them.

- And you would go to discos as well?
- Yes, yes.
- Do you have a memory from these places from the discos?
- Yes, we have it. You know it was the time of the, you know, of the 60s and 70s. You know how different it was? It was not like as it is now and you know, we were only 15 years old.
- And you said you were going to Edelweiss as well.
- Yes, just for our coffee. And you know the.
- Do you have a memory from Edelweiss? That's always
- We used to. I remember with a friend of mine very close to, a very close friend of mine, we used to go, when we used to go in the afternoon to the to school to do our art in the afternoons, coming back with our bicycle. We used to stop there. For our coffee or ice cream or whatever and then go home. Or during Saturday, Sundays.
- What would you do with your family in the town? Is there a place that you would always go?
- I was very lucky because my house was not the frontline, but at that place it was just a place just one row of houses and behind it was our house. So I used to spend most of my time on the beach there in Hippocrates, which is the road just in front of Kennedy, which is a small part. Which was in front of the beach. There was a, other neighbors in order to have an access to the beach and they did a club membership club at the night

my parents, they used to go for dinner or play cards or, you know, they had events. In the morning, we had access to all two parts to go and see to all to the beach. With my mother and father, we used to go to, you know, Boccacio for during the weekends, for lunch or dinner. There are a lot of other few other places because I was young, we used to go for dinner or lunch during the weekends or when we had holidays. My mother used to take me to whatever event cultural event was coming to Famagusta. And in Famagusta, we used to do also the orange event and all the kids we used to get on the, you know, get dressed for the parade. And it was a big event. And also, there was another event they used to do in front of the first gymnasium. There was a very big garden. They used to do for two weekends I remember. Like a fair to collect money for the poor families and it was a very big event, I mean, and people like my mother and other ladies were working free. And they were preparing a lot of things, a lot of events were happening just to collect the money for the poor. Also, opposite there it was Likeon Ellinidon, where you could go and do balet or music. I used to do Balet, I was really, really good in Balet and I was going there twice a week and in that place, a lot of events were happening as well.

- And I have so many questions about each and everything that you told me first you said your mother would take you to cultural events that would happen. What kind of cultural events would happen?
- Maybe theater, operas or music coming from abroad. Exhibition to the museums we had. My father was also a collector, loved antiquities and was collecting antiquities according to the law, actually, of the Archaeological Museum which passed to me actually. OK, we lost everything, but after we came, it's a passion I have until now, this collection and I have a lot.
- So that's pretty amazing that your dad was collected. Were you visiting the museum in Famagusta?
- Yes, yes, the archaeological the art, for art how do they used to call it, yeah.

- So was there two different museums for the archaeological and the art?
- Art, yes, yes. And they used to do a lot of, because it was a Cultural Center there were a lot of very, very good painters in Famagusta, like Paul Georgio, a very famous and very well known, Scottinos, these people were landmark for Famagusta. I mean, and don't forget that Seferis used to visit Famagusta from the, you know, cultural part, forget about famous actors and actresses.
- And where was these museums?
- In the area where shall, where the municipality was on that more or less area.
- And you said you would go to the orange festivals as well. Did you take part in those?
- Yes, all the kids we used to it was, you know. Yeah, all the kids we used to go and take part.
- Do you have a memory from the orange festivals that you always...
- Ohh yes, there was. I mean we used to, I mean there was a committee they used to do the arms with the people up, you know, different kind of arms for the parade. And also kids not on the arm but also watching dressed something to I mean with oranges to show that is the orange Festival and as a kid for us it was something very it was like the carnival.
- And you said you were going to Likeon Ellinidon for ballet? And how do you have a memory from that you never forget from those ballets?

- Well, yes, we used to do, used to do a lot of shows and I loved. And until now I love ballet and I go to ballet shows all over, I mean in Europe. When I have the time and my daughter now is studying dance.
- Where would you get your clothes for the ballet?
- There was, you know the typical ones, there was a shop I remember. Now I don't remember how or if the teacher was ordering them for us, but for the shows they used to, it was they used to make for us, you know, because we, I mean, there were no no shops, at that time for these kind of things, yeah. Measure for that particular show.
- And was there any shops, dress shop that you would always go to get your clothes?
- I remember, yes, there was in democracy street shoe for our age, but they were also for, they were I remember for my mother again and I shop there. And they used to order because at that time there were no you know shop or this shop or that. They used to order them if they wanted something special.
- What does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- The end of my life. Especially my parents. My father passed way last year at the age of 101 and my mother six years ago with that dream to go back and they never and unfortunately, OK, I was only 15. And what I left behind, I didn't, I didn't work for it, I was fortunate because I had that fortune from my parents, but they didn't have. But still for me, I believe that, OK, I'm happy, I have my family, but ghost town it was the end of my life.
- And when the checkpoints opened, did you go and visit the surrounding of the fenced off area?

- Yes, I went. I went and I try to go quite often. And I mean, during the summer, the first time it was October, I think when they opened and when they opened the Varosha and although it was a bit windy, what I said, I want to go swim in front of my house and we went swimming there and just to bring up the memory, you know the water. Although it was really a small part which was opened not the whole beach in front of my house. But the other thing you have to know, which was a very big, it was, because it was a town next to the beach, we had the association for swimming, so we used to go for training, the kids were put in swimming to participate in different events. In Different, you know, pancyprian or just for the town for swimming events.
- And where was this association for swimming?
- It was. We used to do it in front, it was on the front of my house. But the association, you know, there is a small, like an island near the port of Famagusta. The building of the association was there.
- And did you attend to this association?
- Yes, we were part of this to take participation in the events of you know for swimming.
- And what do you remember the most from these associations?
- You know, it was not to take a medal or not only that it was like a ceremony. We were, you know, like going with friends and enjoy every single minute with our teacher and everything.
- And I'm going to go back to the question before I come and ask more question about this association when they opened the borders from north to South before they opened the streets. Did you visit the surrounding area?

- Yes, yes.
- And what did you try to see? Was there anything in particular that you were looking?
- Of course, old town of Famagusta where St. Nicholas it, which was that area, it was closed even before 74. But there are so many nice monuments, it's unbelievable, the beauty of the Old Town of Famagusta. And the houses, the old houses and what I say is pity if the Turkish Cypriot government, they will not protect all this monument. It's a pity. Not only in Famagusta but in Nicosia, Kyrenia. Unfortunately, Kyrenia is messed up, they destroyed everything, but in Salamina all this side that come from thousands of years before. It is a pity to destroy, it is the history of the country, whether we are you are Turkish Cypriot or Turk or a Bulgarian or a Greenkor whatever, or a Cypriot or whatever it is history of the whole world.
- And did you visit the Constantia Hotel? Like in front?
- Yes, yes, yes.
- Did you try what did you try to see when you looked into the town?
- There, I told like, in the town, I tried to find my house. Although because it was the only one of the two remaining houses. The rest were high building but looking from Constantia and King George towards the town, the closed area, the memories, they come back. And try to catch some memory.
- What was the memories that came back to you?
- Every single thing I told you before, every single minute of my life. I told you, Life going fast, for worth every single minute of our lives.

- To describe me your house, you said the King George Hotel. And right now, you said King George again.
- King George is a very, next to Constantia, is on the border. Unfortunately, it's getting destroyed because the water is coming from, it was an old hotel small hotel, I think around 25 rooms and I know that because I was talking with the owner a few weeks ago. But it was like a diamond, not only for Famagusta, celebrities were coming from abroad and they were living there. Instead of living on the new, there was an era. There was a huge, something mythical about this hotel. Very nice good. But with a great history and it's a pity they destroyed.
- Were you visiting the King George Hotel?
- You mean when I was in Famagusta, yes, I remember we used to go for lunch or for dinner. It was just two steps from my house. We knew the owner so and every day I was swimming in front of it. So it was, you know, on our on our everyday life there.
- And were you visiting any of the other hotels?
- Grecian, because my, the owner, the daughter of the owner, was one of my best friends. And other hotels also because you know it was a small town and we knew each other, the owners. But these two are the main.
- And what do you remember from your visits to Grecian hotel?
- We used to go with my friends and because also their house was next to it, it was part of you know, like going to the House of my friends. You know, yes, everything was very nice. I mean, the owners were really hoteliers. They are not like now I have a piece of land, let's do a hotel. They were real hoteliers. I mean, it was a five star hotel with top service and the food and everything. And it was amazing. And I remember my mother used to have every few years, every two years I remember, used to have a big party

there and I mean to invite a lot of people. Small parties in the house, but when you want to invite 100 or more, used to. And I remember that time the parties, you know, when I was a kid, 65 to 70 or 74 before the war. They used to wear the long dresses. I mean, it was the real time, you know. Different quality of.

- What was the parties for?
- Just to because to celebrate something or to instead of doing small party for ten peoples just was putting everybody you know; they don't do anymore such things anywhere I think in Cyprus.
- And do you have anything in particular that you remember from these parties?
- No I was not going, I was not allowed. But I remember my mother with the long dresses was very beautiful and was getting very elegant and getting really nice dress. I mean, you know, it was like seeing a film, actually.
- And you said you visited after they opened the two streets inside in October 2020. How many times would you say you visit the opened streets?
- Maybe more than 10-15 times. Yeah, but my house. I went only once. I managed to jump. Now they have these cameras very difficult.
- Did you have any memories coming back to you as you walked in the streets?
- Everything, everything, everything here we did this, here we did that. Here is the house of my father's friends, here is that restaurant. Everything is coming back.
- And what in particular did you expect to see when you went inside?

- As I told you always see, of course my house. I didn't know that the road of my house was not open. But to see general how it is and you believe you have this wrong belief that everything will be there and will continue your life as it was before. It just say we should think in this way.

- And was there anything that surprised you the most?

- How the buildings, how good the quality of the whole town, the quality. I mean okay, some buildings, you see that they are going, but this is maybe the 10% of the whole town is unbelievable the quality of the building, the streets, the pavements. Last time I went that was two months ago, because I was away from Cyprus for a month. And they were doing something, passing wires for electricity and telephone. I was again, with another Turkish Cypriot friend of mine, asked them what they are doing. And they said we are passing the wire for telephone and electricity and they said we don't believe it. How this town is built, they were like a sewage and you don't have to, like every time you have to pass a wire to break the road like they do until now in Nicosia and other places. There were tunnels in the whole of the city, so all the wires, they just go inside. And also the sewage system of the city was finished before the 74. Still, now they're struggling in Limasol, Nicosia and other places, so that's why I say Famagusta was in front 100 years for any other place.

- And how did it make feel to see the town in what it is now?

- I was very angry, from both and I'm honest with you and. For a person who occupied, sorry I am talking because you are Turkish Cypriot, to do what they did and to try today as much as they could. It's obvious. But for us from our side, the Greek Cypriot not to work hard to find a solution. And you realize that because I had told I have many, many friends and I feel more home when I go and see my friends, the Turkish Cypriots, I feel that I'm back to my town, although maybe I go to Derinya, or Nicosia on the other side and. You see from there that there is a space for the two communities to work together. And we didn't manage to do it. And when we went, when 2004 the borders opened, then

realized why we left so many years to pass, and we didn't do anything. To join two. The Germany, they managed to isn't it?

- I know you said you wanted to see your house when you went inside, but was there any place that you wanted to see as well?
- Every single place in Famagusta, I mean everything okay, in front of my school, the gymnasium I passed before they opened Famagusta, even my primary school, which was next to Constantia Hotel. I could see it from, I could visit in another school and but OK, we cannot go inside, but the other places other, you know, places they were part of my life. Houses of my friends, restaurants, hotels, every single things they are connected to our life.
- Is there a place that you feel connected to inside of the town apart from your house?
- Every single place and every single place, every single place behind it there is a memory tell you are now being in standing when you walk on the street. You say this is the this this thing, this, this House is this restaurant. This theater, isn't it? Very single bit is part of your life.
- Is there a place that carries a sentimental value for you?
- You know there was an ice cream. That was a very nice in the Democracy street there was a very famous ice cream or as I told you in front of the gymnasium where the garden is, where the sentimental, I mean, we were using all these fairs. Likeon Ellinidon or behind my house, on the other street, it was my aunties house. Beautiful house anyway, now it fell. But you have memories from there. Many memories.
- And you said famous ice cream on Democracy Ave, where was this?

- It was after Boccacio, Boccacio was a very famous I mean my memories there. Many big memories, from the owners because we knew the owners. The food was excellent, I used to go with my parents for lunch or on Sundays. It was an amazing place.
- What do you remember the most from Boccacio?
- The food, I used to eat always eat as a kid, yes.
- And the famous ice cream, you said it was ahead of..
- I don't remember the name, it was, you know, it was an old man. Even now, the children, they continue, and they used to do nice ice cream and nice cheese pies.
- Is it Vienna?
- Vienna, yes.
- Were you going to any of the cinemas?
- Yes, Heraeon, Hadjihambis. I remember going with our friends. Even the school was taking us to watch films, but if there was a nice film and we were allowed from our parents, we used to go with our friends and dates there.
- What do you remember the most from these cinemas? Was there anything in particular that was different?
- It was, you know, a nice place for outing as a kid, for us, yes. And don't forget that at that time, there was no Netflix, no Internet. So to watch a nice film, it was something, wow. Isn't it?

- I'm going to go back to something that you said before you. You said you were going to discos and they were on JFK. What do you remember the most from those discos?
- You know maybe for us it because we were kids it was something different or sometimes we were not allowed to go and we were going. You know, maybe it was, discos, different discos like they are now. But you know we used to dance with our classmates and our friends.
- Would you say you were spending most of your time on democracy or JFK Avenue?
- Yes, there are the two main streets we used to pass.
- And what else? Where would you go to on JFK?
- On Kennedy avenue, it was as I told you, the Grecian hotel.
- And the beach?
- Yes, beautiful beaches and in front of the beach, but part of Kennedy Avenue was a second line in front it was Hippocrates Street, which was my house. If you go and see a map.
- And Alasia was..
- Alisa, where Alasia is yes, there was my house yes. And it was in front of my house, it was also Hadjidakou clinic. A very famous doctor. Could be a millionaire, but was not accepting any money, was only taking money from he knew they were rich in order to cover the expenses of the clinic. Was not accepting any money, especially for poor people.

- And did you ever need to go to that clinic at all?
- It was a, doctor was a very good friend of my father. I mean some people friend they used to be there and because I was naughty as a kid, I was falling down, I had to get stitches. I used to go there for stitches, my legs, my hands.
- Did you ever go to the Alasia?
- Yes, yes, yes. We used to go there.
- And do you remember there? Do you have a specific memory from Alasia?
- You know it was a nice place again Alasia, for coffee, tea and lunch but to swim also there depending where as kids we were deciding, let's meet here or with there.
- And do you see a future for Varosha?
- No.
- And why is that?
- I believe what will happen there will be no solution whatsoever, unfortunately, and what I see, although I heard people they say, I mean we want to do Varosha as the new Dubai, some investors on your side. Whatever they do, it will not be the same, the same beauty. And why to do, to copy something else? Every town has to remain and has its own beauty. Can you copy a painting of Picasso? It will be the same? No. Picasso is Picasso. So, try to renovate what you can renovate and try to bring that, how can I say, the beauty of that town, but to it as it was before, although the people they passed away. Maybe there was something we can say, but I believe that there is no future,

unfortunate. But if they give me my house back, I mean, even under the Turkish regime, if they give it to me and I would like to go and live, to be there.

- If we think optimistic, be optimistic and say there is a solution. Do you think any of the places inside of Varosha should be protected as how they are now?
- Yes, a lot of them. Because there they were some like the old houses, they protect them now, even now I mean, you cannot if we take our side in Nicosia, because they are houses, they are protected as archeological value, because they are 200 years old. They have to protect a lot of buildings there because they were a lot of, very very famous architects of those time. Also they have to protect King George hotel and bring back that era of King George back. I mean, its like the small hotels in south of France, it's a beauty, diamond that one. Even Constantia Hotel, now when I go to Constantia that ugly thing, they managed to renovate it. I feel sorry for it. I mean with no sense of the beauty, whoever owns it I don't know, whoever renovated. I mean you have to be, when you renovate, you have to feel that you have to protect the people, not the owner, the architect, the how they were, because these are artists, you have to protect this old monument, isn't it? I mean take in England, you go and buy a house even the worst area of London and you buy house. When you start renovate, they will come and they will check that they will not destroy the old building. I mean you can do change in inside but you cannot, the beauty of the previous architect. Isn't it?
- And you said that there was famous architects at the time. Do you know any of them?
- Michalidis, who did also a lot in, he was based in Nicosia and who did Grecian, as far as I know, a very famous architect. My mothers', my parents' house, was done by an architect, who moved in, around after he did my parents' house. He moved to California, who did very well known architect in California. And there are a lot of.
- And you said it should be protected, most of the places inside which places would you say are important for you Varoshians and Famagustians?

- You have to, as far as I know, there are some places inside, there were painting on the wall from famous Cypriot artists, they destroyed everything. We can not take it back. I mean whatever we do, it will not be the same. Time, so many years, it will not be the same. Unfortunately, because it was not just locked and we just left out houses. Unfortunately the Army and other people they went and they destroyed everything. So whatever you do, maybe it will not be able after the 50 years to renovate and keep it. You have to demolish it. I don't know. I'm not an architect, a planner or an engineer?

- Do you know any of these buildings that had paintings by the Cypriots artists?

- First of all, the house of Paul Georgiou, which is next to Constantia called the Blue House there, there was a painting on the wall, a small painting on the wall. Last time I went, two months ago that things, was disappeared, I don't know. I mean even the government. They don't try to protect, to show. It was owned by rich people whether it was all my before or from anybody. I told you. These are treasures for the future. For the whole, for the whole society.

- Which places do you think should be protected?

- As I told you, archeological museum, the municipality there are some schools they have to be protected, churches, they have to be protected in the closed area of Famagusta. St. Nicholas, Agia Zoni, all those places they have to be protected. Of course, I couldn't go because they were closed and we couldn't visit them. They have to be protected, like lot of churches which were under the, now, UNICEF and they were they were renovated and they managed to survive, in that area, near outside Famagusta or near Kyrenia. A lot of places were renovated under UNICEF protection.

- And do you think any of the places, social places that you as varoshians would visit should be protected?

- For me, just for my memories, yes, but now, if they have to be protected because of any value architectural, I don't know.
- No, not for the architectural values, but for the values for the times that..
- Yes definitely, Likeon Ellinidon must be protected.
- Do you want to add anything to the answers that you already told me?
- No but, if you want, when you put everything together, let's say, we can have another zoom and we can add and ask me more questions whatever you want. Maybe you realize that you need that information on that information and we can meet again.
- Thank you. And do you, is there a question that you think I should have asked, but I didn't?
- I cannot now. But maybe if I think about it, I will write it down and I will send you an E-mail OK.

E43 Transcription

- You know, the first my during my first visit, everybody tried to say welcome. And when they understood that I was, you know, I told them, you know, you cannot say this, I never left. And yeah, it's true. We never left. It's hurting to believe that there is a border.
- You said you were 15 at the time. I'm going to ask you because you said your father was living in Old Town, and after he moved out, you kept going to the Old Town again.
- Yeah, every 2-3 days, yes.
- And what was the reason for that?
- Ah, because. Most of my father's friends were Turkish Cypriots, so he's clearing agents were Turkish Cypriots. So because we were importing from the port, they said we are taking over. Of course he had a lot of friends and half of our clients at the pharmacy were Turkish Cypriots. In 2005, I had a very big attack from Turkish Cypriots, so they insisted. OK, I was writing the indications on the, you know, the prescription because we prescriptions from Turkish Cypriot doctors. And when they pushed a lot, you know what is your Turkish? You have to speak in Turkish. You are the son of Andreas, you know. And I told him, don't push me because the only thing comes in my mind is, otherwise it's just words. And of course, you know, so many years without saying a word, is not easy. I was a kid and my Turkish was when I was meeting with Turkish Cypriots, either at the shop or in the Old city. If you don't meet with them, who is going to talk in Turkish? Nobody, you know what happened when everything was sealed off? You don't speak another language.
- It's really interesting. And you said people in Varosha was saying it's dangerous, don't go to Old Town.
- Yes, my classmates, especially, because their parents were telling them.

- What was the life in the Old Town at the time?

- Thinking backwards, we pushed the Turkish Cypriots in this area in the old city and also, you know, at Sakarya, you know that area. So it was not easy financially, though, OK for me, it was relaxed when I was entering because everybody, you know, I was a son of Andreas, so everybody wanted to hug me or whatever though, I was not very comfortable through. It's true, it was not a difficult thing for me. We were not even stopping at the gate. Everything was opening before. The old photos of the old city. You can find my father's shop and the car. There is a dentist in the Old City who still has a lot of photos in this dentist shop. You feel that you are a part of the Old city.

- And when your dad moved out in 58, did he directly open another pharmacy in Varosha?

- He opened the biggest pharmacy in Cyprus. When we were entering the old city, though, we had to do the same procedure every time. We had to stop. He was showing shop, he was telling me, my son this is our shop. Every night we were eating under the palm tree, this was life my son. Every time was the same story every time it was the same, you know, sadness for him because that was his life, his friends. It's true you are missing the things that you really enjoy.

- And you said your dad opened the biggest pharmacy in Cyprus in Varosha. Was there anything that he tried to do the same that was the same in Old Town pharmacy?
- Yes, the sign was in Turkish as well, it was not so easy at the time. The pharmacy was much, much bigger, employees were Turkish Cypriots. And I don't know. Yes, he liked to finish the job and eat outside with friends on the pavement, like in the Old City.

- Where is the pharmacy? The location of it in Varosha?

- Evagorou street, its near Barclays. If you ever went there, you go up to Democracy, it's on your right opposite Barclays. It's 30 meters. That thing I forced the army; I didn't accept that I should not go because you could see it. We had a bet with my father. Because he believed that nobody would destroy his shop. In 76, we had a visit of a Turkish Cypriot. He came from London. He visited Varosha and he came to tell him that they looted his shop. When he left, he tried to tell me that though he explained three times, my father didn't believe him. I told him it's normal. He cannot believe you whatever he believed so many years that his friend will protect him. He's lost. He's not going to believe you. So honestly, I had a doubt, so I went to see. It was a total destruction, unfortunately. And this is like when, we don't have leaders. When we have leaders, you have good stories, and you have people who respect, I think that most of our leaders were thieves. They just wanted to steal from Turkish Cypriots, from Greek Cypriots. Nothing mattered.
- You said you had workers that were Turkish Cypriots as well.
- Yes, we had, yes.
- And how did they start working at the pharmacy?
- And I think because they were working in the old city some of them came. It was a natural thing, it was a natural thing to eat together with my father. And it was very, very natural that we had half of our clients were Turkish Cypriots.
- And you said at the time you were 15, so you were going to school? Which one was your school? Which school were you going to?
- In primary school, yes, I was going. Everything was in this, now it's closed. I cannot even see my school. The gymnasium is at the Garden Municipal Garden.
- You were going to the gymnasium. Which year were you in?

- At the 4th year we left, we had to leave.

- So how was it to study to be a student at the gymnasium?

- I want to tell you the truth, because I think you have to learn a bit more. That was a time where Swedish were the number one tourist in Varosha, it was packed. For us, it was strange, blonde and white people. So my worst accusation from my classmate, I mean the girls, is that I didn't take them out. And the deal was because, you know, at the time the mothers wanted their daughters to go with somebody they knew. And I was telling them until the turn, I cannot take you out because it's a shame to go out with Greek Cypriots I was telling them. That was the reality. Because okay, you have to understand that we had 10 times more tourist than the local population, it was a disaster. Total disaster. That's why we were out of control. That's why I told you we didn't realize what was going on. I was working in the pharmacy until 8. O'clock and from 9:00 o'clock. I was working to a pub. My father was wondering until then, what? What are you doing in a pub? What kind of job you could do in a pub, but it's another story. It's true, it was something you cannot imagine, and it could not eventually continue for long because the society was going to get ruined, I mean, very easy money.

- And you said you were working in the pub. Which pub were you working in?

- Jupiter pub.

- Where is that?

- Ah, you cannot see it now. It's a pub not very far from Kennedy. It's parallel practically, but towards the city centre.

- And why did you? Why were you working there as well?

- It was not just me. We were four classmates. I had a job in the morning. 7:30, but yeah, we were working at the pub. And the whole story you cannot record. I'm honest with you.
- It's it is going to be between you and me. I will not use your name if you wanna share it with me.
- My father was very upset. Because he could not understand this. You know, you are very young. What are you doing. It's a very nice pub and we can offer anybody, even if we want to offer it for free, and my father was saying this is not normal and he was right, for a few weeks yes, it's true, we didn't realize anything. After we understood that, you know. And of course, the way to feel secure is like for example, if you want to smoke and you don't want anybody else to tell your parents, you force everybody to smoke. Isn't it? So, this guy tried to do this was his policy. You know, we don't want you to say this. So you are in the adventure. Okay you follow for a certain limit and then okay, you understand that your dad is correct. But of course, you don't want to believe it from the beginning. You think that you are important, OK. This guy is offering us a job. We can invite everybody, even without charging him. We are the bosses. You know how it is. It's full of girls and you know and we are the boss. And then we realize that is not so pure. But that was Famagusta at the time. Never slept, never. At 11, I had to be at home by the way, it was a must. I was going home and getting out from the window. I was just, the front door and you know, going out.
- How did you find the job? Were you just working on the weekends or during the week as well?
- No, during the week. It was fun. We were not practically, you know, embarrassed because you know it was like going out. You are going out and you are a boss at the same time. You don't pay. You offer a drink. But it's not so pure you know, after some time you realize that there is a cost to pay. So you have to go. And this is life, of course.

Nothing is for free. When you are young, you don't believe that the eldest are telling you the truth, but yeah. Sometimes they know more, sometimes.

- What was the school life? What were you doing at school?
- I was very active because I was doing, I was playing basketball in the First Division. I was making, I'm still, I like a lot, you know, poetry and you know, all this stuff. So, I was playing in the theater. I was, you know the thing opposite the municipal garden, it was the most important cultural thing I was participating every two weeks in something. So yeah, I liked a lot reading and literature and poetry especially, who helped me a lot.
- You said you were participating every two weeks was it in Likeon Ellinidon?
- Yes, yes, yeah, we were reciting poems or doing theater things.
- So it wasn't only woman, it was for men as well?
- Very few. Yes, I went there as a kid. You know, my grandfather from Iskele, he had a lot of kids and at the age of 12, he went to Egypt. You know, Cyprus was very poor. And he came back. He was speaking English, Italian, French, Arabic. He was playing violin, guitar. He was dancing and of course he was reciting a lot of poems, at six years as a kid I was taking my bike on the bus to go to his garden. And every morning this was his thing we were going to water and then he had to say something I remember lot. This was the first motivation he tried to buy me a violin. No chance a mandolino. No chance. Second mandolino. No chance. And then he asked me to recite something. And he said, my what? So I went to Lyceum. It was for ladies. But because you know when you are six years old, you are not a lady, you are not a boy, you are a kid. Suddenly, at the age of 10-11 we had a competition. I was there and Solon Mihalidis was the director of the Greek National Orchestra. He was the guy who was coming once a year. Out of the Blues, he said you have to change the regulation. There is one guy you have to give the prize, it started like this. And he insisted, so for the next three

years, I was the best. It was well, sometimes it was annoying because, well, I had to participate to a lot of activities, you know, because everybody was asking, can you make this introduction? Can you make this even after 74? I made a lot of things for a few years and then I stopped. Now I'm the president of the Cultural Committee of Famagusta, Greek Cypriot municipality. We are doing things, interesting sometimes, but okay we have small and smaller audience. So yeah, that's how a boy went into a girl's lyceum.

- It's looks like you had a really busy life at the time. And you said you were playing basketball as well. Were you playing it at the gymnasium or Anorthosis club?
- Anorthosis club. Yes, yes.
- So what do you remember about Anorthosis club?
- Anorthosis club, is 30 meters from my house. It's very important, you grow up with this. When I was five years old, they didn't allow me to go to the basketball game because I was a kid, so I was standing in order to understand from the crowd if we are winning or if we are losing, it's true for a couple of hours I was doing this. Yeah, I started training alone all day long, you know I wanted to do it, it's true. I managed, I managed to po play two games not in Famagusta, unfortunately, way matches, in the first team. And of course, after 74 we helped the team to continue for a few years. Ah, three years ago they made the team again and they asked the old players to go and, you know, participate to a tournament. I mean, not play but to assist. They wanted to honor us and they wanted everybody to say a few words and. It was very embarrassing because everybody was repeating the same thing. What can you do when you are 15 guys and you know everybody was, you know? Saying, you know, we were playing for our T-shirts. Well, we love the team, but whatever you can say. Uh, so I was switching position everytime just to think to say something interesting because they were giving you a microphone. And the parents were expecting you to say something interesting, but we were telling them, you know, the same thing. It was of course, interesting for the first 2-3 people but after that at the end I said I'm not a retired basketball player.

The guy, the president of the, how do you say basketball thing of Cyprus was holding thing to give it to me. He didn't know what to do. I told him no, no, no. I need to score once at Varosha and then, I will retire. OK, he was relaxed. The thing is that, yeah we lost a half a century doing nothing, in fact, because we are doing nothing. I don't believe that I have to accuse you to win anything because in the end our future is going to be the same, otherwise we lost. Has to be a common future. Oktay Kayalp helped me a bit. He gave me the municipality in Varosha every second Thursday and one microphone. You cannot imagine what was going on, people were crying. They didn't even accept the fact that I was going to rent a house in Varosha. They wanted to take me in. Talat made a mistake. When we grew up to 500 and people were crying, believe me. People, especially ladies who are very fanatic, the most impressive thing was this. He went to Famagusta, he told the CTP members, who are participating, I know this because they apologized. You know, Nikos, they said yes, you know him. Nice guy. And you know what is his job? He has a pharmaceutical business. Yes, but you saw, his job, his office, his depot. No, but we saw his house. It only cannot do this. If he is selling pharmaceutical, how he can control you? He is in the intelligence service. That was the last meeting we had. They didn't come. This is handicap because we are looking to get elected, to be in power and this is a huge handicap for Cypriots.

- Going back to the before 1974. Because you were involved in so many things. What was life in a normal day, for you, what would you do?
- You know, we're moving with bicycles at the time. I was going to school with the bicycle, if it was during the school period, I was most of the time we had to go to English and French lessons in the afternoon, and sometimes something else. Well, studying was not becoming a priority at the time. It is true we had a lot of things in our head, you know, playing the clubs first team and going out at night and this is the reality and it was a very, very busy town. If I was working to my father's shop, I had to do a lot of things. I had this handicap, I had to involve myself through everything I mean collecting the money, distributing pharmaceuticals with the bike, it helped me to remember the city. Otherwise, it will not show evident. If you have 15, how you can remember? And in the summer, yes, I was working much more, but I didn't have to study. But we were touring around until 3:00 o'clock it was unbelievable and my worst

nightmare was the age. We had to say that we are 18, something like that otherwise you cannot go out in the clubs or nobody believed in fact, I had a handicap I looked younger, even younger And my classmates was telling me, you know, you have to say 18, because otherwise we have an issue. But even 15, they were not believing me. How can you say you are 18. I had a blonde hair, which was another handicap, you looked younger, imagine that at the time I was trying to put the shampoo to darken my hair. Those were the days my friend.

- And where would you go? What was the places that you would go the most?
- The sea front. The pubs at the sea front. Though I could not drink a lot.
- Do you remember the names of them was there a particular one?
- Yeah, not all of them, but okay, I went. Anchor was one of them. We, you cannot see now. The most interesting café was Edelweiss, you know the turn after the roundabout and if you were lucky, you could go to labyrinth's disco underneath. But yeah, the hotels, it was full of, packed of hotels, you could go there. I don't remember exactly which one now but there was a bar in the hotel. The bartender was a British lady. And she knew that I could not drink alcohol, so she was offering me glass of milk every time I was there, it was helping a lot because otherwise I could not continue drinking. And I know that no I know, I heard the most of the guys who were there, they were very upset because you know a kid is coming. The bartender is offering him a glass of milk and they have a chat every night. But she was very interested, what did you do tonight? And we were having fun honestly. But this was the climate. You know, you never think that something could go wrong? Or you know things are going worse? Though there were a lot of demonstrations in Varosha, Makarios and Grivas, you know. The only thing I was not allowed to do was this, don't come back home if you go to demonstration. That was my father thing. I never went to demonstration because he was totally against it. But OK, at the time I didn't believe a lot. I thought, you know, he's exaggerating, though he was not. He never liked confrontation like this.

- So even though there was demonstrations in Varosha, still the climate was so easy and good?
- At my age. Following the guys of 15 years old, yes. That was the thing you know?
- And you said you were going to hotels as well. Was there a particular hotel that you would go all the time?
- No, no, no, not all the time because most of the times you know we're going outside because you have to understand that every time you enter to a bar in a hotel that it was a procedure. We didn't like it a lot. You know, how old are you? You have to lie it's not easy sometimes to cheat, but you know, going to cafes and going to the beach late at night.
- And was there a place that you would go with your family?
- Yeah, Iskele. Yes, because the grandparents, because of the grandparents, you know, because my father lost his parents when he was very young. He was, he wanted to go, astonishingly, he wanted to go and see his father and mother-in-law. It was one of the shocking things I was always, you know, for a long time, I was wondering why he wants to go to his parents in law and my mother, you know, is not so enthusiastic sometimes. Sometimes you understand when you lose your mom when you're six and your father, when you are 13, you miss the family. It's true.
- What does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- I never like the idea of calling Famagusta or Varosha, Ghost Town. This was the stupidity of the stupid politicians. We had huge fights in the Famagusta municipality, in 15 years in municipal council. And I disagreed with this. They claim that this is helping them to make propaganda. OK, I'm not making propaganda. When I present

something, I present my reality but not making propaganda. It was not a ghost town in fact, for people who knew, was never a ghost town. But if we want to push people to see the wrong image, we are making a mistake. You know Turkish Cypriots, are not entering the ghost town, so called ghost town Varosha. They're not too many. I first no, I first I invited co come during a visit of the municipality in Varosha, he was shivering when he passed. When I told him this is my classroom from the road. And he said so he said I, Turkish Cypriots don't like to come, unfortunately, because it's becoming a tourist attraction to the Turks now. It's true there are buses. Looking at what? But of course, there is nobody to hope to or to give a kind of how you say, a vision to anybody. So everybody is doing whatever they can to collect money.

- Sadly. You said you visited when they opened the checkpoints. You went to the Old Town and did you go to the surrounding of the fenced off area?
- Did I go to?
- The surrounding of the fenced off area before the they opened the streets. Did you go to the Constantia Hotel? The beach to look at the Varosha?
- It took me 14 months to pass a checkpoint. It's true. Though I strongly supported the yes, for the referendum. Finally, I was right. It ruined my life. When I passed the checkpoint for the first time, it was a kind of revolution myself. First day I didn't do anything. I didn't step down from a car. I lost time and when you realize that you forgot about leaving Varosha. It's revolutionizing in your head. You cannot accept it. Then I started coming every day. Then I started drinking a lot. I started door to door talking to people, because the most important thing sometimes is what are, you know, these people who are going to live with us? Like, if we don't like them, don't try anything, you know. We have to know where, you know, if we can live together. Having a coffee in Tuzla on the pavement was, you know, it made me cry. You don't believe that for 30 years. You don't have this. You don't have a neighbor because Makarios didn't allow us to be at the same area, the refugees. No, he controlled everything, it was an evil plan. So you don't see your, you know, for years, even now if you come and we visit

our next door in Famagusta, you know what they're going to do first. They start crying and then they say hello. They start crying for two minutes and then they say hello. It's not happening in the north, they allow people to, you know, at least to keep their neighbors. What we faced here it was not human, you know, class, classes. You don't know this, classes were separated. The refugees and non-refugees. We didn't have a very, very easy time when we came here. I studied in France, you know why? We were broke. How are we going to UK with zero money? I went to France without a flat, without a room, without knowing where to stay. And on top, they lost my luggage. You cannot imagine, I could not believe that it happened to me. I went to France with zero things. And I stayed. I was planning to stay in the railway station. OK, somebody helped me. But yeah, this is the reality. I was a Prince and you know, I was sleeping on the floor.

- Why did you go to France for?
- Because there were no fees at the university. This is the only logic and it was not so easy with the language.
- And after checkpoints opens, did you try to see anything inside of Varosha from the wires?
- No, no.
- Did you? Did you visit the beach side? Where the Constantia Hotel is?
- Yes, of course, because we were making activities. And sometimes, even if I disagree, you have to give a motivation to people. People like to remember their youth that they were coming to the beach. Though sometimes you have to overcome personal property. You have to see Famagusta belonging to everybody. And then you can find the solution.

- And you visited after they opened the streets inside, in October 2020.

- Yes, I did. I did. We made the protest together with Turkish Cypriots, few months before. When the Turks came to Sandy beach to inspect these hilltops. We made the demonstration, there was a quite interesting reaction from Turkish Cypriots. OK, don't think 3 Greek Cypriots came to demonstrate but. We came when they opened Varosha, though we knew that.

- Did you have any memories coming back to you. As you walked in the streets?

- Yes, it's true every time. Every time. It's confusing when you pass the first time, the second time, the third time, yeah. And if you are not alone, it's not easy. If you walk alone and then it's helping a lot.

- And what is the memories that came to you?

- It's not only the memories. You remember where you were walking. You remember the schools, the friends' houses. A lot of things, you know. There is a strange feeling of happiness, you cannot describe. I don't know why I feel happy. I should not but I feel free. I never adapted myself to the South so I don't feel that I belong to the South. I was teaching, I was making presentations to schools. Even in Aysergi, I done it. In Aysergi, I had the honor to have the school outside. When I visited the school because I was going very often and I knew a lot of teachers there. In Lefkosa, when I went to school and they sang Nese Efin song. I told them the reply according to myself. Which part I should love? Is the north. Is normal. Why should I love the South? Why should I put this question myself? Because of the South, we are losing the north. I don't believe that we have to force the Turkish Cyprus to a solution. They have to decide themselves. I don't believe the financial restrictions should be an advantage, it is not an advantage, it is an handicap, if you ask me, and this is why I helped a lot of people and I informed a lot of European companies that this is not a solution. You are pushing

people to other solutions. I don't want anybody. You don't get married by force. What's going to be after?

- What was your impressions when you first saw how the streets and buildings are when you went inside? What were your first impressions?
- It didn't change. Even when you repair the municipal garden, when it's super. It didn't change, my school, even if they put the flags didn't change. It's my school. It's like my flower, my rose. They didn't do anything, I mean. And it's a shame, because we don't share the same. We have a huge responsibility, of course, but it's not easy for a few people to take the whole task. I tried to tell them that you know, you have to visit the sealed of city. You have to share some kind of you know, you have to, you know, like the Varosha, because it's belonging to everybody. And like, you know, 2008 we went to the Europa Nostra to European Community. Not a joke, I pushed the municipality to agree that you have the funding for those city. Papadopoulos was mad. I forced alanos, we went to Paris. We agreed. They got the funding. You can ask Oktay Kayalp what happened. Oktay, when we made the press conference. He didn't accept to start the conference until I went up on the bench on the, you know, he didn't read the he just signed the document because he asked who printed them when they told Nicos printed them. He didn't even bother to check. It's true that when I told him I want an office to help the restoration, he told me whatever you want. But you will see. You are not going to come and he was right. They didn't allow me. So there are a lot of things to consider. But sometimes you know you have a family and sometimes you are tired. This is my reality and I have to defend my job. And because I don't ask for favors in this country, is not so easy. But it's not easy to touch me as well, because I become my I'm out of control.
- Do you see a future for Varosha?
- There will be a future. I like it or not I'm sure that Varosha is going to be rebuilt by Turkey, by Russians, by Chinese or by Cypriots. It's not up to me. I'm trying my best. I'm honest with you.

- To be optimistic, what kind of feature would you like it to have?

- A joint future. I'm not going to say I have to get my mother's property, you know, all the property monarga or in bachelor or in Famagusta. But at least my house in Varosha.

- Does anything that happened after the October 2020, like them opening the streets saying that they're gonna give free persons back and any of this changed your mind about the future?

- I think the future is depending on Greek Cypriots a lot. Judging of what we see until now, we didn't change. We didn't take our lesson. And to be honest with you, whatever we say, Turkey is a power. Even if we don't like the idea Turkey is the power. We see what's happening now in the Ukrainian issue. It is not a joke. And in life you have to put priorities. You cannot. If you want money and nothing else is important. You are going to lose everything. Because money is nothing. You saw how it happened. You can lose everything in one night. But people, you cannot lose your friends in one night. This is the reality. Even people you don't know, you cannot, you can trust . I went, there was a restaurant, I don't know if there is. When my grandfather was taking for a swim. I entered with a Turkish Cypriot guy and he was playing Turkish music and then when he saw me or he saw the car plates he's put English music and I told him? No, no, no, I don't like English music, he said, I don't have Greek music. I told him, I prefer Turkish. So he was trying to help. After finishing and I told him, I have a favor. He said what? I told if t to one night I come here. And I want to sit watch the sea and drink. And you leave me a chair. You had to see him. He was so shocked. I didn't know the expression. They told me. It means that you know, as you order my you are feer on my head, something like that. So people will always listen to you if you tell them the truth. But they have to see something. They have to believe in something and they have to see a vision.

- When you went inside, what in particular, did you expect to see?

- I didn't. I don't know. I didn't go with this aspect. I just wanted to. I don't know. I just wanted to see if it was so beautiful, as I remembered, and the bad thing was that it was more beautiful than I remember. One guy was a bit older than me, went 5-6 months ago. He went to his house. It's in the main road, Democracy Road. He took out the key, the door opened and there was somebody with a camera this guy didn't know that he was a journalist. He was shocked and he said, I put the key in, I turn, It's open. OK, it's very simple. You can open a lot of things. But you have to try I mean. You have to think that you know they took the Turkish Cypriot properties. So why they want the solution? And this is a bitter reality.

- Is there a place that's you feel connected inside of the town?

- Because I lived in the center, you know everything is close. It's not easy to. You know. The last poem I said in the Lyceum opposite the municipal park, was the poem from Kavafis the town. And finally, it says that the last sentence, you know, whatever you do this town, will follow you. I printed it. I printed the poem because it was hurting me. But they didn't allow me to put it in, on the door. 15 years ago they made a, kind of activity for the New Year and they wanted a sponsor. I told them I can be a sponsor, but I need 5 minutes. I need the microphone for 5 minutes. And they didn't accept. I told them I cannot tell you until you give me a reply, I will tell you, of course. They didn't accept, because at the time, I was very often in the media about the yes and no vote, and when they said no, I told them I would pay the whole activity but you had to allow me to say this poem. If I got the best price without being a refugee, I just wanted to recite the poem with this experience. And you didn't allow me? Because you thought that I was going to swear on whom New Year's Eve? For what? You have to trust people. And my teacher. She passed away a few years ago. She called me one day, because I was pushing everybody to go live, to go to a media, you know, you cannot allow a few people to, you know, get all the pressure. So she called me, and then she was crying. She told me because I'm very proud to be your teacher. I told her I'm sorry, but I have to tell you this? Normally I should be proud of you because you are my teacher and this is true, I see a lot of my teachers and this is true. You cannot tell me I'm proud of you, because you have to go in the front. If I am going to tell my kids

something, I'm going in the front. I'm not telling them go alone. And this is a handicap of the public employees. They don't want to get exposed. But we have to get exposed in this country.

- Do you think we should? Anything inside should be protected as how they are now.
- Yeah, everything should be protected. Unless the owner is selling it. This is my honest reply. Why should I choose? People should have the opportunity first of all to see their homes. You know, a lot of people didn't visit yet. It's frustrating. Some people don't like the idea that there is police. They have to pass from a gate. There's a ridiculous restaurant built outside. Or what we are going to enjoy the I don't know the spectacle of people passing. I don't know. And then have a dinner. But of course. If we don't regroup together, this is our reality.
- Apart from the houses or the privately owned buildings, do you think any of the places in sites that carries historical value or social value for Varoshians should be protected?
- OK, schools, you know, schools. Everybody's attached with school. There is Paul Georgiou house near the beach with the Don Quixote picture. You know, these things are with the, they left the windows open. It's a shame. There are a lot of small things. You know, they should protect. But in fact, if we were honest, we should ask from all people to come with us. Just to protect the sincerely what we have to protect. Breaking all, stealing all the doors and the windows is not helping at all. Mainly 8% of Famagustians passed away. So a lot of people will not, will never return back, but at least you have a chance to have a few Famagustians coming back to show that we can unify a country. And believe me, there is no difference on the mentality. I can tell you. I'm not talking only about Turkish Cypriots, I'm talking about Turkish as well. It's true, it's astonishing, but we have the same mentality we are. We are not like British. We are not calculating. We are overreacting most of the times.
- For the Famagustians, it is important for them to keep it alive, the traditions of the time.

- It is very, very important. It's.
- And I'm guessing you were trying to keep these traditions for the events that you were doing on the beach?
- The most revolutionary thing is to open a primary school. You will see thousands of people crying. I'm going to push for this. We done it 5-6 years ago and we needed a stadium. Primary school in Famagusta. We had 800 students. And twenty teachers over 80. If you do this, you know is giving people hope. We have to give people hope that there are people who are sensitive to this and they understand the need to make things happen. Now, they stopped the ceremonies in, you know Agios sergios exorios, in the old city. Not without a logic. I'm direct, please should not take machine guns and shoot. Even for a joke. And they posted it. This was a very big mistake and this is the reason. But why you have to punish everybody? People were looking forward to meet with their, you know, compatriots from Famagustians. Once or twice a year, let them do it. That's why I am going to Dipkarpaz because I want to see people. Hey, I like that. I you know, I stay in Karpaz, I stay in the old city. Yeah, I stayed a lot of times the OK. It's not easy. Don't think it's easy. The first time, I stayed one night to a friend's house. It was not so easy. Next day I wrote an article to Politis. Good morning, Effendi, because I felt that I was not Famagustian, as I thought. It is true, but you have to think continuously. You have to evaluate things.
- So you're also, in the business pharmacy up. 1974 did your father continued doing his job? Did you take over from him?
- Yes.
- Did you take over the business from him?

- No, I didn't want to continue this because it was hurting a lot, because you start from scratch and now our compatriots, tried their best to ruin his job because you know when you are weak, everybody is trying its best and. So, I decided not to become a pharmacist. I was going to work in a laboratory as a chemist. I thought it was not going to be so hard for the family, but it was finally not acceptable. So I came back. I don't regret anything. But my initial intention was not to come back and work. It was very hard for the first 20 years. Very very hard. You cannot believe that. OK, from the moment they done what they wanted because you have to understand that Famagusta was the most rich town when some people lost everything they could not recover. My father could not recover from that. He was lost. He had eight people to feed. It was a disaster for him, so when I went to France. And you had to do whatever job you could find because you don't want to ask money. And I was lucky not to look as a Arab. This is the realities. Is a very bitter thing. But uh yeah, I survived because people. I didn't have a permission to stay for three years. You know why? So nobody was asking for from me. They didn't ask the police were stopping 5 Cypriots and they were asking 4. They didn't check me because of the look. This is realities. So I decided to stay. I decided not to come to this position where you know, I had to see people suffering every day because you know. Of what they lost. My father didn't, doesn't have a house. My mother and my sister as well. My father didn't want this he didn't want property in the South. So it's very complicated. You know, that's why told you, it's mixed, but we have to speak about it. People have to know that sometimes it's not your property. It's because for my sister is a curse. She still thinks that her father will be disappointed, so she's renting. What can you tell them? I bought a house, you know when? When I had a baby. I didn't accept this, I cannot rent because it's not fair. We have to find people who care and there are a lot both sides. Not enough for the moment, but there are.
- So you said your father struggled when, after the 1974, when he opened the new pharmacy in the South, was there anything in particular that he was doing the same way that he was doing in Varosha or the Old Town?
- No, it was a small shop just to survive. The only thing he was doing the same, he was stupidly honest. He was. You know in 74 are a lot of refugees who are coming with no

money and he was not taking any money. You can ask in the North as well. They will tell you this even in Mehmetcik, they will tell you this because I had this experience. Because he was so stupid, he was declaring every sentence because he was accusing the government, they taxed the team. You know, I paid his taxes 10 years after he died. I managed. Because they were telling how we can prove that you are not taking the full profit. Everybody knew in Larnaca, even if you ask them now. But this is Cyprus. I told him 1,000,000 times you are giving 5 percent 10% today free of charge because people are poor. Yes, and don't declare the whole thing because you cannot manage to pay your tax. No, but they have to believe me. They don't believe you. Cypriots believe what they want to believe. We never believe the truth. Nothing was the same. He never managed.

- This was all of my questions. Do you wanna add anything to any of your answers?
- No, because you will not end. There's no end.

E44 Transcription

- What is your connection to Varosha? I know you said you grew up in Varosha, but can you open a bit more about it? Is it that your parents are from Varosha?
- No, my father was a government employee and he was posted to Varosha in 1964 and we spent 10 lovely years there. I went to elementary school. Then I started going to high school, but I didn't spend all my time in Varosha. I spent a few years, it was our home, our hometown. And if the war had not taken place in 1974, we would most probably be still in Varosha so for me is my hometown is a place I love. I hate to see it fenced off, as I mean the place which is fenced off. And it's very disturbing for me not just on the Varosha subject, but on the Cyprus subject in total.
- You said you didn't spend all your time in Varosha. You spent few years in the connection, got lost. So I didn't understand that. Where did you spend few years?
- Yeah, from 1964 to 1969, All my time was spent in Varosha. And spent few years in Nicosia.
- Sorry the connection got lost.
- No, no. I was born in Nicosia in 1956 and moved to Varosha in 1964 at the age of 8 years old. I did my elementary school. Which is still there. I saw it a few weeks ago. It's like in an elementary school, and there is the statue of somebody I don't even remember. If it's Kemal Atatürk or somebody else at the entrance of the of the school. I spent part of my high school years in a boarding school in Nicosia because I went to an English-speaking school. But on Friday afternoons we took the bus and went home to Varosha. So, throughout the period of 10 years, 64 to 74 my home was in Varosha.
- It's interesting that you went to a boarding school in Nicosia, but before I ask questions on that. Do you remember living in Varosha?

- Yes I remember everything. Schools were there, to the beach and to the supermarket and to the football stadium to watch my favorite football team, so I remember a lot. I used to go to the Turkish Cypriot kebabci to buy doner kebab cause I thought that he made the best doner kebab in town.
- And where was this Turkish Cypriot kebab shop?
- Outside the walled city. It's still there the old man, who was known as a sisko, he was a fat man. He died running the place. But it's on, you know, there is a main road that leads from the walls to the municipality and the courts. At the beginning of that road was the man who made the best doner kebab in town.
- You have said a lot of things that I have lots of questions to ask on. But when you think about Famagusta, what is the first thing first memory that comes to your mind?
- Playing with my friends on the Varosha beach.
- That's the thing. Did you say playing with my friends at the beach?
- Yes, playing volleyball and racquetball. Then going to one of the cafeterias on the main Street that was opened a few months ago. There was a cafeteria called Edelweiss. I don't know if you had the chance to walk inside the fenced off city.
- I did. I did, yes.
- I only did it once, Nilsu and it was a very depressing experience for me.
- I can imagine.

- Because you see, those were the streets where we lived. We met our friends and had dinners with our family. And you can see that the clock has stopped in 1974. And the cinema, the theater where we used to go and watch movies has collapsed and I mean it's run down completely. It's on the main road again that Avenue that crosses through the center of the town.
- Hadjihambis right?
- Hadjihamnis, yes, yes. Their family are good friends of mine. Their parents have died, but there is a son and a daughter, Celia Hadjihambis. And for them it must be even more depressing. But this is the result of 47 almost 48 years now of abandonment.
- While you said abandonment, what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- It's again part of this depressing situation to know that the place where you grew up is a ghost town. It's a term that was chosen by some people. I cannot disagree with it because a ghost town is something that is deserted. Abandoned so. But is not so much the word Ghost town that bothers me. It's the fact that we have not managed to make the town alive again. There is no other town in the world which has been abandoned for 48 years for stupid political reasons.
- And after you said you went to study in USA and then you came back in 1981? And when the checkpoints opened in 2003, have you visited Famagusta?
- Many times.
- And where did you go?

- Well, I mean the first time I visited, which was like the second day after the checkpoints opened, I went straight to a hotel that is now called the Palm Beach, the original name was the Constantia hotel. And is a hotel that I knew very well because it belonged to friends of mine. So, I mean, we could see the beach in front of Constantia hotel and then the fenced off city. And which, as you know is is there abandoned, I was very disappointed to see that because of erosion, the beach at some places has actually disappeared. And the sea, the water of the sea is hitting on the buildings.

- Was there anything, any place in particular that you were trying to see?
- Well, the the important place to see for me was my home, which happens to be just outside the fence off city. I don't know if you remember opposite the municipality, there is a small forest, like a park. And inside that forest, there are a few government houses. One of those, the first one, that's where I grew up. So I visited it. I found out that it has been given to some department of the Ministry of Agriculture. And the house is a mess. And the garden is always is also a mess. And when I try to enter the house and see how it is inside nowadays. There was a voice of a man saying get out of here. So I had to leave. I mean, I couldn't discuss with whoever was inside that you know this was my house and I actually didn't feel very well about seeing my house in such a mess, so I decided to go.

- That's really interesting. That's your house was right out outside of the fenced off area, which kind of explains why your favorite kebab shop was on that road as well.

- Yes, yes.

- And was there anything else that you tried to see when you went?

- Yes, I wanted to see many things because you see Varosha for the Greek Cypriots was not just the fenced off city, the fenced off city is about half of the town of Varosha. The other half is open, and it has been inhabited by mostly Turkish Cypriots. Turkish Cypriots, who are also refugees from the South, from towns like Paphos, Limassol,

Larnaca. So, they were given properties in the area of Varosha. For me, anything outside the walls was Varosha. And you know, for the 10 years I lived in Varosha, I never entered the old city, which is the city inside the walls. The reason, as you probably know, is that there was always tension and relations between the two communities were not very good. And as a youngster, I mean, I was told that it is prohibited to enter the old city. So the first time I saw the old city was in 2003. And I could see that the majestic church St. Nicholas, which is now where mosque is. Yeah, I mean, it has been a mosque for many years, but we never actually saw the old city. Which is a treasure of archaeology and civilization. But for us, it was always the place where Turkish Cypriots lived. Unfortunately, in not very good conditions. Because the approach of the Greek Cypriots was so racist that we kept Turkish Cypriots in a kind of prison inside the walls.

- And did you have any interactions with any of the youngsters of the Turkish Cypriots at the time?
- In Varosh no. None at all. Although at my high school, which as I told you was in Nicosia, I had two Turkish Cypriot classmates. Whom I still see they are still my friends. I mean the, we became friends more after the checkpoints open. The one lives in Famagusta. He's actually the chief doctor of Famagusta, the other lives in Istanbul, but I had two friends from high school and I didn't have any friends in my hometown.
- Not at all?
- No, because the interaction between the two communities until 74 was very, very little. It was practically non existent.
- And going back to your high school years. You said you were taking the bus to go to Nicosia.
- Mm-hmm.

- Where would you take the bus from?

- To tell you the truth, I told you bus, but it was a small taxi that takes, you know, eight or nine people. So it's like a minibus. And it was taken from the center of Varosha, the avenue is called Democracy Avenue which means Cumhuriyet caddesi.

- And where was the bus stop on Democracy?

- There is a major junction that has traffic lights is still there and there was an office called Acropolis Taxi and these Acropolis taxi had this minibus and took us to Nicosia.

- And at the time, I'm guessing there was a big difference between Varosha and how Nicosia was. Was there really a big difference in the social life or the way town was working?

- Well, Varosha was a very cosmopolitan town. Especially during the period 1970 to 74, there was a lot of tourist development. That was the only town in Cyprus that was visited by tourists. So the place was, as you know, a nice town by the beach with maybe 5 to 10,000 tourists in a population of about 35,000, so the presence of the tourists. Was significant and you could see it. I mean, you could walk on the Varosha beach and see a lot of people with blonde hair and blue eyes. Also because of the incomes generated by tourists, the place was a lot more liberal than the other towns. I mean people from Nicosia used to come and have their holidays in Varosha. The richer people bought apartments near the beach. And they said they loved Varosha because it was liberal, cosmopolitan, for example, there were five or six places that we used to call discotheques. Nowadays, we call them clubs. And this discotheque was a new thing at the time. And for youngsters at the age of 17-18 to be able to go to a discotheque and dance. And ask one of the Swedish tourists to dance with them. This was a major social thing. Now this is something that you could not do in Nicosia or Limassol or Kyrenia. Because the tourists were not there, the discotheques were not there. Actually, Nicosia did have 3-4 discotheques that were visited by the local

people because there were no tourists. So Varosha was like, especially in the summertime, for maybe 6-7 months from spring to autumn was a very unique place in Cyprus.

- I will ask more about your high school years, but going back to you said you went to elementary school in Varosha. Was there any particular memory that's stuck with you from those years?
- Yes, they were fun years. I enjoyed my elementary school very much. I was a very good student and won the prize of the best student in the class. And had lots of friends. Started going to birthday parties of my classmates. Which was a major development at the time. I mean people, before then, they didn't have parties because it was their birthday. So when I was invited to a birthday party at the age of 10 or 11, I was extremely excited. And when my female friend got my hand and said something nice to me. I was extremely happy. It was such a nice development, you know, talking about young kids.
- And during those years you said there was birthday parties, but were you taking part in any of the events that were happening in the town at the elementary school?
- Yes, yes, there were social things like the festival for oranges Portakal Festivali. There was another festival that was dedicated to flowers.
- And what were you doing in these festivals?
- For example, the Orange Festival, they needed a lot of volunteers. You know they created different, models of things, for example a big fish, metal fish, on which they put a lot of oranges. Or other things usually made out of metal which you could put on a lot of oranges. So it is a bit like the carnival models that you see in other countries, but this was dedicated, so they needed a lot of young kids to help them put the oranges all over the model construction. There were also a lot of sports activities because

Varosha had two football teams that played in the First Division. Typically, Cypriot one team was right wing and the other was left wing. So there were a lot of football matches, actually one of the two teams was doing very well and won the Cypriot League a few times, so it was an important institution in the town.

- Is it the Anorthosis club?
- Anorthosis yes, the other one is Nea Salamis, Nea Salamina. You know, it means new Salamis, that is the left wing team. That was not doing too well in the league. It was smaller than Anorthosis. Anorthosis, by the way, was a very nationalistic team. Although I grew up as a supporter of Anorthosis, it was a bastion of nationalism. And one of those places that I feel has actually done a lot of harm to Cyprus. Because a lot of youngsters grew up with nationalistic ideals. And stupid plans about uniting Cyprus with Greece. I mean, these things I was not aware when I was a 13-14-15 year old kid. These things you find out later in life.
- So you said you were going to stadium to watch the football teams, right?
- Yes, the stadium, you know where it is, is just inside the fenced off city, is called GCA in English GSE.
- And do you have a memory from that stadium?
- Many, many memories, many memories. Once we jumped over the fence and we were chasing the referee, about 50 teenagers. And of course we were beaten up by the police. And taken out of the stadium. We thought that the referee had done something wrong. And we jumped over the fence to chase the referee. And outside the stadium was a new, it was a small restaurant that sold doner kebab and hamburgers and sandwiches, I think, and it was a very nice place, visited a lot by teenagers from the age of 16 to the age of 20, let's say. So a lot of memories from there from with my friends eating a hamburger and this was right opposite the entrance to the stadium,

the football stadium. The area is now closed. I mean when I was in Varosha last month, I couldn't go to this place.

- And you said you were going to lots of cafeterias after you played volleyball at the beach, and one of them, you said was Edelweiss Café..
- Edelweiss or Boccacio. There was another one called Rovon. So any one of these, plus the confectionaries, pastahane (patisserie)
- So where was the Rovon cafe?
- Next to Boccacio, on the main road. First you find Edelweiss. Then you find these what we call in Greek, the Lyceum for Greek ladies, Likeon Ellinidon. And I was asking a friend of mine the other day. I said how come there was a Lyceum for Greek ladies and there was no Lyceum for Turkish ladies? And this was part of our racism. Greek ladies were a lot more important. And they were that was supposed to be a place for culture, poetry, dance, music. But I don't think a Turkish lady, Turkish Cypriot lady ever entered the building. So right next to it was Rodon and Boccaccio.
- And where did you say the patisserie was?
- Opposite Edelweiss. There was a patisserie called Kypseli. Kypseli, it translates into beehive where bees make the honey. So it's like a sweet thing. That's why it was called Kypseli. Further up on Democracy Avenue, there was a very important place for me called Vienna Cafe. It was very important because it made the best cheese pie, tiropita or hellimli and best sandwiches. So I used to ride my bicycle from my home, which I told you is opposite the municipality. Straight to Vienna cafe. Where the owner, Mr. Yorgis, Yorgos actually but for some reason he was called Yorgis. He recognized me immediately and he said one tiropita and one sandwich. Which I was very happy to sit down and eat there at Vienna Cafe. Very near Vienna Cafe was a new bookstore, bookshop. That opened, I'm not sure when, but definitely for a few years before 74 it

was there, it was called the Kyriakou book shop. And I used to go there and flip through the pages of sports magazines, like there was one called the shoot. I think from the UK and I got interested in English football. So these bookshop was very nice. It also had some nice sexual magazines like Playboy and Penthouse. Which I illegally, I wouldn't dare buy them, but I would sneak in somehow and flip through the pages. You realize that this is what a 17 year old is interested in. Is this information useful for your research?

- Of course it is because they are saying that the bookstore was selling English magazines like very revolutionary for the time.
- Yes, yes, yes, yes.
- And how would you describe the bookstore? What else do you remember from it was there anything
- It was very modern, very modern. I don't know how book shops were before, but this one was very modern. I think it opened around 1970 or 71 and you could find all sorts of books and magazines and I mean high school books that people needed to buy and it was a very nice place to visit. I know that the same bookshop run by the same family is now in Limassol and is one of the big book shops in Limassol. But you know, nowadays book shops are not as important as they were at the time. At the time, there was no Internet, there was no mobile phones, so books and magazines and newspapers, also these bookshop Kyriakou sold a lot of foreign newspapers. So, you could buy Cypriot newspapers or British newspapers, or if you spoke any other language, I think there was like one French newspaper, one German, it was British. Like the Times of London, the Guardian, my father used to read the Sunday Telegraph. I don't know why he chose that one, is a very conservative newspaper, but this is what he was reading in the house and he encouraged me to read English newspapers so that I could improve my English.

- And was there any bookstore inside of Varosha, that was selling any of these. Or was it just only one?
- I'm trying to remember Nilsu but, you know, some of the memories have gone. I'm pretty sure there was more than one book shop, but you see, there were some book shops that were very narrow in their approach and they would sell Greek books, mostly coming from Greece. These bookshop made a difference because it was more international and you could buy books that you would read in English. But I'm pretty sure there were not too many book shops.
- And Likeon Ellinidon, did you go to any of the events that were taking place there?
- I remember going at least once. But you know, as a teenager, it was not my priority to go to cultural events in Likeon Ellinidon.
- Then let's talk about the discotheques that you said there was like 6 places, did you go to any of them?
- Yes, I went to many. There was one called Labyrinthos, which means labyrinth.
- It's next to Edelweiss, right?
- Next to Edelweiss, there was one called The Cave. I think Cave was in a hotel on Kennedy Ave. There was a hotel, a well-known hotel called Asterias. Asterias Hotel, it had a discotheque. There was a new club, I think it opened maybe one year before the occupation called aristocats, there was an R missing, and it was aristocats and it was a new thing with live music. And I was very happy that once I took my English girlfriend there and I impressed her with this new nightclub.
- Where was this aristocat?

- This was in the area behind Edelweiss. Now if you ask me to find it now, I might not be able to find it. But it was a very near Edelweiss. Not on the beach, but fairly close to the beach. Maybe 2-3 hundred meters.
- And you said Hadjihambis cinema you were going to watch films from there. How would you describe me, Hadjihambis cinema? Was there anything special about it?
- Well, there were four or five cinemas because, you know, cinema at the time was big. So there was Hadjihambis, there was Heraeon, there was one called ideal, which means ideal. There were two or three open air cinemas. One I remember was called Rio cinema. And then there was the Hadjihambis open air. They were all very important in our lives and on Sunday afternoon they were offering what they call the Double Bill, 2 movies at the price of 1. So we were sitting there, I mean I think they started maybe 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon or three o'clock and we would sit there, one of the movies was foreign. Wery, very often a stupid American Western where the main guy killed everybody and saved the girl. And the other one could have been a Greek comedy. Some of the movies, especially the Greek movies, were black and white. But the American Western was always in color.
- That's interesting.
- Yes, this was on Sunday afternoon. At night times, I remember that it was, I really looked forward on Friday night to go with my friends to HadjiHambi cinema to watch the new movie. I mean, movies used to play the same movie went on for one week. So I don't remember the day that they changed, but on Friday night, I used to go with my friends and enjoy the movie. Half of the people in the theater were smoking. I mean, I didn't smoke at the time, but it was a very stuffy atmosphere with 300 people smoking. And there was an intermission. When somebody came in selling pasadembo, you know what Pasadembo is? It is the nut of the melon. You know, the melon has these small seeds inside those things. If they cook them, they are fairly big. I don't know what is the word in Turkish. My, friend Hassan, who has a bakkal shop in Nicosia,

sells a lot of them, so they are these seeds that you try to break and eat the nut from inside. And then you make a mess because you get rid of the outside. But this was sold along with the new soft drinks like 7UP. The first soft drink was 7UP, and it was very important. And then of course, Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola. And there was this guy who was holding this funny looking tray which hung around his neck so he could carry a lot of soft drinks. Soft drinks were always in bottles at the time there were no tins, it was always bottle. So this poor guy was carrying around 10 seven up, 10 Coca-Cola, a lot of peanuts and passatempo. But he did a good business because everybody was interested in, some nuts and the soft drinks.

- Yeah, he. And the thing that you said every Sunday that they would sell 2 movies at the price of one, was it in all of the cinemas?
- Yes, practically all of them. Yeah, I remember Hadjihambis for sure and very near Hadjihambis, where there was another theater called Heraon. And Hereaon had the same thing on Sunday afternoons, 2 movies.
- And were you going to any of the hotels?
- Yes, mostly when I was in my 17th and 18th year, we used to go to hotels like, there was a new hotel called Golden Marianna. My sister is actually married to one of the owners of the hotel. We used to go there because there was a new café called the Cabana. So, it had nice cafeterias and I used to go to, drive with friends to the new Salamis Bay Hotel, which is outside Famagusta. But it was a brand new thing. It was a big hotel run by a British company and had a huge discotheque. So it was something really nice to do for the youngsters. And also these Asterias hotel. And there was a hotel at the Edge. End of the town, called Grecian Hotel. So these were the sort of nice hotels to go to. Especially if there was music and if there were pretty girls. My wife has just entered the room and she's very curious to find out about these pretty girls. But this is just you realize that this is a story which was like almost 50 years ago.

- Yes, I I'm sure. I'm sure you married the prettiest woman.
- No, she's not from Varosha. She's from Kyrenia.
- Ah, even better, isn't it?
- Yeah, yeah, but unfortunately, we left all our properties in the northern part of Cyprus.
- And you said you visited once after they opened the streets.
- Yes and for a few months, I was very reluctant because I knew that it was going to hurt. A few friends of ours, they kept asking me, please take us, mostly younger people who did not know Varosha very well. They said, you know, can you? So we arranged one Sunday about four or five cars, about 20 people. We all went through the Derinya crossing. Parked our cars somewhere. You know where the big parking place is, near where they hire bicycles. So, I guided them through. And I actually described most of the things that I told you as well. Edelweiss, Kyriakou bookshop. Somebody was interested in this nightclub called Peroquete.
- Yes, you didn't mention that.
- I forgot I forgot about it. Peroquete, which means parrot, was a nice club bar restaurant, which I hadn't gone in many times, maybe only once. It was not a place for teenagers. It was mostly older people. You know, young couples in their 20s, 30s, 40s. But it was not for the 16-year-old, 17 year old. But it was there, right on the avenue. So we did this walk on Democracy Street and we also did the walk on Kennedy Avenue, all the way to the end where you are allowed to walk. Where the Turkish President had his picnic. So I mean, some of my friends used to say that, ah, this is the this apartment block my family had an apartment and we used to come for one or two months in Varosha to enjoy the seaside. And people who are remembering things,

we stopped at the place, you know, near the municipality, there is this street called Ermou.

- Yes, I do know.
- Ermou was very near the house where I grew up. But the first shops on Ermou Street were these naughty places called cabarets. So there were some young ladies wearing miniskirts. So I took my friends there last month. And I said, look, this is a place where my mother used to say, if you are walking to the center of the city, don't walk on the right-hand side of the street, walk on the left. Of course I made sure I walked on the right. But not those were only maybe 2-3 places and then there were lots of shops like timber merchants, there were banks, there were some grocery stores further in, yeah.
- Correct me if I'm wrong Bandabulya is also on that road, right?
- Yes, but you cannot is actually on Evagorou Street, which is vertical on Democracy Street. So you can see it, but you cannot get very close to it. The Municipal market is there. That is another place with memories, because behind the Bandabulya there was a number of kebabcis. A big number, maybe 10 of them, one next to the other. So when you walked past, there was this huge cloud of smoke coming from the charcoal because all of our kebabs at the time were done on charcoal. And you know, they put the meat, mostly pork, what the Greek Cypriots ate, put them on the shish, on the skewers. And have maybe 100 skewers, with the kebab being. So if you went there at about, I'm not sure about the time. Maybe 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon and 8:00 o'clock there was this huge cloud and a terrible smell, of course, of kebab being cooked. You know the Greek Cypriots ate a lot more et sheesh, whilst the Turkish Cypriot ate a lot more donner. And also lamb kebab. I think the Turkish Cypriots ate a lot of lamb kebab. But because I couldn't go into the city of Famagusta, the old city, we didn't know much about what was happening inside there.

- So you said you went inside with 20 almost 20 people to and guided them? Was there any place in particular that you expected to see when you went inside?

- Well, I knew because I was 18 years old when I had visited it last, so I knew practically every place, although there were a couple of buildings that got me confused. But I knew very well. For example, opposite Hadjihambis, there was a photo studio. And the son of the owner was with us. A friend of mine called Marios. So it was Photo stylianou. And Marios is younger than me, so he left Varosha when he was about 12 or 13. But he knew very well that ,that was his father's photography studio. And he just sat there and looked at the shop in a very. There was another girl who was looking for their holiday apartment. And she actually wanted to go off the main road. And that was a policeman dressed in civilian clothes, and he stopped her. So she started crying. And the policeman said, OK, let me take you about the 30-40 meters, but that's it. I cannot help you go right next to your building. So at least she got a bit closer. But she was in tears because she was about 16 years old at the time. And she came with her family from Nicosia to spend a couple of months in Varosha. So, we had all of these very moving scenes and experiences. That's why I said. I don't plan to go and do the same route soon unless there is a major reason. You know the. part of Varosha, and Famagusta that is outside the fence, I don't mind at all. Because it's alive. You know the shops are there. People are going in and out of restaurants and grocery stores, but the one, the part of the city which is fenced off and it's as if we are in the Second World War and the place has stopped living, it has died. There is no real reason why one should, it bothers me that a lot of visitors, especially people from Turkey, they rent bicycles, they go up and down, this dead city. And they seem to enjoy themselves. And they are laughing and they are saying jokes and they are very happy that Turkey has won the war of 74. And these and this town is like their are prize for winning the war. It really bothers me. Of course I know that people who come from Turkey, they don't know much about the history of Cyprus. They tell them that this is a place where, you know, we won the war and very soon we will open it and this and that. And people who don't know the history, they can easily be impressed. But somebody like me, it's disturbing.

- And is there a place inside the fenced off area that you feel connected to?

- Uh, yes, the places I told you because as I said, my home is outside, so that would be the most important place for me. But the others? I told you the cafeterias café Vienna, the patisseries the discotheques, the beach, the beach, we actually went very often exactly where the president of Turkey had his picnic. There is a building called Julia House. Julia was a good friend of my mother's, so we used to go there and spend a few hours, maybe from 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 3-4 in the afternoon. Spent the whole day there with my friends swimming, playing football on the beach, racquets and things like that. So these are the important places for me. I cannot single out one place, but I can tell you. All of them together.

- Do you see a future for Varosha?

- The future of Varosha depends very much on the solution to the Cyprus problem. And unfortunately, things are not good right now. I think that we have 2 Presidents, one in the north and one in the South, plus one president in Ankara who are not interested in a solution. If we had the wiser politicians, yes, Varosha could be the part of a major town, let's call it Famagusta area, which would have its modern part, which is the place that it's fenced off, it's medieval part, which is the city within the walls, it's ancient part which would be salamis. Because for me the whole area is one. So people could visit and this would be of tremendous interest to tourists. Could visit these areas and have access to. A city like Salamis, which is 3/4 thousand years old. As city like Famagusta within the walls and the modern city like Varosha. So yes, I do see a future if we ever have sensible politicians. Maybe next year there are elections in the South and there are in elections in Turkey. If we manage to have some wise politicians winning, yes, there might be a future.

- Did anything that happened in October 2020 changed your minds? Like them opening the streets or saying that they're going to give three percent back?

- No, not really. I mean, it was a very painful experience. I am in a position to do anything and I will, you know, Varosha was always part of the areas that were going to be

returned to Greek Cypriots. If there was a solution, along with some other smaller villages and towns so that the percentage of geographical area of the northern component state would be reduced from 35 to something like 29 and some people would be able to return to their properties. And of course, the president of Turkey is saying now that the whole area will be turned into a major tourist town with lots of casinos and nightlife and things like that. These are all very hurtful. Very, very hurtful, especially to the people who are old enough to remember some of the Greek Cypriots who are in their 20s and 30s, they cannot be affected by that much because yeah, they haven't experienced these places.

- Do you think any of the places inside of Varosha should be protected as how they are?
- Well, inside Varosha there might be some small things of archaeological interest. But I wouldn't say, I mean we should be protecting Famagusta within the walls, but not not Varosha. I mean, there are not major buildings or major, I mean there is a one medieval Church of Saint Nicholas. Actually, I think the development of Varosha was not done in a very organized way. And the authorities were giving permissions for big apartment blocks to be built right on the beach. So I would rather see a new town built with modern town planning thinking. So that people could walk near the beach in a nice promenade instead of having all of those big buildings on the beach. So I wouldn't say there are too many things that need protection.
- What about the buildings or things that are making Varoshians remember the social life or the life before 74, the ones that carry sentimental values?
- Well, I mean, if Varosha ever opens it, it up to the owners of the buildings, like the owner of Edelweiss Cafe has to decide whether he wants he or she, I don't know who the owner is, whether they want to have a café or they want to do something else with that, I mean, the owners of Hadjihambi cinema, will probably not care very much about doing a cinema business in Varosha. So I think life has changed in 48 years. So I don't see too many things being looked at as historically important. And as I said, I would

like the Likeon Ellinidon, to become also a Lyceum for Turkish ladies as well. So I would like to see changes in Varosha, not try to stick too much to the past.

- That was all of my questions. Do you want to add anything to any of your answers?
- Not really, I'm quite satisfied. We covered everything. If you in the next few weeks decide that you need some kind of clarification feel free to contact me. I will send you the the paper that you want, I have signed it, but I just changed the ink in my printer. So I have to sort it out and you will be receiving it very soon.
- Thank you so much and. Is there a question that you think I should have asked you, but I didn't?
- No, no, I think you asked a lot of interesting things. I know the area of concentration is Varosha, is not the whole of Cyprus. So, I think you covered everything.

E45 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Loyalty to Varosha? I had been there a few times before because I was curious about Maraş, and I had visited it when it was closed. But it was a limited trip. The last time I went and visited after this was recently opened. I've found that there's a lot more to it than meets the eye. And I lived those days. I lived that life, that period, that 1974 episode. On the other hand, we went back to our childhood. In other words, we were reminded of what we experienced as children at that time. I already knew that that part of Famagusta was the biggest tourist city in the Mediterranean and that it was a lively city. I was much more interested in visiting them as living history. I believe I've traveled pretty well. We traveled all over the place. I mean, I'm connected, I mean I sincerely want him to come back to life.

- Well, for example, you said that you knew that it was a tourism city before 74, where did you hear this?

- Now, of course, we were 9-10 years old children at that time, but after that, our interest in Cyprus increased more. I read his books, there were old movies, for example, in the movies we watched, in Turkish movies. There were films set in Cyprus. We had former famous film artists who went on holiday to the Maraş region. I mean, we could see them live.

- Well, you said that you visited Maraşı before this opening.

- At that time, it was a military zone, we could drive to the military zone, to that army house. At that time, I was traveling like that, so I couldn't walk around. After it opened later, we were able to travel on foot. Then we saw it better.

- So when did you first go to Maraş, the army house?

- I went in '96-'97 and then it was 2005 or 2006. Then I went again in the 2010s. I went there from time to time, 3 - 4 times. If you add it up, it does not exceed 5 times.
- So what was your impression when you first entered?
- I felt pity. In other words, it hurt me that those places were so destroyed and left idle without care. So it's a beautiful coastline. I was saddened by the fact that a beautiful holiday destination was idle and people did not benefit from it.
- Was there any place that caught your eye? You couldn't enter on foot, but when you were passing by car.
- When we drove by, there was not much going on, we saw the hotel buildings of that period. We have already seen the buildings, you are already passing through a very limited area, you don't have much to see. Last time traveling, on foot, people can see everything better, examine it, and go into details.
- Well, I'm going to ask you to travel on foot, but were you using the places at the foot of the fence of Maraş?
- As you know, there is a Palm Beach hotel there, I saw it on my way to the Palm Beach hotel. When you stay at the Palm Beach hotel, you see it every morning when you wake up. After that, there would be some familiar friends sitting around him, and sometimes there was a state there, you know, we would go shopping in that state. We were walking around it, albeit by car, yes, the wired area.
- So what does a ghost town mean for you?

- It's a city where people can't live. Should I say that it is a great shame or a sin that such a city has been abandoned and idle, that it has been idle for 45 years, and that people do not benefit from it? It should take advantage of it. In other words, people should be there as soon as possible, it should be arranged, so if you are going to ask questions about them, I will tell you about future plans for them in the future. I'll tell you about it later, because I want to tell you about them in my heart.

- So, for example, was anything different when you went inside on foot? Is that the first '96 or the one you got in in the 2000s?
- It was very different, I mean, I didn't understand how advanced the city was when I drove by before. When I went to the inner parts of the city, I could see that it was not just the coastline, but also the coastline, but a more orderly life inside. In other words, I didn't like the construction on the coastline at all. There is a construction that I do not like at all when I see it from the outside. They used the coastline narrowly. They used it indiscriminately. But I liked the city at the back, especially the municipal side, and the layout on those main streets. At the time, something deliberate made me think that it was urbanism that they were doing.

- But the coastline and the buildings on the other shore are very haphazard, as if they were looted, everyone did as much as they could, construction was allowed, that is, in that area. I can say that the back side is more organized, more conscious, more seated. More planned.

- So, apart from the development of this city, what else caught your eye when you walked inside?

- In other words, at that time, I saw that there was a high level of life on the island in 74 conditions compared to 74, that is, at that time, compared to other countries, Turkey, that is, it was a little more developed, there was a more conscious urbanization. In a construction made especially in buildings, I came across architectural buildings whose architectural techniques were dominated by the latest architectural movements according to that day. I saw that they were very influenced by me, especially the

Bauhaus. I saw that there were a lot of buildings for the Bauhaus. In other words, I realized that there are architectural buildings that completely reflect that period. I like it better, you see it live, and you see it all together. This impressed me.

- Were there any of these buildings that you particularly liked or were surprised by, or were they all of them?

- By God, I don't remember his name now. Were the existing buildings a town hall or a school building, especially within that municipal area? Across from it, I saw it as an area where the city gathers together, like a theater or a movie theater, and that area impressed me a lot. Seeing the old historical, I don't mean history, that is, the building of the 1920s, 30s, 40s and the 70s together, and the formation of a combination together, seemed different to me. In other words, an organic building has become an organic city. In our old Turkish cities or in cities in Europe, there are also old buildings right behind the buildings or around modern buildings. Oh, there are also architectural structures that are very contradictory to each other, that is, very old buildings.

- When I asked you, you told me that the municipal school building is opposite the theater building. So how did you find out what these buildings were?

- There were ancients who visited there. When I talked to the old people and showed them the photos of the buildings, they said, "Oh, this is this building, this is this building, but they are not sure because it is the municipal park of the municipality. There's something like a music hall right across from that park, and there's something on top of it. Now I searched for a map showing their old buildings or something, but I couldn't find it, and I couldn't find it on the internet. I mean, I don't know exactly which building is what.

- So where did you find these people who used to live there?

- There were not people living there, but former Turkish Cypriots. Those who know those places, those who go are the ones who live. We talked to them.

- So, did you try to find that there were buildings when you entered before this 2020 opening?

- No, I wasn't very interested at the time, like I said, I didn't know that deeply. In the places we passed, the church structure there draws attention. They built a modern church. It's a bit of a Le Corbusier kind of thing, not a dome or anything, they made a half-building, a half-domed thing, vaulted. It caught my attention, and they have a big church, which was one of the buildings that caught my attention. The others are normal old high-rise apartments, boring buildings that we see a lot in Turkey. That's when I got into the city. At that time, I saw the differentiation of the buildings and the real thing, for example, the traffic lights attracted my attention. There are a lot of traffic lights. I mean, is there 9 or 12 things on the lamp pole of a traffic pole, I mean, it showed me in all directions, it caught my attention. After that, it caught my attention on the parking meters there. At that time, it was different to have parking meters, that is, they did not exist in Turkey, so at that time, maybe in Istanbul, Izmir, maybe in certain regions. But I was intrigued by the fact that it was there.

- Other than that, was there anything else that caught your eye?

- Oh, and there, for example, the paving stones are poured with concrete on the pavements, the names are written on the concrete, and there are many foreigners who are Swedish, German, French, Austrian, British. I think there were even Russians, I don't remember exactly, but maybe it was Polish, I don't know. People of different nationalities probably put their signatures and names on the wet concrete when they visited the place. They wrote history. The dates were crucial. Most of them were '74, so it was interesting, '74 June, '74 May. I was intrigued, so there's a real history there.

- Do you think there is a future for Varosha?

- Well, in my opinion, Maraş is a city that can really have a future. In other words, I don't mean region, city, but now region. In that region, I think we can demolish all the old buildings and old hotels on the beach, and make beautiful buildings that are a little wider and more beautiful, that relax people with larger areas, that are so intertwined, that do not get 3 m or 6 m closer to each other. In my opinion, that coastline should be completely reorganized. But especially in this middle of the city that I just mentioned, the city hall or the school or the thing, that street around the theater building, it's like the mouth of the four roads, and there's a tea garden. I am in favor of the full preservation of the place. The same as the 74 is the original of repairing those buildings, the interior can be arranged as it wishes, but the exteriors must remain the same. 74 should live there as if time had stopped, and it should even be closed to traffic, that is, it should be a region that creates and keeps the same nostalgia alive only with the vehicles in 74. In fact, I want people to see that time stops when tourists come. Because you can only find such a preserved city in Cuba. You can find it in Cuba of the 1940s and 30s. You can also find it in Cyprus, that is, buildings with that life can be preserved, time can stop there, and even movies can be shot there. There, that life, that is, the buildings that have been added, are cleaned, and the historical buildings that were built before, which are that architectural feature in 74, are preserved, restored and restored in accordance with the original. That area can be a tourist attraction. In my opinion, it is necessary to protect it as such. Apart from that, there are buildings in what can be considered slums. They can be cleaned and made. In my opinion, the texture of the main city should be preserved in the center. As I said, the coastline can be demolished and rebuilt as it is. Everyone should make an effort to do the best thing that can be done in the new urbanism to be built there. In fact, I think it can be done in an international project. By taking ideas together, an urbanization and a construction can be made much more, that is, by complying with all the things and disciplines of urbanism in accordance with the essence of Cyprus. In other words, we need to use it while we have such a chance without losing the texture. Because in the rest of Cyprus, it was a rent fight, above all, we are attacking so brutally and building all the buildings where we want, we are doing it the way we want, but it should not be allowed there. It must be disciplined very strictly. The beach, as I said, is very beautiful. Very nice tourist tests can be done on that beach. But in my opinion, all architectural and urbanism disciplines should be applied in accordance

with their essence. But that main square, which will keep that area alive, can be limited to a certain area of that main square and make it suitable for the pre-74 and 74 and keep it alive.

- So, have the decisions taken after October 2020 changed your thoughts about the future?
- Well, I think it can be returned to its former owners. If the former owners want to come and do something here, they should be given the opportunity. They should also be disciplined, but as I said, it should be done with discipline. So the guy needs to know what to do. It is necessary to inform him of this with the planning to be made. After seeing everything clearly, he should invest there if he wants, and if he has the right, he should use his right to the fullest. In other words, no one's rights should be usurped.
- Well, in terms of urbanism, you said the protection of the main street, here is the protection of the exteriors, do you think the things that have value in terms of social life should be protected?
- In my opinion, of course, social life should be taken into account there, but a new identity can be gained with social life, but the essence of the texture there should not be touched. That tissue should be preserved, and when a person enters it, it should be as if he has traveled to the past. We have to give that feeling. So you have to experience that feeling there. With that feeling, socialization should be done in those buildings, that is, with huge signs, not to make it a public café, hard rock head or starbucks. There, social areas can be created that will not pollute the environment in accordance with their essence, will not prevent the essence of the buildings. So I think people will want to create a living space there and live there. If young people want to have fun, let them go and have fun on the shore, but those who want to live that life should come and rest their heads there. Small boutique hotels can be built in the back, and those who want to buy them at home can buy them there. Cafes, restaurants, bars are always close to 74 in the concept. The lives of both the 2000s and the 70s may be intertwined together, but they should be separated, separated by definite lines, and

people should do it if they want to switch to each other. In other words, the old city texture is a place that always attracts and satisfies people, so now there are such old squares in Turkey, for example, we have done great work in Ankara Castle. Ankara Castle was a slum like this, but now it has become one of the most valuable places in Ankara and one of the most touristic places. I mean, people, in my opinion, you can go to any shopping mall, the most luxurious shopping mall anywhere, in Paris, London, Hong Kong, Istanbul, even in Cyprus. You can see a Famagusta Castle only in Famagusta. You can only see a Maraş in Cyprus. In other words, it is necessary to give that value there. As I said, there is no such example in the world, there are very few buildings that have remained since 74, especially there is no area that has never been touched in the past, so I believe that we will get a great touristic value when we restore this place with that atmosphere and bring it back to life. People will come to breathe that air.

- Well, I'm going to go back to an answer you gave earlier. You said that you noticed that the latest trends were followed, whether it was the Bauhaus, for example, in the modernist church, but was there anything that caught your eye from another architectural eye?
- It's mixed, there's old stuff there, so there's Gothic stuff too. There is also Baroque. In other words, something has been tried, there is the stone architecture of old Cyprus, but mostly the architectural movements of the 74s, the newly built buildings immediately stand out, you can already see them all.
- Well, for example, when you went inside, you said that it happened to the buildings that you asked the Turkish Cypriots, the Turkish Cypriots who lived there in the past. Were there any buildings that you figured out what was happening outside of the hotels before you asked?
- There have been buildings that I have speculated about, but I have not investigated the certainty of them. I didn't take the time to research, so it's a job that requires a certain amount of time, a job that requires attention. I don't have that much time either,

if I were a researcher, that is, if I were an academician, I would definitely dig into the place completely.

- Do you remember what was among your predictions?
- How can I say that? If it's a residence, it's a villa, if it's a villa, it's a villa or a beautiful villa, you can live here, this is a bar, this is a restaurant. Some of them already have things written on them, they say that there is no work on their signs, it is Toyota and it is a bank. But for example, I didn't know if it was the city hall or the school, but my guess is that it is either a government office or something, it is an official building.
- Those were all my questions, is there anything you would like to add to any of your answers?
- Right now, I mean, I don't know if we will be able to see it, but I imagine that region like this, before 74, here are the cars of 74, classic cars, when people enter there, you know, the costume changes or we do a masquerade, there is 74 clothing, I imagine something where people walk, eat, drink, spend their lives, people walk on the streets, and in that region, as if you are taking a step to the other side and moving into the future I want people to be surprised. Let them feel that air as they go from place to place. In other words, they can return to a future and a past. It is a very pleasant feeling. So it's not something you can live everywhere. You know, we go and visit historical places, but you know most of the historical places, now that it is for touristic purposes, I think it will be successful if we can make this place look as natural as possible, away from artificiality.
- Is there anything you said you should have asked me about but didn't?
- No, you asked almost everything, and I told you everything. So let me say as far as I know. I mean, I haven't been able to do a lot of research on that subject, but I don't know, I mean, I read something there, for example. I can't remember how it was here

for a while, but I think Famagusta had correspondence in the 1890s after the Ottomans gave it to the British, there were 2 or 3 big farms in that region, there were farms of the Foundations. In those farms, the Famagusta Municipality was doing road and land expansion works there. He wrote a letter to the British commissioner, whether it was the deputy district governor of Famagusta, the Ottoman official at that time or the city official, I don't remember right now, these are the roads being built. These are farms and so on, and they said that there are swampy areas there, we drain them, and then they slowly started to settle down, it developed on its own. I mean, how realistic it is, but there were 1-2 documents about them that I read. Then the Turks withdrew from there, that is, just as the Ottomans left them, the Cypriots left or had to leave the Cypriots to their fate, and the Turkish Cypriots remained so as a language, and after we changed it in the 1920s, this place did not experience that change. That's how they lost that region. After we lost, we have come to today. So these are other political issues, so I don't want to go into them.

- Where did you read this? What about these 2-3 foundation farms?
- There was an article published by the foundations, there was also a thesis, there was a thesis written by the Cyprus foundations administration, I read it in that thesis. These documents were also there. I also read another book, but I don't remember now about Cyprus, how did we lose it? There was such a research and I read about it there. But the last time it was the foundations administration that brought them together, I think it was there, when it was mentioned there about this, I don't know which one they quoted there? I think you have researched it, you know this.

E46 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Maraş?
- No, it depends on Maraş that I feel a lot.
- Do you have a connection with Maraş?
- We don't have any connection inside Varosha.
- But did you live next to the wires?
- Yes, I mean, when I was going 2 and a half miles, I lived next to the wires, but the main hub was in Maraş, in the open part of Maraş.
- So how did you get there?
- Now yes, now at 74, I was 4 years old. We migrated here from Paphos. First, a document was issued to my father at work. So that he can buy the house he wants. First, we stayed with my aunts. After that, when we went to the house where we lived in Maraş, the house was furnished. We went up to that house and settled down. Then we started living. We were small, and now we look at it, it's always there, the belongings of people who lived before us, children's dolls, toys, clothes. We started to grow with them. Those toys started to become our toys. It went on like this. After that, we started school, primary school, but soldiers were always waiting in front of our house, behind the wires, in the houses, this lasted for 2-3 years. After that, they pulled the soldiers further back, that is, towards the hotels towards the army house. I lived there for many years until I was 28 years old. That is, 24 years. I've always wondered about the houses behind that wire. How I go down this road, where does it go, what is there, we couldn't see the back of that wire for 24 years. In other words, we clearly saw the wires, but we could not see what was inside those houses. But when I was a

baby, I always had it in my mind when I was 4 years old, when I was 5 years old. People were immigrants there. You know, they were homeless, and they would go in and collect what they said was loot. The cops would try to arrest them. Some would be caught, some would not. I'll never forget, once my father's friend was a policeman. He is now deceased. The police asked this man and my father to bring something so that we can take them to your house and after that. And one night they came in boxes and a pile of baby dolls. Those baby toys came the next day, let another team take them and I will never forget a baby toy spilled out and I took it from the box, my father and he was angry with me, no, put it in his place, he is not ours and that policeman did not reach out and give me that toy, I was very sad, I cried a lot and in my later years I thought, I mean, how honest my father was, as if it was his property, not our property. I mean, the guy had already taken the loot from inside and put it because our house was right behind the opposite fence and it was a policeman who did it. After that, our childhood continued to pass like this. But always in a wonder, always sad, every time I sit or look at our house, I mean, who lived in this house, what would happen? I've always been curious. And it's still the same. At the moment, the front of our house is behind wires. I am curious about the halo and I would love to see it opened, there is a path that we always look at to walk on that road and I want to walk on that road and enter those houses. So I'm curious. What else can I say, I mean, it's really sad, and in 2003, when we moved into our house, of course, there were furniture, there were children's clothes as I mentioned, and that's how my sister and I grew up. They had strollers and we used to play with them all the time. There were two newborn alike meat baby toys, the size of an actual 3 and a half month old and 4 month old baby. One of my sister's and one of mine, the two of us all grew up with those baby toys. But when the doors opened in 2003, the landlords came with their children, and the first thing she asked my mom was about their baby toys. When they were running away from work, when we came and settled in the house, there were a lot of pictures of those people, marriages, birthday parties with their kids, everything was full of drawers, pictures. The walls are always with their wedding pictures, we always collected them and put them in a box and there was always a hope, we always looked at those pictures and those people, and we always kept those pictures. We have always thought about how we could deliver it. We wondered how we could find these people, but we could never reach them so that we could reach them. My mother always kept those pictures in our closet. When they came in 2003, they asked if they had a

picture of them. Also, when the children told about their baby toys, and my mother told me about those baby toys, the woman did not believe themselves when they first said that they were going to run away from Maraş and when they said that they ejaculated immediately, they thought that they had thrown their lives out and escaped and that they could come back again, and when she left, her child always cried and wanted that toy baby. And as a result, in 2003, my mother gave the toy babies to them, and of course the pictures are theirs, and she gave the toy babies to them. In fact, when you look at it, we had a childhood in 24 years, those toy babies were also considered ours, but they were the first owners. When I thought about the quality, they said that we will bring you another babytoy or something, so they bought it for my mother and brought another baby toy, but we actually spent our childhood with those toy babies. But since they were the main owners, we gave them the toy babies.

- This is one of the most interesting stories I've ever heard.
- Yes, and the man, there was the thing of our house upstairs, the laundry room. And in that laundry room, the man had a hobby, he would fill his hunting and cartridges and so on, and he would go hunting. When he came with that cartridge machine, the man asked for the house, my mother, which could be sold for a lot of money. We gave them and him to the man, the man's youth, the cartridge machine. We didn't throw away anything he used in that room, we kept it all. And my father always believed in himself. You know, he believed that one day he would return to Paphos or that they would come back one day. That's why we have always kept everything special. When they came in 2003, we handed over everything to them, their private things. But it's important to me, you know, it's always been a baby toy that we played with, that is, my childhood or my sister spent and we could bring our house to. But with understanding, we gave it to the first owner. Of course, they have grown up. They also had children. I mean, they were bigger than us, but we gave them away. It's an interesting moment, and we've had it.
- Well, before they came to you, you said, you tried to deliver them, you thought about it, but you couldn't find it, where did you try to find them?

- I mean, actually, my dad had a friend who worked in the South. Of course, the guy had the thing, here is his name, he would write down some information, such as identity. That's the way it is. I think my dad would have been able to find it in more detail if it had been like the current situation. Because if his name was a picture of the man, or on social media like now, it could be found more easily, but at that time, my father told a friend at work, who used to work in the South, there was also another acquaintance, too. In fact, he was a crony in his current litsas then, and nothing came of it. But we kept them. A lot of people burned it, tore it up, but we never felt like it, or we even looked at those pictures. Because it was a memory, it was their very special day. In the same way, I mean, we have paintings, we have a lot of things left there in '74. I mean, I still feel sad, my mother, for example, our mother used to record our speech, our songs. For example, before '74, when the war broke out and our house was raided, they always broke those tapes and everything. For example, those memories are gone. And yet, 2022 is behind the fence again. In other words, those wires came in 2022, we looked at those wires, then they collapsed, it seems meaningless, I mean, why are those wires put in me so needy, there are people who are, and that is, they cannot be opened, they are not given to the owners. People are not settled, those houses are destroyed day by day in front of our eyes.

- Unfortunately. So what was it like to grow up next to these wires? Do you think it adds something different to you?

- Of course, it was always my childhood, and when I went to other friends like that, everyone would play in the neighborhood. There was a neighborly incident. I always wanted to have conversations and things and believe me, it played a huge role in choosing my house and getting married. Because our childhood was always spent looking at a closed area, a ruined place. Yes, our house was close to many places, maybe we would not have any problems in terms of transportation to our school, but it was not between neighborhoods. We didn't have a neighborhood incident, there were only two houses, 2-3 houses there. For example, we would shudder at the silent night. Especially when there were soldiers for a while, he used to sit on the balcony and the soldier upstairs. For example, he used to spy on us on the roof of the house.

I mean, it was very uncomfortable. It went for a long time, we couldn't move freely while there were soldiers in the house. It was also sad after the soldiers fled, for example. When we sat down, we always looked at the enclosed area. In other words, instead of looking and seeing open, cheerful people, I always dreamed of having friends who could be my neighbors and our children could play with when I settled down. Because we didn't have such a thing. We had to go two streets away and play with someone. Most of them didn't want to come to our neighborhood too much because we had to go to our friends because the children were scared, and it was more limited.

- After what year did the soldiers flee?
- I don't remember exactly, but I was also young, but I mean, they stayed for 3 years, they stayed for 2-3 years. That's what I remember.
- So what does a ghost town mean to you?
- That's how the ghost town was closed, you know, these houses were closed and demolished. Inside the houses, the trees, the animals, something that animals live there in a neglected way, because it is a ghost town. Soldiers and security are also so you know what to expect when you enter, because there may be illegal people inside. It has become a ghost town. A rundown place is abandoned. In our new era, there were even people who came across people who were living in secret. Was I able to tell? For example, the workers were blind, there were many illegal people inside. They demolished it, poured it. After that, they stole the shutters and stole everything, that is, through it. Instead of being a beautiful place to live, it turned into a ghost town.
- Were there illegal people in Marash?
- There was. They would have escaped, how many people would they have caught, the police, and even the workers who worked in these ancient monuments. There were

people waiting for the vigil inside, and with their help, people would stay in the contents, they would make fugitives and booty. We would sometimes hear voices behind the wires, he would shudder, so we were in the night, there was a habit in our house, we used to lock all over the house before going to bed at night. In other words, there was always a movement in Maraş.

- But then this gave way to silence.
- It gave way to silence, yes. So now he's quit because it's all in ruins now. In other words, he is no longer in a position to stay or live in the opposite part of our house. Because there are no trees inside the houses. Snakes, mice, all kinds of animals are present. In fact, there were guards there in the past, from old artifacts. Officers would go and wait inside Marash. Now they've pulled them out of there.
- What would they go in for?
- So that there would be no booty or anything, thieves would enter like this, smugglers would enter, drug dealers would enter. Of course, the discourses of that time, always in our children, always in my mind, so that those who deal with these things do not hide somewhere in Maraş. At the entrance, such and such a person hid the drugs in Maraş, the police caught him on the way out, and so on, so this kind of thing would also return. Either all the secret things would happen, they would cut those wires, they would enter between them. I mean, you couldn't walk without fear, you couldn't walk on that path. Haen, let me walk on that road at night, for example, with chills. The road is open, maybe in front of our 2 and a half miles, but I will walk that road alone at night, I am afraid because who can come out of what? Because I don't believe it at all right now. In other words, there is no control because they are pulling it too far forward. Only now they opened Varosha. Here is the side of the hotels. They opened some of it to the public, and some of it I passed, you know, by passing by in our car so that my husband could enter the army house. Well, you wouldn't believe it there, I mean, when I passed, it was a part that the public didn't see, it's a very big square. It's Toyota right

now, it's the car companies. The shops, see the collapse of a big city like this, so it's sad to see it in ruins. I'm not going to tell you about the part that is open right now, the part that the public sees, the part that is not visible.

- Is this where the army house is?
- It is not the place where the army house is, for example, there is the open part, now they have exceeded a part more. There was a part of the people who always went into the army house, and there was the part of the people that is now this leftover, and you can go to the army house recently. From bicycles or buses. Now, there is another middle street where cars and soldiers pass, it is such a big street, it is passed through and when you pass there, think of those ruined houses, shops, a big city, and it is very sad that there are hotels and shops that pass through the middle of that city like this. I mean, that's what people are seeing right now, it's such a small fraction. In other words, there is a road facing the sea, here are the hotels, the main event is inside, how many houses are ruined, doors and windows are all dismantled, they made arches, so trees and grass have always grown in the houses, but some houses are really solid. I imagined it, as I was passing by, believe me, some of the shops are so solid inside, these car dealerships and so on, so it's amazing that I thought of it so lively. We live in a beautiful country, but unfortunately this is how Varosha is.
- Well, let me ask you about the way you entered this army house, but have you ever tried to find out what the buildings you see in front of your house are?
- How? What do you like?
- I mean, you can guess from the way it looks that there are houses or something, but were there buildings that weren't houses?
- No, it is always the house in front of our house, even the house opposite our house is a very large, old house. How can I tell you, such an arch is always a 'damida' material

and there is a lower part of that house. At that time, they used to say that I was young, there were rooms, the servants' room, and that house was known as the house of the District Governor. And it was said that there was a pool behind that house. You know, my dad was the first to go through. I've always been there. They took two or three grand pianos out of that house at the time, and the real estate and supplies department bought them in time. I always dream of antique armchairs, antique items and the bottom and back of that house, what was it like? They said servants' rooms down there or something, I was a child then. On the other side, there was another one that was like a hospital, it had rooms like that. Below was a place that I think belonged to the doctor. They didn't collapse, but when we looked to our right, the house there was an adobe house, it was destroyed.

- From where it is the house of the prefect.
- I mean, I was a child, my parents used to understand, there are very beautiful paintings in that house, here are antiques. And I had a friend who worked in antiquities, a lady, and they took out truckloads of antiques at the time of her work in that house, and from that house came out of two grand pianos and 2-3 grand pianos.
- You said that you guessed that the hospital in the other building is a hospital.
- Yes, it is up there and this district governor, they are already side by side in front of our house, if necessary, I can take a picture of it one day and we will send it to you.
- So, for example, did the owners of those houses come back? When the doors opened.
- I mean, I don't know, I don't know, I mean, there were only people who came to my mother. You know, they wanted them to go up to the roof, to look at it, to see it. From the balcony, my mother accepted people because she speaks Greek. They came from the balcony and looked, but even if they had already arrived, they could not pass and see their homes. In other words, there was a wire, but were they the owners of that

house, who were they, or the owner of those houses may not be alive, but their children or grandchildren may have come. But I've never heard of it, I don't know about it. But surely all of them have come. Look, the Lordos, for example, came and went to Marash. And I mean, it's very sad. And recently there is a place called Bizim Meyhane in Nicosia. When I got there, I likened the man. As it turned out, he was the son of the original father of the owner of the tavern. He always comes here and wants to open his tavern and hotels there. People in Marash.

- Have you read this in the news?
- Noo when I saw this, I saw the man on the news, you know, when I went to our tavern at work, I saw the man in our tavern a few months ago. He is also very friendly with the owner of the tavern because he is the nephew of the friend. It turns out that Lordos' mother said look, I forgot her name that hour. He was staying in Nicosia and met the mother of the owner of the tavern. And now, you know, he comes and talks to the man, you know, he told me very much that they should open their hotels or something. So people, they are also very upset about everyone.
- Well, you said you can go in because of your spouse, when did you first enter those places that were not opened?
- I mean, when did I first enter, so what can I tell you, not because of my wife, but because I entered the army house before. You know, the part that is open right now, you know, the one that goes to the army house? How can I call that place? I was about 25 years old, I was 25 years old. Through someone else. And after that, when I married my wife in '97, that's where my wife could get in. He also issued me a card, but I never had a choice, let me enter because I am very sad when I enter. This is how it was when I entered Maraş, you know, we experienced this war here. I remember my childhood, you know, we used to move from lap to lap, those sounds, those fears, my childhood was always at home and I stayed even now, I check every part of me at night from childhood, I lock all over the place, I invest in it and when I go, I see it there, you know, there are people who don't deserve it. Somehow, they get a torpedo card,

they come and try to vacation there to the most convenient thing. They can easily enter, they can use that sea. That's why I didn't renew my card again because I was against them, it is not my preference to go and sit down.

- Is there a difference between the Maraş you entered then and the Maraş after the current opening?
- Now, of course, it is crowded, those dormitories used to be full of students. Now they have decreased. Maybe not so much because of the pandemic. There is not much difference, I mean, they tried to fix the road a little bit now, but in my opinion, they ruined the roads. Because there is a mosque there, I forgot about it now. What a mosque it was, you know, it was opened. When I first entered, I entered Maraş. When I saw its ruined state, those old stones, I said, I hope they will do it. The second time I went, I was going to show it to a relative. They plastered the old work because it would be urgent because Turkey's president would come to it, and they ruined the value of the mosque. When the roads were first opened, the roads were a thing, there was sewage, when the people in front of every shop and every house washed their doors, when they washed the front of the shop, so that water would not accumulate on the roads, now they poured them into roads, they ruined them because they were asphalt, they always closed those holes. So when I went for the second time, I saw these as well.
- So was there anything you wanted to see as they opened this October 2020 water streets coming in?
- Want to see?
- Is there anything that you expected to see, that you went in because you wanted to see this?

- No, I mean, there wasn't. Believe me, because I went there so many times and was so upset, this time I saw the house closer when it was opened. I mean, then you could have crossed by car, pedestrian was prohibited to walk, it was more for me, I mean, I would be sad. That's why, I don't prefer to go too far. When I look at it, I say, I mean, I get upset. A lot of people lived in these houses, they were happy, the interior of these houses was chirpy, a minister, the inside of the house was broken everywhere, the doors and shutters were gone, it was a completely different feeling. So it's a bad feeling for me. I don't think, you know, when we win, when we win, when we shed blood in property, I don't think about such a thing, that is, the lives of the people there are destroyed, and now people come and most of them are in a position to see their homes. For example, if he is on the side of the road, he looks at his house and feels sad. In other words, those who are children are saddened when young people look at them. I don't know, I mean, I'm thinking about myself, we went to Paphos and we last saw our house. After that, my sister and I ran around in that square and we were happy with her, but when we looked to our left and right, people lived in those houses. They pay rent to the state, they did not own the property. But at least some of them are renovated because it was a town in Paphos. But we ran towards my father's shop and my sister and I looked at it and there was nothing there. My sister tells me that she was here, that's my father's shop, because she was 3 years older than me. It's more on your mind. But I also vaguely remembered it. And there we used to look at our anxiety like this, you know, and a guy was passing by and he said, well, what are you looking at? He spoke to us in Turkish, it is a Turkish Cypriot, he stayed in 74, he was always there and he said, they were collapsing, they cleaned this place, they always demolished it, and even that thing made me feel such a sadness because they demolished it, I mean, I would like to see that memory, that thing. Now, because I had this feeling, or we couldn't enter, for example, we couldn't enter through the door of the house we live in. I'm very curious, I've always dreamed of it. It never came across. Because I couldn't see people who weren't at home. And other people like me experience the same feeling when they come, and when they come, they see their home, so it's very sad. This is a great sadness, but there are those who have not experienced this incident now, who are watching us from afar, just as there is a war in the distance, or we are watching from afar. They watched us from Turkey, they looked at us from everywhere, but they said they were poor and left. Of course, they moved on with their lives, but we experienced this pain, it is very difficult. No one has ever

had anything of their property, but think of people like us who live in Limassol, Larnaca, Paphos, we have been through the war, we have been through the war, we have come here with a smuggled car and we have come here with a smuggled car and we have been called here because my father was a TMT member. A Greek friend of my father's helped us cross the borders secretly. He took us this way, from south to north. That's why yes, I was 4 years old, but I still remember it, I mean, I always remember that we went through it, we went from there to there in our parents' laps. And I always imagined where we had run to our house and when it opened in 2003 and I passed by. I saw my dream house and street and my dream came true. These are very difficult, unpleasant things. That's why it makes me sad in Maraş, when I go and see it. However, maybe if it was opened, the ancients would understand, for example, my aunts used to come to Maraş to visit from Paphos, it was like Texas, my aunt said, so it was a very big thing, entertainment places were an incredible city. When I saw that central place, I realized that Maraş was really beautiful. And it's bigger than the part that's currently open. But for years it was condemned to rot in a closed state.

- Well, you said that your aunt used to come to Maraş to visit, did your father or mother ever come to Maras?
- She never came, she never came, so my mother never came. But I have a neighbor here, for example, sister Zehra, they are from Sindeli. İnönü, as I said, they did not become immigrants. They were already very close. And some of his family remained within the city walls. They used to go for a stroll in Marash.
- For example, you grew up next to those wires. So, when you were growing up, were you ever told stories about Maraş or did you ever hear them?
- How is it related to the interior of Maraş?
- Yes, it's like an urban legend.

- I only heard it from my aunt, you know, it was a beautiful city. Entertainment, music, restaurants, shops were incredible, that is, beautiful. I only heard it from my aunt and then from my current neighbor. But my parents didn't see it in person, they never brought it to us in our childhood, so my father, because we used to stay in Paphos. In other words, it was probably a 3 and a half to 4 hours journey from Paphos to Maraş, so we didn't come to such a thing.

- So, for example, when you entered after the streets were opened, were there any buildings or places that stuck in your mind like this?

- I mean, when I see the buildings that stick in my mind, I imagine. I imagined what these beaches, these hotels, these roads would be like if they were finished, a lively place while passing by, seeing and walking. For example, when you look at the open area, when you go from the Palm Beach side, you will probably go to my mother's house when you go to the side streets left and right. That's how I imagined it, so if there was an opening, I would go directly down the road across from my mother's house to her house. This is a big city. I always dreamed of what would have happened if it had been open, if it had been much nicer, or if those landlords had come and sat behind the fence and lived, I have always dreamed that those people could come and sit down. I think we were going to talk from balcony to balcony.

- Have you tried to find out what the buildings you see are in places that are open to the interior?

- Well, I tried to find out what they were. Of course, there were houses, buildings that were hotels, hotels that were unfinished and about to be completed.

- Yes, so where did you try to find them or did you take them out from the signs written on them?

- No, it is clear that they are a hotel when you pass by. On the gallery windows, the stores have already the signs of everything from Toyota to Toyota and some of them still stand. Signs stop thinking.
- So what was the place that caught your attention the most?
- What caught my attention the most was these invisible car dealerships. I imagined that when people came, I thought that if the man who would want to open his shop was alive or his children, that is, his father may have brought that iron down, he would want to open it. Imagine, such a different feeling made me feel something. When I see those shops and so on. It is really an unpleasant situation. See, know what's what, people's houses, especially by the sea, when I look at this thing in a house, even the plate thing and the pot thing would be on the table. In other words, one feels very strange. In other words, the people who lived in that house by the sea would now maybe sit by that sea and enjoy it. It was his own property, his home. Now, in the form of a museum, people come in and look at what they look at, what do they look at? The people who lived and died in moments of fear, that Maraş, emptied everything, left all their hopes in a corner and fled, the same people left everything that is now Russia and Ukraine, they ran away.
- Do you see any future for Varosha?
- I mean, I don't see it at all right now. I don't believe anything can happen. I know.
- Why don't you see it?
- Well, there is no attempt that there may be more, so I always, sometimes I say, you know, one side of me, maybe one day it will be given to the owners. Because, as you know, they have seized Turkey. They opened the territories according to their wishes. Supposedly, Maraş is opening, but Maraş was not opened, in my opinion, what did it open that opened the already open area, and many people would have already

entered, they would have seen that road. There was nothing he didn't see, that is, the region that was opened, Maraş was not opened, Maraş was opened, the place where we passed by car so that people could come and see the ruin. How many houses were destroyed, how many houses were stacked and how many shops were houses. They don't see it there, only a small part of the people. It was still open, but it wasn't open to the public. Tourists wouldn't come. He was going to open the main place, and he opened the part that was the mosque. One way, two ways. A lot of people already had things. The tourists from Turkey were all commanders, they used to use that sea coast as it was. Now, of course, there are some of those things that the municipality has to do, cafes. In other words, when you first enter that beach, you know, you already rent a bicycle, when you turn left, go down to the beach, turn left from the circle. You didn't put sunbeds on that beach anyway, you didn't bring it to life, people now, I saw the other day, people from the South threw their towels and tried to lie on the sand. But again, there is no cleaning or anything, so maintenance, so it's not open, it's not open, so it's not open. I mean, they probably come and stir up their memories. When he goes up, he is already heading towards the army house. You can't step into the sea of the army house, no one from the people can enter. You can't even walk past the door of his path. Oh, my guest came, I took him, but when I enter this atmosphere, I see it, I feel restless. If Maraş is opened, people should enter the beach. People who enter can't even buy water from the market. In other words, it is already very difficult to go up to the army house as a tourist, either as a bicycle, renter or on foot, and you can enter the market there. They also used to sell their water on the roads first when they put things on you. What does this stand for? This is not an expansion of Maraş, this is something for show. Opening Maraş means opening Maraş, you were going to open Maraş, people can come in your cars, you can look, you can walk. This is the opening of Maraş.

- October 2020 they opened these streets. Has this changed your thinking about the future?
- I don't believe in such a thing at all. I don't believe in it at all, I don't believe in it, I don't believe in it, so I recently went with the kids who came to something my relative asked for. More than the day it opened, bicycles as a society, we couldn't even manage a

job, we opened it, at least let's turn it into money, the bikes are rusty. There is nothing in anything. The roads are dirty, terrible, so it's not like the first day. I mean, someone is going to come and they made a show of all the money in the world, then the municipality opened it, there is a café after the army house, it sucks. In other words, there is nothing, everything, the money given, the roads that were poured in vain, all flew away. A big nothing, a tea garden was built in the future, a square. Pearl plays ball. Nothing. So it's just an advertisement, the ads are done and done. Recently, I think the president came again, he went to Maraş again, he came for a walk. It's a different ad again, I don't think it can be opened.

- Is that the place you call a tea garden has those pools?
- There's the pool, there's the united thing, there's the British soldier there, after you pass it. The event they call the mosque, which already goes to the end of a road, is a left-turning army house, on his right arm as he goes right, there. There is no one. They said that they opened Maraş, but there is nothing that can appeal to tourists. We couldn't even do that, let's turn it into money.
- What did you expect to see when you walked in?
- I don't know, when I entered at that moment, I wondered if we could see the houses more closely. How can I tell you that it was something else behind the wire now. It was another thing when I was passing by car, but when the pedestrian walked, for example, I wanted to be able to see it closer to those houses, so I crossed and was even more upset when I passed and saw it. When he saw it up close, he was devastated. Obviously, they removed the shutters on all sides. They made a scarecrow. I don't know what they did.
- How should any place or building inside be preserved as it was in 74?

- Of course, it had to be protected. But think about it, they covered it up. But we used to pass it, it should have lasted before. There were things, how can I tell you? You know, the windows that opened and closed, think about the shutters and wooden shutters of the houses. Here are the wooden shutters, instead of removing the houses and drawing walls like this, they built them in front of the houses and the last thing this thing was going to come to Turkey's president, they pulled fabric for them. They tried to arrange it in front of them and so on, but when you go to an inland area, they always put such border things in front of the houses, like barricades, they always dismantled, broke and poured the shutters of the houses. Of course, there are also people who probably made them look at the time. I don't know, but the soldiers always dismantled the things of the houses and made things with them, barricades. Those houses should have been protected. After all, they were not the owners themselves. It was just an occupation.

- So, if something were going to be future-proof, do you think it should be protected? The buildings inside as they are now. Or the city?

- E should have been protected, but you say that it is something for the future.

- Yes, yes, again, should something like cultural heritage or anything be preserved inside to remind us of this war?

- They have already demolished the houses to remind them of the war, when you see it, smell the war, take it, that is, when you go inside, smell the war, in order not to smell the war, you need to restore them now, not to put them in front of people's eyes. I mean, when you go in, you can smell the war and get something else. I mean, I don't know if I'll take it when I enter, I guess you went to Maraş when you entered.

- I did, yes, I got in last summer.

- I mean, Nilsu, I guess it's in whose hands is it in our managers, I mean, what can they restore? On their own, they probably don't have the means to come and restore people's homes, but for example, think of a hotel in the Army House, he repaired the soldiers and students, placed that hotel, and made accommodation. At the top of the restaurant, I don't know if you've ever been to the restaurant?
- I didn't.
- When you enter your restaurant and look at some of it, you can eat while sitting, you can see the ruined building being bombed in front of you. You see, 2-3 hotels of the places occupied by the troops there were restored and repaired. See one of them in ruins and bombs there again.
- So they left it as it was?
- It stands as it is or there is a laundry room inside, behind it are dilapidated houses, buildings overlooking hotels have been bombed. They can't do these things themselves, they probably don't have so many hands, let them do other hotels. Only the apartments above the canteen opposite the existing army house on the seashore are the families of the soldiers. There is one and 2 things, a girls' dormitory and a boys' dormitory for students. He didn't fix the rest. In other words, when you entered, you were already looking there or bathing in the sea, it was such a beautiful beach, when we looked at it, the minister said, you know, it was bombed.
- Well, for example, there are many important places for the people of Maraş in the old time, especially on these opened streets, there are 2 high schools, there are many cinemas, on that mosque street.
- They are all closed. He could not go to them and see them, so that no one could see them, no one could see them.

- So, do you think that the high school in front of that garden tea garden or the important places for social life at that time should be preserved or restored?
- Well, it could be restored, it's really beautiful there. At least how they restored the mosque and the church, they took it under protection. They could also build such important buildings. But such a thing, they have never thought about it and do not think of doing it.
- Did you know which such important buildings were when you came in, or later?
- No, I never knew, I never knew.
- So where did you learn it?
- I mean, I took pictures of the people who went to work after that, or how many cinema entertainment centers inside I heard from people who went before, but when I look at the back of a high school inside, here is my wife's school, when I look at the back of the vocational high school, I see something in the closed area. I mean, I know high schools have always been there. I mean, other schools, only my wife's school is open, but it's actually the front, the back, the side that people don't see. That is, we pass through the slope that we see in front of us, it is behind the school. The front is the other side. In other words, when I entered, I did not know the important place at all. I haven't researched it before so I don't know what's what. I just walked through the area they opened at work. Or I walked the same road I had crossed by car.
- Is there anything you would like to add to any of your answers?
- How so?

- Those were all my questions, but is there anything you would have liked to have said that to any of your answers?

- In other words, I have said everything now, I hope that my only hope is that Maraş will become the old Maraş. They return it to the owners. At least I think that people who are not the main owners, but their children or their children, will experience that happiness. Apart from that, I think that two communities can live for Maraş. In other words, in the past, my parents lived when they were in Paphos. Even if Maraş is opened, I do not think that the owners will live in the future. Today, everyone goes south as well. It's the same in Europe, and there's a mixed lot of people in all countries. I wish it could be returned to the owners so they could repair it. And if only he would come back to life. If they will not give it, they will agree among themselves with an agreement and it will be given to the people who will bring it back to life as soon as possible. In other words, in the form of such ruins, in what period people enter and look at it, this is how many people died, this is what happened, this is how it is. It's still the same thing, heaps of houses, heaps, schools, as you said. Cinemas, entertainment centers. We stand with everything closed and say it as if it's a big deal. I think it's wrong. In other words, Maraş has not been opened, in my opinion, this road of Maraş was already open to many segments, it was opened to a lower segment. He just walks down the road and looks. This is not an expansion of Maraş. Opening Maraş means visiting Maraş step by step in every street, and then either to the owners, if it is not given to others, as you say slowly, to restore the most valuable places, at least the beautiful places, and sell them to tourists. If it is going to declare itself as a ruined city, it will restore itself, every road, every street, everything, and important places and schools, so that tourists can come and visit it for money. If Maraş is to be opened, they should restore it, the roads are the streets, but to whom will they show them? You know, grass and trees grew on the roads. What does it show? We will show our disgrace even more to people coming from abroad. He opened only one way for him, we can show him, but I hope that one day that Maraş will be opened and those hotels will come to life and be finished. But I was 4 years old when I arrived, now I'm 52 years old. I always dream of going behind that wire, let me say one last word, always dreaming of going from that wire to that side. I don't know if I will live long enough to move on to the next wire.

- Will the Cul-de-Sac become a straight alley now?

- Yes, that's why I still dream about it, but unfortunately. They removed the fence opposite the city hall. Whoever passes through there, who they allow, let them pass and wander around that region. You understand, Maraş is not open, let the people see the open region as a little bit more of a thing. From there, they would come and go from their cars anyway. The students are people who have nothing to do with years, who don't live in this country. Cards, he is his torpedo, he bought a card, people from Turkey come on vacation cheaply and swim on our most beautiful beaches, on what date could you, as a people, pass? He opened it for you to walk if you wanted, but you couldn't get in the door of the army house. Is this Varosha opened? If Varosha is opened, at least it's okay. Since it is opened, people can walk in the open area. You can not even buy a bottle of water while walking around.

E47 Transcription

- Do you feel connected to Varosha?

- Very much. I cannot live without Varosha.

- And what is your relation to the Varosha?

- You know, I told you that I was born in Famagusta. I was born there. And I grew up there. I was until my 8th, until the eight years old, I did my first two elementary classes there. And I used to walk around Famagusta a lot because my father was blind. And I am the first kid of the family, the first child of the family. So my childhood, I was calling my father's hand and just walking everywhere in Famagusta. Plus, my father was playing music night time in hotels and I had the chance to see the nightlife of Famagusta as well. So, I really have very, very, very much of strong memories. Plus, I have to tell you that Famagusta at that time was much ahead of what we have now here in Larnaca, Larnaca is just a city with a low profile city. There are no actions here. Famagusta was miles ahead was like a small Paris that time. Actually, they were calling it a small Paris or second Paris, the first Paris of Middle East. It was Beirut at that time. And after Beirut, it was Famagusta. It was so busy daytime, night time and you could see so many things happening there. We had gay, gay people just walking around having fun with no problem at all. We had hippies. You see you could see people with earrings, with beards, with weird clothing, with this Volkswagen cars, the hippie style cars, you could see these things. We had artists we had a lot of artists. The people that time they had a normal sexual life from 18 years old. You see young people with girlfriends, with enjoying love, you know, it was a place that it was prior for any tourist to come to Famagusta. Prior for any person to go in Famagusta and meet somebody and get married. Prior for people to build up their life, to make businesses in Famagusta, to find a job, to live like people. People were leaving their villages just to go in Famagusta, find a place to rent, to stay and live like people. If you go in the villages, it was nothing, nothing at all. You're going Famagusta, It's like you are in another country. You are immediately in New York, Paris, London, whatever. You know that German people were paying deposit to buy an apartment that was going to be

built at 20 years later. Putting a deposit to get the apartment 20 years later. Famagusta that time they had about 350,000 tourists, summertime and Kyrenia or Larnaca or Paphos, had only 2-3 thousand. We had 350,000 about. These are facts, you know.

- And I'm going to ask more about the...
- Ask whatever you want.
- So were your grandparents also living in Famagusta?
- Yes, my grandparents from the side of my mother, they are from Famagusta. My grandparents on the part of my father, my grandfather is from Famagusta, my grandmother, she came from a place in Cappadocia. She was a refugee from a place called Ioscat, a city still exists now it's in Turkey. And they had to leave before 1922, just because the Turks at that time was threatening to slaughter the Armenians, the Greeks. Yes, and she left with her family. She went in Jerusalem first. And then she met my grandfather in Jerusalem. And they agreed to get married at that time, you know you agree to get married. You're not falling in love in these things. And they came in Famagusta.
- And that's how they settled in Famagusta?
- Yes, because my grandfather was Famagustian already.
- Yeah, yeah. You said you were eight when the 1974 happened? So do you remember living there?
- Very much very much. So that much that even today, I'm living in Famagusta. Honestly, I'm carrying a Famagusta in my heart in my actions. Here we are living in Saint John, the land we are living actually belonged to a Turkish Cypriot, that he was not paid. So,

the government can use his land. You know, I like to say the truth, when the truth is with us, that's nice to say it. When the truth is not with us, we really have to say it again. So, the land that my house is built at now, it doesn't belong to our government, belong to somebody, he's a Turkish Cypriot. They didn't pay him. It was a very rich man called Ismail, one of the richest Turkish Cypriots that was living in Larnaca. The government used his land without paying nothing. Built at the small colonization and nobody of us have even registration here. It doesn't belong to us, yet. I don't know what they are going to do but it's been now 48 years about. Anyway, so after the war, my parents, when this house was given to us and my parents had just three or four friends. Coming almost every day in our house. Almost every day, the only subject to talk it was Famagusta. They were all from Famagusta. And the only subject talk is Famagusta and its people. Do you remember these? The son of that married with that. Do you remember their house? They had a room. They had a garden. That flower that they had in their garden. They went there. So I was growing up in a spiritual Famagusta. In a transformation of the city. And still, you know, in Larnaca I have two shops, one is called Famagusta. So everything for me is Famagusta, without Famagusta, I am a different person. I'm empty, I could be one empty, miserable, sad, disappointed person. With Famagusta, I can balance it. The way that I conceive Famagusta. You can ask many people what is Famagusta for them, you can hear things in common, but also you can hear other things for somebody else, Famagusta could be his business, could be his childhood, could be his a nice place that his house was built at, the sea or the people. My personal opinion, what is Famagusta for people can vary a lot.

- And you said one of the shops you have is named Famagusta, first of all, what shop is it?
- It's a souvenir shop.
- And did you have it for long years? How come you have named it Famagusta?

- Yes, yes, you know, I'm 57 years old. I have the shops, it's been about more than 10 years.

- And you said you remember everything about Famagusta but if I asked you what is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about the town, a memory, that just you don't forget?

- That time, 1973-1974-1972, that I can really remember and I was going to the school I was meeting people of my age. I was observing better. I was growing up. I remember that all the songs that was playing on the radio. It was songs that even today, I'm listening to them. You know Hadjidakis, Manos Hadjidakis,. Stavros Krumdis, Theodorakis, Biffi Gotsis, Cocadas all these songs, it was not just songs, it was the dress, the suits of our life. People were, you know, Cypriot people after 1960, we were like, just born kids, like infants. What we could have as civilization, it was this. The informations that we were taking from external things, for example, what we hear in the radio could shape our lives. What we see from tourists, what we see from artists could shape our lives. And I remember very well that, Hadjidakis have one; by the way my main hobby is music. I am an amateur musician, so music is important for me. Hadjidakis has one album called The Smile of Jaconda. That specific album was playing every morning. Every morning and until afternoon, maybe three times every day, we could hear this. Parts of melodies of the smile of Jaconda. I remember it so well. My father also was musician, night time, amateur musician. Nighttime was playing at the hotels, so he used to tell me listen to this Nicholas, listen to Cocadas. Can you reckon who is singing now? I was saying oh, this is is Cocadas this is Dalaras. This is Theodorakis. This is Farhanduri. So this is really strong in my mind. And the value of those songs is because of that I combine them with the pictures I see. I mean, Famagusta for me is not just those houses, it's the houses that they were covered with the music and not just music, you know, this is not just music, this is masterpieces. It's standard things. It's civilization that we had it 50 years ago, and we still have it and listening to this until now. You know there is no Greek music without these names, that I told you. Theodorakis, is a person who is admitted in Turkey, in Israel, in China, in Cuba, all over the world. And as a kid, I admired these things. So everywhere I go life was, life has its ornaments. The some extra beauties. Is like a nice film with a great

music, and Famagusta was what I see, what I observed was a really nice, a great film with really great music, the greatest. It's a dream. Famagusta was that time is a dream. Plus at the age of 6-7-8 years old, you are still innocent. I was innocent. And I was born an artistic personality. That time my father wanted me to learn to play the piano. I was going for piano lessons, three years, I was studying music every day. I was reading, reading a lot of books. Great Alexander, so many books I was reading, I was a very open minded person, open minded kid and as a sponge anywhere I go I absorb information, pictures. Even now, sometimes I take people there to show them, older than me, people that was 10-12 years older than me and they said to me, how come you remember this? I couldn't remember that these things exist here, how come you remember that? Or him or her? I could remember so much. You know, after the war, I was dreaming times of my life in Famagusta. I was dreaming parts of Famagusta. And the dream was so strong. It's like it was a real life and when Famagusta opened and I went there. So when I went to see my house for two weeks, I couldn't sleep, two weeks. I found out that many problems I had as a kid growing up on my teenage time. People were born in 1966. For some, I'm not psychologist, but I believe for some reason we had similar problems. When you grow up and as an experience, you can remember aero planes sending throwing bombs or people to threat people or when you see soldiers or non-soldiers having guns threatening people. These things have an impact in your soul. And I've seen these things. When you hear bad news, you know like ohh, they put a bomb here, ohh they killed that one. They slaughtered 2 Turkish Cypriots. They slaughtered 2 left wing people. These are fascists. These are not fascists. They will kill him, they kill them. Don't talk because they will come to beat you up or when you hear these things and when the war happens, there is no way you get away with this. You can get away. You think that you can get away, but it's in you. It's in you. Subconsciously, we are keeping a memory. A memory field that absorbs information. And people are of born in 1965-1966-1964, I believe these people are hurt from the war of 1974. And this is the reason that, you will not see people of 1968-1970 care so much. People of 1966 is the last generation to my personal opinion that they can remember, and they can have demands, you know, I want my house. I want to see my house. I demand this, after 1966, there are nobody to remember.

- I have a lot of questions with the things that you have told me, but the first one is you said you were taking piano lessons. Where were you taking these lessons?

- You know, Saint Catherine, St. Catherine Church in Famagusta? Just down when you have opposite of Saint Catherine, you go down. And you pass the schools. And then at the end of the street, you turn left and right again. That house was Mrs. Amalia Yassenidou. Yassenidou was her father's name, was her family name. Mrs. Amalia was married with Mr. Nofidos that he was black. A black Cypriot, with African roots so in Famagusta, maybe he was the only black. And I remember very strong that he was a great person, very humble, and his daughter was also black. I was watching them with admiration. I remember that I was looking always at their nails. You know, black people have a like kind of reddish nails. And I was watching with admiration. Mrs. Amalia was a very good teacher because her brother was a very good musician. He could play all the instruments. He died before a few years here in Nicosia, I think he died. Very famous person, everybody knew him. Later on I found out that Mr Nofidos, the black man, I say the word black with sympathy and no racism at all, not to be misunderstood. So Mr Nofidos was a drummer. He was playing the drums. And the brother of my father was also a musician. He was playing accordion. By the way on the opposite of where Terranova is now in Famagusta in the Main Street that goes to the universities, there was a very big place, like for example 5 or 6 plots together with one house in the middle and stables for horses on the side. That house belonged to somebody very rich, of the family of Alexandros Dimitriou. He was a main importer, exporter of things, of tractors, of windmills anyway, and Mr. Nofidos, and my uncle was going there every Christmas to play music. And the lady, the owner, who was a British lady, was giving them money, food, extra tips and all the kids of the neighbors around it was not too many places there, was coming also to watch to the music and to receive their gifts and everything given by this family. And I had the chance when I saw this house, I was curious. I saw this House I like this house. It was empty, so I went inside. I made photos of everything, even of the chairs of the rubbish. I was finding down of the chimney of everything and I was putting them in the Facebook so I had people saying hey, this is my father was there my ohh I remember they had these kids that were playing with me, you know, and experience of all the people. And I see how much we are connected and apart the same time.

- Where was your school that you were going to? What's the name of it?

- That time was called Manzorio, is from Saint Catherine. Is the nearest school to Saint Catherine, but not down that you see, not behind Saint Catherine, not just opposite down, but when you go straight about 150 meters and there is a divine and there is a school and opposite there is a church. That church was Agia Zoni church. That church now you cannot go because it's close. The school opposite is open, in that school I was. Before a few weeks, I went there with a neighbor of mine, another kid of that time, Elena. So Elena very rarely goes, maybe she never went there. I think maybe one time she went and she said when you go, can you also take me? And we went together because we were neighbors that time. And we went to our houses again. The hostess of my house, she made me a coffee. I sat on the veranda outside and then on the way back I stop in the school. That time the school was closed, but there was cleaners and also the headmaster of the school. And the headmaster said to us where are you from, what are you doing? We said this is our school, he said do you want to come in? I said yeah, why not. So he let me go to my classroom. I went to my classroom. My classroom was open. It was only the cleaner. We talked with the cleaner in a very I had a very interesting conversation with the cleaner and I sat in the place that I was sitting when I was six years old, seven years old. And it was really funny. I really liked it.

- At the time, what do you remember the most? What was your day like and where was your house?

- My house was from that school and towards a factory that was called Evriga, that time. It was, for example, one 1-1/2 kilometer from that school. And the address was Tchaikovsky/Chaikovsky number 2A. The street before that was Paganini. And before that, it was the Bende visaria or Queenda, was a night spot. Very nice and popular that time. Opposite of Queenda, it was as a mini market. A CEO OOP mini market that time. So when I was going home, I was stopping there just to buy some chocolate, some sweets. I remember, it was this chocolate called Mars, the Mars chocolate. That

time they were expensive. It was 2 shillings. So my father was telling me you don't need that chocolate. It's 2 shillings.

- And during the elementary school years, were you taking part in any of the events in in town like the Orange Festival?
- I was always there. My auntie, my mother was taking me there. Also, I remember the Likeon Ellinidon, just opposite of the garden. Because I was going there for examinations. When you want to upgrade your music, you have to give some examinations and the examinations was given there. And I went there two times and I didn't pass because I was afraid. I was a very good and talented student, but when I see the examiner, I was getting stressed and I couldn't continue.
- That that's really interesting. I didn't know that they were doing examination in there so...
- That Likeon Ellinidon was a generator of art. They had everything in there they was teaching opera, they was teaching theater, they was teaching music, they was teaching art. At 1960 something, the creator of that place, Mrs. Papadopoulou was teaching women good manners. For example, she was bringing five or ten women and she was saying, I will teach you to make your life better. And she was giving ideas, like, one afternoon you can invite to your house three other friends or five or ten, or however, and you can make a tea so you can start talking about the things are happening. And you can also learn about art. She was opening the eyes of women and at the beginning of doing that, some men were suspicious, like what happened and my wife is a little bit different. I don't like this. So they wanted to watch Mrs Papadopoulou. What is she really doing to our wives? Because we are in danger to lose the wife that we know, the slave we have. Anyway, when they were going there and watch Mrs Papadopoulou, what she was doing with the other women. They started encouraging other men to send their wives also to become like their wives. So that was really a generator of civilization, Likeon Ellinidon. It's a holy place. It will be a

shame if the president authorities put it down or don't give back the value that has that place. Places like these can restart the good relation about the communities.

- And what does the name Ghost Town mean to you?
- Ghost town was, it's a meaning that was created from an UN soldier, a Swedish guy, I think. That after 1974 we when we run away, we thought for a few days we will run away and we will come back. And we couldn't come back. So lights was on, breakfast was on some, you know, the Coca-Cola, the coffees was in some places ready for people to come and eat. And the houses had furnitures inside was open, like life stopped, and where other people, so and the lights remain open night time, maybe for two or three years, if I'm not wrong. So that soldier will start writing something, mentioning a ghost city because it makes you scared. It was a city. A living city without people. Is like a ghost city. So this is how that thing stayed. For me, even I can understand the ghost city. I'm very familiar with the ghosts, to be honest. I know the ghosts. I know many ghosts with their names. This is the house of that one. Here it was my grandmother, living my grandfather, my auntie, my cousin. These neighborhood was my cousins. I know their names. Their lives, the watches they were wearing their cars. The shops, everything. Actually, there are no ghosts. Is the ghost is, it's only the bad experience. Without the bad experience, it's a life. It's one hurt life.
- And they opened the checkpoints in 2003, have you visited your house or the surrounding area?
- Immediately, immediately, immediately. Also, my parents had the unique experience one month before they opened, before Denktas opened the border. They went in Famagusta. We had a problem in our family with the title of a small property. My father had the problem. So they advised him that, you know, you have to go there to the states Barrow and find the title there and the problem will finish will be fixed. So, we had to do that. So my father and my mother and my brother, went in through Nicosia they took a taxi and alone they travelled to the so-called Turkish side, the other side or the occupied side, call it however. They went there and the first thing they did it was

to go in our house. And you know, I told you that they were talking so many years just about Famagusta. They went there immediately, they loved the people staying in our house. People in our house loved my parents. And these love exist until now, between me and them. I call him a brother. He feels the same for me with his papu, you know the father of his mother. I had a relation like father and son. A very honest and sincere relation, like father and son. I was going very often in Famagusta to take him and get him to the doctor here in Larnaca to the hospital. But before that, you know, it was one thing I have to mention that he did for me. When I first went in my house, when the border opened, I told them after two weeks I will come and I was driving a very big bike, a motorbike. So 2 weeks later, somebody with a very big bike had an accident. And almost he got killed, this is what I hear, a Greek Cypriot. So the family heard about that. So the Bapu, which until that time I didn't know him. He heard and he thought that probably it's me. So he went in the hospital in Famagusta, asking Nikos, Nicholas. Tall guy, whatever with the bike. They said we don't know, he went to Nicosia, he asked there. Nobody knew anything. This man, and his wife. Anyway, so he was asking. He couldn't get an answer, so he put his daughter and his son that came from England to see him in the trouble to find me anyway, they couldn't find me in that site. They came in this site in the hospitals asking about me. I'm not the one who got the accident anyway. So finally asking, asking, asking. They came to in Larnaca and somebody told them I know Nicos, no, he's well, his shop is there and he bring them in my shop. But that time, to be honest, I was not fair with them, I was rude. Because they said to me, you know, this is the people of they live in in your house. And that was not the people I met in my house. I didn't know the Bapu. I didn't know the people who live in England. I knew just the his son-in-law and his daughter and it was not them. So I said I don't know the people. I was not, you know, like angry but I was not friendly. Probably I was tired from work and then I see them, you know, with the sweat after all this adventure, to find me with sweat and tired, and they come in my shop and I was rude. I was really ashamed of myself, so it took me 5 years, sorry 5 minutes to understand that I was not fair. And this is the family looking for me. And then I just wake up and I told them, oh I'm sorry, I told them, please have a seat. I tried to fix my mistake. Do you want some souvlaki? I will bring you. He said it's OK. Please, I said. But we don't eat meat, they said. I was really confused anyway they forgive me immediately, immediately, and from that time I became with Hassan, I really I could tell you that I loved him almost as I love my father. Almost as I loved my father, I never saw. I very rarely I can reckon a

man like him. So great, so good. He is Muslim, it doesn't matter. He's old, he doesn't matter. I don't know him. It doesn't matter. We became like father and son. He was a man of love and his daughter, his daughters. He has, I think 2, two or three daughters. They are like him. They're like him, his grandchild, his cousin, he's like him good people. Good people. You know, when the people are good, you don't see their religion. You don't see where they come from, you don't care. This is the problem in Cyprus. We really it's a problem of love. Cyprus problem was always a problem of education. We are stubborn and narrow-minded people and loves especially we Greek Cypriots. This is what I believe. This is what I believe. We Greek Cypriot, we have much better chances to get education , open mind. I told you how was Famagusta. You know when you have an open mind and when you have, when you are living a normal life, you usually you become a normal person. You don't see enemies. You don't see jealousy. You are better, a better person. Turkish Cypriots at that time, they didn't have these chances. They had really difficulties. There were in very minor position.

- And when you went for the first time to your house, what was your expressions of the house? Did you remember anything?
- Of course. Of course, even now I went before, one month, about two months that I went with this friend of mine that I told you again I went in the house and. I said to the to the lady there I said can I have a look in my house? Of course, come in. He cannot speak English, but you know, we can understand each other, I saw my room, I saw the room of my father. Even the toilet. Our toilet. I saw it. Even the salon. I have a very strong memory, very strong mind. I can remember the floor. I can remember the shape of the floor. I have a very strong mind and I'm very happy for that. That time I had a sister. My sister died when she was six months old. So that time I remember my sister because her bed was opposite of my bed. So, I really remember that baby, that infant, and when I was in my room, I thought my sister was here, my keyboard, my piano was here. My bed was there. I had that icon of Mother Mary on the top of my head. And one time I saw, I dreamed mother Mary and she told me hey, I was saying bad things to my mother and mother Mary told me don't say bad things to your mother and I was really scared. Really scared. And but after some time I started saying bad things to my

mother again. So, I saw Mother Mary second time exactly that photo I you can see that was my consciousness and the second time she told me, I told you don't say bad things to your mother. So I really have so much strong memory and when I got to my house I am happy. I'm very happy for the people who are inside, you know, very happy for the people and I met also people there in the neighborhood. They are all nice people, so nice. So I'm really happy. You know, the war happened almost half century ago. We really have to forgive things. And accept the reality how it is. And through this to fix what can be fixed. Struggling to get what we had, this is something impossible and can make us lose what we have now. Especially we Greek Cypriots, we are the weak side.

- And did you go to any other place apart from your house?
- Yes, yes. Yes, I went even now that they opened the so-called Ghost City. I went a few times and I walked around everywhere. My father is 91 years old. He's a blind man. He's in the elder house. My father also is 200% Famagustian and the very strong mind I got it from my father. So, my father, I told you, he was blind. He got blinded when he was about 15 years old. What my father could remember, also so much, so I was calling him, and I said, father, I am here now. Tell me, ah, he said where are you standing? Next door is the shop of that person. And for example, the next turn right is the shop that of Mr. Lordos, for example. The grandfather of Andreas Lordos and my father used to work there. So he remembered the yaya of Andreas lordos, Mrs Andriaini, she died recently. He remember his uncle. He remember the house of Anorthosis, the Anorthosis House that was just there. Very near there. And so many other places that my father used to tell me, you know, every small detail and once when I hear it, I just keep it in my mind. Plus, I remembered so much, so much.
- So when you went inside, what could you remember from the places that you were seeing? What memories did you have coming back to you?
- You know, it's like. If you have somebody that you really loved him and he's in a cemetery. When you have the time and you go to that cemetery and there is nobody

there. You are alone and that person was so much meant, so much for you. It's about the same feeling. You go there and you are living again, the experience you had, the love experience you had with anybody you love. It's a love experience. It's a true love experience. Honestly, you know, sometimes I go there, I was going with a friend of mine, actually. This friend of mine is a singer. And once I was telling him he's also from Famagusta and I was telling him, shall we go there? He's also crazy about Famagusta, like myself, and we used to go there in the Savoy Hotel. That there is the wire and just if you put your hand inside, there is the dead air from half century old. Nobody's there. And then you have another world. And half centimeter, you put your hands in another world, and this guy starts singing anything comes in his mind, improvising, singing and the song was going to the occupied that coffee shop of somebody, the shop of somebody, the place that somebody was doing his life, was working and taking bread for his children, for his family. We have this we were seeking this reincarnation of our life. It's, you know, that I have a lot of people that they go, even myself, when we are walking, we are walking and looking down, if we see something like a shoe, a document, anything. Recently when I was there, I passed from King George Hotel and I went inside and I just looked at the bottles. And I thought, wow, this bottle is almost 50 years old and there was bottles that was closed and nothing inside but never opened. And also I found the menu. I have the menu here actually is here. I sit here next to me. [Timestamp: 51.06] Look at this. Look at this. This is the menu of King George and on my free times sometimes I'm here reading refreshments. Minerals, fruit juice, iced coffee. This is what the best hotel had, nescafe, Turkish coffee, ovaltine, Milo, hot chocolate, tea. So I'm reading these things and I'm saying I'm saying to myself. You know, this is something unbelievable, something I cannot explain. Something that is really difficult to explain, it's unbelievable. This is my life, you know, I keep on living. This is the reason that I'm living. I have to tell you that I am very disappointed from Famagustian people. From many Famagustian people. I could say, I will not say number but for a big percentage of Famagustian people. Because when my love for Famagusta was really very pure, I couldn't think that Famagustians, could be enemies to Famagustians. I couldn't even pass from my mind that we could, Famagustians could disagree with one another and become their own enemies. There are no Famagustians now. There are Famagustians and Famagustians. That's why I told you before that you know, ask many people what is really Famagusta for them. Is the Famagusta, my business? Is it the wealth of my family? This is general. I mean, I

don't think about somebody, this is a general thing because some people they have property, but they are great people. They love, they do their best for our effort to reunite the place. But there are people that they do their best not to unite Famagusta, to divide Famagustians. A dream on behalf of Famagustians is how to unite to reunite the Society of Famagustians. We could be so happy, you know. I know people are, you know, it's like a small family. Imagine a small family and they have problems and the brother don't like the sister. Sister, don't like the brother. The mother want to separate with the father the father want to leave the kids. The mother hate everybody. This is the typical picture that Famagustians had after the boarder opened. And it was very typical and very sad. Really very sad. I am not going to the Church of Saint Exoridos anymore. Because instead of a literature of love, I get the feeling that people here and they hate each other. I will not go anymore even though I participate in a lot of efforts to unite the place, a lot of efforts on behalf of Famagusta, I participated. Not anymore, because I go there and I get the feeling that, you know the Famagusta in my heart as a diamond. I mean the danger to vomit it and I don't want to vomit it, I want to keep it. So I protect Famagusta here. Honestly, I don't mind if a Turk stays in my house. I don't mind. I just hope this Turk is a good person. I don't mind if it's a Chinese or it doesn't matter for me, but I like to see nice people, you know, nice people are the people who can create peace. Nice people are the people who can keep you and me safe, no war. Nice people are the people who can love each other, can bring civilization. This is what Cyprus need, nice people. And we really have to be nice to one another. People who cultivate not nice, these people, I don't want to be near them and I don't want them to be near me. And these people are my only enemies. I don't see Turk or I don't mind. As long as we love Cyprus and we love Cypriots and we love one another. Cyprus can be our paradise. If we cannot have that we are having a problem, we have the problem cost half of our homeland, costed so much of people on both sides. Actually what sides, it's only we, one side, we made it other sides. We divide it into a few sides. So it's a case of love. Famagusta is a love case.

- And do you see a future for Famagusta for Varosha?
- For Greek Cypriots. I see it very, very, very difficult. For Turkish Cypriots, yes, I see a great future, especially if they can manage to have a real western type democracy. If

you can manage to have a democracy, a Western type democracy, you can have a paradise there. We Greek Cypriots we did the very, very big mistake not to care so much for our homeland. And we trusted all of us, the wrong people. For almost half a century we trusted incapable people. We trusted people who care just for themselves and for their political parties and nothing more than that. And they did all this by using the problem on the Cyprus problem on our refugee hood we call it. They did money. They made money, they made careers. They made business, they gained power, but what the cost for this was to sell away Cyprus. I don't see a Famagusta for Cypriots. Some of them exceptions, yes, there are really brave people you can call them crazy. One is here myself. That if they have the chance and they are safe, they will try. They will try their best. Other people can do business. Other people have property and they want it, they are ready to go. But you know, when you are ready to do something like that, you need the political support. You need the political support. You cannot do something like this and then you have to open two wars to win. One that you go somewhere like a foreigner. And the other one that you leave your own place here, and you have also enemies from here. Nobody really is ready to support people to go and live there. We Greek Cypriots have negative policy, I think, and we lost the best chance. We thought that we can have whatever we lost 100%. No we cannot ad also Turkish Cypriots that want the 100% of what they lost, they cannot have it. This is the truth. So we should accept the loss of something in an effort to gain something. So our no, leaded us here, isolated with no power, with nothing. And when the generation of 1966 goes, nobody would appreciate what is, nobody will understand what we are talking now about. So, I really don't see future. Famagusta can have a future with you guys there. But with us, I doubt. I'm really sorry to say, I doubt. I don't see many people ready to go there and stay there and I don't see here also I don't see the government here to support this. The government here that, any government, not only this government, we have now any government we have. You know, we cultivate corruption and we are one of the top countries in the world about corruption and we didn't manage a plan for these people to be able to return back, to support them. So how can you go there? I want to go but you know what is the vehicle that I will jump in and go? What way? How? When you are 60 years old, and you will return to somewhere you love, you need the energy and you need also the political energy to make a new start in your life. I wish that can be reality. I don't see it.

- Did anything that happened after the October 2020 opening, the streets opening, did this change your mind about your about the future?

- What changed my mind is no, it didn't change my mind. No, I had the same ideas, all the way until now. The ideas, can be good ideas, when is the good time? There is a timing for the ideas. 2004 it was a good, good time to say yes. OK, let's take it. Let's work to make this work. Let's unite our country now, nearly 20 years later, we cannot talk about the same thing. So the idea is there, yes, I want it. I love it. I want to come. But now I see that it's not possible. It's not possible.

- And when you went inside, was there anything in particular that you wanted to see?

- The place, the house of the mother of my mother, is in the area that they say that they will open now so that people can walk through. They didn't open yet. That was one of my main dreams that I was dreaming all this time. And the mother of my mother was a very great lady. She was a very poor person. Her husband died early. She had ten children, and her door, she had a green a wooden door that it was a little bit empty. So the very, very, very the poorest of the poor, of the people of Famagusta. They were passing there and I was watching my yaya, my grandmother, giving to them some olives and some quarter of bread. And these people, I met them later on in the colonizations when we became refugees. It was the most unhappy people. And I remember those all these people, I remember them with their names.. I remember them with their names, like Andreas Ilias, Petros Pablos. And I was really inside me I was happy for my grandmother that she did all these good deeds every day. She didn't do this for show. She did it for because she was like this, ten children. And it was a very, very poor house. And when the war happened, my grandmother was very naive person. She couldn't think bad. So when the war happened, she didn't feel the necessity to leave. So, she stayed there with my uncle and the Turks caught her, the army caught her. So they took her in the old city. And I don't know what they were going to do so a Turkish Cypriot saw her. He said to her, do you remember me? Said no my son, I don't remember you. He told, I'm one of the people that she was giving

very often bread and olives. They told who you are here with? alone? I'm here with my son Andreas, who is Andreas, find, Andreas. They found my uncle and this guy persisted, so they give back my Yaya and her son and they give her back.

- And that was one of the places that you want to see?
- Her house yes, but her house was so poor that I think, it is already down. I saw it in this video that the mayor walk with some other politicians from that street to go down, to show to the people which Street will be open in Famagusta. So I saw that and it's down, but it doesn't matter I will go to touch the rocks. I will put a few rocks in my pockets to bring them here in Larnaca.
- And was there any places in the democracy or Kennedy Avenue that you wanted to see as well?
- I walked in Kennedy, I walked everywhere. I walked a few times. I also took people there. Do you remember where Turkey's president made his party when he came? A few weeks before I went with my wife and with a friend of us, another guy, in same age like me, we went in Famagusta and we walk and we said we want to swim here. Let's come the next day we said so we will feel like kind of the first Famagustians who jump in the water there, because it was so nice, the place, we didn't know that also Turkey's president spotted the beauty of that place. So we went to the sea there and we jumped in the sea and we were doing like kids, like infants, you know, playing with the sand and with the water like we were three years old. And two weeks later, Turkey's president, went there and make his party and me and my friends said, you know, just to confirm that our joy will not break because of the President, let's go again there. And we went again and we jump in the water.
- Is there a place inside the closed off area where you feel connected to?

- The dream of any Famagustian, before they open, it was to be able to pass from the garden, from the public garden and Likeon Ellinidon. The dream was to pass from there. Many people could tell you, I want to pass one time from there and I could die, I don't care. Just please god make this dream for me true. This dream became true for me, became true for many Famagustians so far. And anytime I go, last time I went, I put the songs that was playing that time in my ears and I think I went alone, that time I went alone, so I put the music and I was looking at the hotels and look at the garden and I was playing that music and it was like you are alive. It's like you are alive that time.

- And you said your dad was playing in the hotels, right? Which hotels was he playing?

- In Asterias he was playing and I was going often in Asterias Hotel. He was playing salamina sometimes. He was playing in Esperia, in Esperia hotel, very near the Likeon Ellinidon. He was playing also in Riviera Hotel, I remember that very, very much because it was the first time that I got locked in the elevator. I got locked in there as I was screaming and after they opened they showed me the yellow button and they said anytime you get locked just push this yellow button.

- And do you remember anything from Asterias hotel?

- It is very near where Turkey's president went. Asterias hotel you were entering and on your right hand it was the reception. So when you go about 20-30 meters there is a very big opening, that was the restaurant. The inside the restaurant and then from the restaurant it was a big glass door opening and leads you near the sea. Another open restaurant. I was also going to Marianna Hotel, especially, they were doing some parties like carnival parties. And I was going there and there also remember you enter as soon as you enter the reception is on your right hand or the left hand. This moment I'm a little bit confused. And then it was an open room that they used to organize parties there. I think the group is Isadoras was playing there and my father used to take me there. The group isadoras. It was a very famous group that time.

- Did you have any favorite shop on Democracia Avenue or a cafe?

- At that time, I was really too young to go alone to the coffee shops but my cousins were often there and I remember this Boccacio just before the Likeon Ellinidon. And the reason I remember very well it's because he had some weird chairs. And the chair was very nice to sit on, and it was made from plastic wire. You see, for example, orange or turquoise or blue wires around. And when you see this was like this suspension. And it was really, really impressive to see these chairs. But later, after about just after, when you go towards, let's say the sea, and as soon as you pass the garden on the left, it was this confectionery, Kypseli. And they had the same chairs outside, and many people were sitting there. And when we were here after 1974, very often, I was dreaming, that I was sitting somewhere with my cousins, the girls cousins and I was watching the young people and it was it was really impressive to watch the young people, you know, they always full of life, the young people. When I was walking lately, I was confused where I remember this place I was sitting where exactly I tried to find exactly the place, and I found it. I really found it exactly. It's opposite of this Edelweiss café, just opposite, now there is a guard, a policeman guard just a little bit before that and Kypseli was down. So they were putting the chairs up near the pedestrian, near the street, and opposite was the Famagusta Tavern. And I spotted exactly my place that here I was sitting here I was sitting exactly. This is what I'm doing in Famagusta and also besides the Edelweiss Café; now there is a hotel, the hotel of the United Nations. Just in front, there was a park for kids. They have these small cars that they can go up in the air and come down and up in there again and come down and it was also one kiosk, a small kiosk there. It was a very nice place, very simple traditional place, and my parents used to take me there a lot and that was another place that it was in my dreams for 45 years. Until they open this the Ghost city and I went there. When I went there, I saw the kiosk in that place, and I was laughing like it's you that I dream for 50 years.

- Did you have anything favorite from this small kiosk that you were getting?

- To play. And a few times also, you know that time the electricity was not good quality of electricity installations and you could be up there and then the electricity stops. And I will start shouting like somebody put me down, father, mother. And they used to tell me, stay there cool and Mr. Costas. That was the owner. Costas will bring you down. Just don't jump from there.

- And do you think any of the places inside of Varosha should be protected as how it is now?

- Well, they protected the garden. The garden, it was very much as it was that time. Very much. That is good. That for me, in my personal opinion. They should protect the school just besides. And they should leave the names clearly. This school has some name, you know, first gymnasium of Famagusta, this should be there. They shouldn't hide the letters. This is non civilization, this is barbaric. Also, they should keep the Likeon Ellinidon, they should fix it as it is and keep it there. These things are very big symbols and can connect the two communities. Can help the restart of something good. You know, we don't have a choice not to have something nice something good.

- I forgot to ask you did you go to any of the cinemas inside the town at the time?

- Yes, yes, I went in Hadjihambi, the one that is now falling. I went there surely and I had the very big good luck to go opposite on the open area cinema. Hadjihambi, the open one that time it was functioning like theater. And these famous Fifiris, that the famous comedian was very often acting there, and my auntie used to take me there. And actually, I remember very well even the place we were sitting. And I saw one photo. Somebody put in the Facebook and it was the photo of the chairs and the theatre that time. And I said in the Facebook I wrote Ohh that is the place, the 3rd row I was sitting there with my auntie and some somebody said, oh, that that was the place for the poor people was sitting there, I said, well, if the poor people were sitting there, I'm really much more happy, because, you know, I can still remember what I saw. So I was really, I'm very rich of experience. I also used to go to the football field just behind. Also the football field should be maintained, as it was. Anorthosis and Salamina was

great, great, great football teams. And they at that time, you know, Anorthosis was a team not only very strong as a football team, but with ideals, ethnicist ideas, but is respected. Salamina was a football team. Also tried a lot to catch up and it was a very good team. And with left wing ideas also very well respected. This is our history. This is how it was. Now if that was wrong or not, I wouldn't like to discuss about that, is respected for me for both, equally for both. We used to watch them playing. Well, that time you could see quality of football, nobody was professional. Somebody was a painter, the other one had a job, that one was a mechanic, the other one was nothing, the other one was just in the school. So, these people were playing for their soul, for the love of the football. And I remember also the sellers of soft drinks. They had one box here in their stomach with one belt hanging there and they were selling Coca-Cola kiane some nuts. And I remember the people shouting for Anorthosis and for Salamina. It was great time. Great time. Great time. Really the saddest thing is not the loss of house, is the loss of the life. The loss of the quality of life. Especially for Famagustians, Famagustians were not living in a village that there was nothing. You know, people who were living in villages, there was nothing, nobody wants to go back. They came, now they all live in cities. They have a life, they have money, business, many of them, they don't want to go back, to do what in the in the village. People who were living in Famagusta, my dear, there are people who live, who are living now in Paris. So imagine from Paris to go and live in a village of Saudi Arabia. How are you going to feel? That's a shock. That's a shock.

- And considering you were so interested in music and you remember the town with music as well, were there any places that you were particularly going to listen the music?
- That time the radio was playing good music, because that time the good music, it was a product of that era. There was no bad music. There was no music created just to make money quickly, no, the music schools of that time, the music kinds was countless and they were all successful. So you couldn't miss nothing. All music was nice, but I like so much, Monos Hadjidakis, Theodorakis, Cocda, Bifi Gotsis. These 4 - 5 names Maria Farranduri, was doing to me a very, very big impression. And there was playing every day. My father used to take me to a music shop to buy some albums. That music

shop, it was exactly behind the Hadjihambi cinema. And the owner was Mr. Zazos, so I told you my father was blind and I was always keep him from the hand. So we go to the shop. My father bought something, he paid. And on the way out, I stole one small album. I like the color, it was a green vinyl album, small, so I took it. On the way home, I give it to my father, he said what is this? I said it's a disc, an album. He said we paid for this. No, I took it. You took it, oh my God, I had 2 - 3 slaps on my hand. No you took it, you stole it. Let's go now back. You will apologize there to the people and we will pay. We went there back again. I was crying, he said to me say hello. I said hello. He said Mr. Zazos, my son took this and we didn't pay it. I'm really sorry for that, he wants to apologize, he said apologize to me. I said, I'm sorry. He said louder, everybody has to hear it. I said, I'm sorry, I'm. Sorry. Give me the album, my father broke the album said how much is it? My father paid it also. He bought another whatever. And he said to them also, sorry. He made me say sorry a few times so everybody was satisfied and then we left. And I was really remember that, it was a good lesson.

- And was there any place that's you have this kind of memories? Happy memories?
- On the top of all, my memory was happy. I was happy, I was happy. When I came here, I remember myself not happy at all. Where do we move? I was not happy at all, a very unhappy kid. Whatever I see, I was foreigner. We came in Larnaca, I had a problem really. I really had a problem with everybody and with everything I couldn't adjust. I couldn't make friends, I couldn't adjust. Everything seemed to me like, I don't belong here. This is not my place. I couldn't explain it to myself until the border opened, and at that time, I come back to what I was saying before that time I realized what was wrong with me. I'm in Larnaca now, I don't feel I am a Larnaca person. No, I love Larnaca. It's a place I could do anything for this place no problem, but with Larnaca people, we are not the same. I am from Famagusta. They cannot understand this. It's OK, it's no problem. But I am from Famagusta. I am different. And this is I think maybe this is normal, there is nothing wrong with Larnaca people. They are very nice people, but I come from another place. I don't belong here. This is not my place. Anywhere, even now. And my mother is buried in the new cemetery. I go there and always, my first thought is that mother, you are not buried somewhere here, you are thrown. We throw you away somewhere very far of the place you really loved. This is not nice. But

one thing that makes me happy in life is that I carry Famagusta in me. I'm rich, I am rich of experience. And Famagusta, it's in me. I know how much Famagusta gave me. I couldn't really talk about civilization, about art, about love about so many things if I didn't have this Famagusta touch. It's in my blood.

- And these were all of my questions. But you said your dad was working with Andreas Lordos' grandparents?
- Yeah, yeah, yes.
- What work was it?
- He was a kid that you know, like do this, move this, put it there. I think that time Mr. Lordos had one commercial store. He used to sell oil, olives, whatever. And my father was just helping. He was only 12 or 13 years old, something like that. And my father used to take Andreas' father, because Andreas' father is younger, from the hand to take him home. My father that time could see a little, it was before he became totally blind. And my father remembered very well that Andreas' father, he used to be responsible to take Andreas' father home. Andreas's grandmother was also a friend of godmother. My godmother was in the organization that they used to help poor people. And one of the people seriously involved, there was also Andreas' grandmother. Mrs. Andriani, and my father remembered her very well because she was even coming in the house of my father and was a friend with his sisters. So Famagusta is very near Famagustians, we should be kind of relatives, you know, unofficial relatives we are.
- And when I asked you if anything inside should be protected as they are, you said the gymnasium, likeon Ellinidon. So what about the places that are important for the social life, like the Hadjihambis or Edelweiss, do you think these places also should be protected?

- Seconray yes, yes. For example, the cinemas. Yes, of course. You know, whatever contributes to the identification of Famagusta 1974 should be kept. Let's say quote and quote, if enemies respect enemies, they should do this, both sides, like Turkish Cypriots, had a mosque, Hala Sultan, they should keep this as their eyes and the other side should do the same exactly. You know this by communal committee is doing a great job, wherever they touch, they have a success. A huge success. They should be example for us to follow. One thing also that they should do, now indirectly, in the old city, they shouldn't allow churches to be a bar. They shouldn't allow church to be a bar. We have churches over 1000 years old and they make them a bar, this is a shame. Shouldn't be accepted. And in both sides, if they do something like that, that shouldn't be accepted, but they don't do it in this side. Each one of us in if both sides, some common things that this is easy to do, is this; protect the properties. And if you give them somewhere to use them, put some rules through these, not to take a church and make it a bar, this is unbelievable. Not to get the mosque and make it stable or a church to make it stable. Very often we see churches that goats live inside or they make them a parking for cars. These unbelievable. Both sides, they should understand that not all Greek Cypriots have responsibility of what happened, not all Turkish Cypriots have responsibility of what happened. If there are Greek Cypriots who must go to the court because they did some crimes. I will be very happy. They prosecute them. If some Turkish Cypriots, they make some crimes against some innocent people or they should prosecute. I would be very happy to prosecute them both. For me, these people, they cannot be Greek, Cypriot, the Turkish Cypriot. They could be only criminals. Prosecute them. And make them different of us. Two communities, so great people in both sides, so many great people, so many young people who didn't have any responsibility for this to pay forever, what some people did. People like the Turkish President or people with real power, I could say great people, you know, maybe he is not a great person for us Greek Cypriot, but it's a great person for many Turks and for many Turkish Cypriots. But to be great you have to do also the right thing. And myself that I didn't hurt nobody, I tried to help. I tried to find missing people for many years. Turkish Cypriot, Greek Cypriots, I didn't do no harm. Why am I refugee? And why I cannot have my house that you have it? It's under your power, so you know people, great people with power should do something really powerful and really powerful is to do the good thing. They win already at the war of 1974, we lost and Turkey win. You win already. You don't need to show nothing. But

do the good thing. Keep the churches. Keep the civilization. Some people who want to return on both sides, let them return. There are a lot of Turkish Cypriot places here that they are given to British they are renting them somewhere else to make money. Why give them to the family who have it. And do the same for the other side to exchange simple things. Why politics do this so difficult. Nobody will accept this. It's out of common sense. I hope, I will not get in jail that I said something now.

- No, no, no, no, no. Anything you say to me is between you and me.
- It's OK, it's OK.. I don't mind at all what I tell you. I'm responsible of what I said.
- But but like do not worry everything you tell to me is between each other. I'm gonna ask, you said whatever contributes to the identification of Famagusta before 74 should be protected. So what do you think are the places that contributes to this?
- Likeon Ellinidon, the public garden. The football field behind that, the schools, all the schools, also all the properties that they can still be function and people can live all of them. Why not? Is a place that belongs to somebody else. Doesn't belong to the army, doesn't belong to nobody. This place have people that they are waiting to go back or to sell them, or to have them. If something cannot exist anymore and fall down, it's OK. I understand that. But something you have there and it's a symbol of why to put it down, why to cover the names. Why to cover the names, this is very anachronistic mentality, this is not politics, this is barbaric. And the same if they do it in this side also.. One of the good things that you make in this side is that you know, for example, we have the name of the streets are still in Turkish, Ataturk street, for example. They kept a lot of them, this is good but if it's only this side, it's not good, it's 50% good. Both sides they should do it. We have to find the way together. You know the politicians are changing. The world is changing, but the Cyprus is still here and we are building the future of Cyprus. We have to be careful. We don't want another war. You don't know who will win, who will lose, who will get killed and who will survive. You cannot risk it to know. We should build peace in a safe way. Whatever happened, happened. Let's see how we can fix it. Whatever can be fixed.

- This was all of my questions. Do you want to add anything to any of your answers?

- No, I wish the best for Cyprus. I believe in the youth of your side there. I believe in this youth, I can see them that the universities are full with students, real students. Here a lot of universities are bringing fake students from some countries. They use them, take their money and they put them in the market to work as cheap labor. I cannot have trust on this. I see that I talk very often with youth there is more serious they take it more seriously. They care more for the common good, not for themselves. Here we teach youth to care for themselves. And the quality of education here is poor. There are great people, of course, here, it is not their fault. It's our fault that our youth have a problem, but I think our youth need to try much, much more. And need to help itself much more because we older ones we fail against our youth. There I think you did a better job. Your schools are doing a better job.

- I think it's it doesn't have anything to do with schools, but it has the thing to do with us seeing what the reality of Cyprus is and we are not happy. So we need to change it. If we don't change it, it's going to be the same.

- The fact that you see it, this is the answer. You see it and you talk about this. And many people are doing this like you. I see many people doing this. Here I don't see many people doing this and this worries me. I have the chance to lately to meet the young people from Ukraine, kids because I have the souvenir shop, they pass from there. 8 years old, ten years old, and sometimes because I'm a talkative person and I'm an open hearted. I open up subjects and I talk with them. And I see them. How mature they are. And when I see them, I'm saying in myself, you know. Ukraine will survive. If Ukraine could do these kids such good in spirit. I believe in this country. In our place if you don't get to the private schools, unlikely to become what you deserve to become, what you were to become. So this worries me, worries me a lot. I don't see young people love their country. I don't see young people really care about their country. I don't see this, but I say it's not just their fault, it's fault of the older generation. Because we could fix it and we don't fix it. So I'm a little disappointed of our side. We could do

much, much, much, much better. Shame because you know, 1974 should teach us the lesson. And we didn't learn. People who don't learn from their mistakes are condemned to repeat their mistakes. We lost half Cyprus. What are we going to lose? All Cyprus?

- You said one thing during our interview. That's the minute we stopped thinking about each other as others and start thinking that we are we. That's when the change is going to happen and that is true. Hopefully I am more hopeful now. I know the mistakes have been made in the future, but I think there is more things that are happening because of how close the two communities are now because of the events and social media is helping as well.
- Media is helping but also you know, politicians should move their fingers. Politicians are the problem. If politician gives the correct message to the people, if politicians stop worrying how many votes they will have and if politicians can really open their mouths and talk truly, and for the for the benefit of everybody, and not just their political party, then things could be much better. The mistake what I see the mistakes are the politicians. But on the other hand, who votes about politicians to be there? We. So, the second mistake is also we. But first are the politicians. The politicians have the power. They are already there. They have the power. They are the ones who can push the button.
- But sadly they pushed the button according to how much money they get.
- How much power they have, how much interest them and their friends around them. You see, everywhere it's full of corruption. And the corruption can, can put fire for everybody to burn. You see, in Russia what they do, one person is ready to make a third World War. And the same happened 60 years ago. 80 years ago with Hitler the same thing, one person. Anyway, we said a lot.

- Thank you so much. Seriously, this has been so lovely meeting you and hearing all of your memories as well. Is there anything that you think I should have asked you, but I didn't?
- No, it was a very nice conversation. I really hope this conversation will do good to you. It will be good for you.
- I am hoping that more than me, it will do good for you, Famagustians. I wanna help your voice to be heard and the real values that are being ignored be heard, because not no one knows they go inside, they look at the buildings but they don't know why it is important they can see that the city was ahead of its time, but it is more than that. You, people were, I think, all of the Famagustians are unique.
- Everybody's unique. Most people are unique. All people are unique. Well, if Famagustians are unique it's only because of their unique city. Apart from that, we are also ordinary people.
- No, no, like, like our chat has been so lovely.
- You know Famagusta, there is a magic about Famagusta. When I go to Derinya, I don't feel good. And I don't really feel inspired like it's like I'm stressed there. I go to the Limanaki, there has small harbor there a few times to eat. People are rude. I don't like them. In Famagusta, I don't have no problem. And and then I was wondering, maybe personally I feel like this, I talked with other people, they feel the same. I talk with foreigners, foreigners from other countries that they visit, Kyrenia and Famagusta and Larnaca. They tell me the same things. The vibes of Famagusta are different. I have a friend, until recently, he never wanted to go to the other side. I convinced him and he goes. And he didn't feel the same to Kyrenia. And I say to them, in Famagusta, I can guarantee you, you will have problem with nobody. Never, never. And when you get to know a few people, it will be your favorite place. When me and my wife will go out dinner, I never go nowhere, except Famagusta, It's Famagusta. My wife said to

me why you don't take me one time in Paphos, I want to see Paphos. I said you want to see Paphos, I don't know what to tell you. I cannot go somewhere else than Famagusta.