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# No protests as Cypriots bury 'hero'

Chris Drake in Nicosia

**B**OWING to appeals for restraint, mourners at the funeral yesterday of a Greek Cypriot who was shot dead by Turkish forces on Wednesday agreed not to demonstrate afterwards, leading to hopes that a week of communal violence is over.

The victim, Solomos Solomou, aged 26, was hit five times by gunfire as he tried to climb a Turkish flagpole during protests that followed the burial of his cousin, Tassos Isaac.

Isaac was beaten to death by Turks in the same area of the United Nations buffer zone in south-eastern Cyprus on Sunday, during Greek Cypriot demonstrations over the island's partition.

Yesterday's burial rites took place at the same church in Paralimni, and again it was filled while thousands packed the square outside. Many people wept and a police band playing dirges led the procession of several hundred relatives.

Witnesses said police turned back small groups of youths who tried to approach the area. Police helicopters circled overhead.

In his sermon, Archbishop Chrysostomos appealed to young Greek Cypriots to refrain from further demonstrations.

"Your demonstrations showed you have the Greek fighting spirit which leads you," he said. "You helped the political leadership promote the just demands of Cyprus for justice and restoration of human rights. Because the aim of the event was achieved, you should avoid new demonstrations.

"Soon you will show again that you are Greeks, descendants of heroes and martyrs."

Turkish Cypriots had accused the archbishop of inciting Greek Cypriots to violence in a fiery sermon he gave on Wednesday.

The appeals for restraint came from Solomou's father and government leaders. The ceremony was also altered, in the hope of deterring mourners from forcing their way

into the buffer zone afterwards. Unlike Wednesday's service for Isaac, President Glafcos Clerides did not attend, but was represented by a minister.

The funeral was originally scheduled for today so that the Greek prime minister, Costas Simitis, could fly in from Athens to attend.

Instead of a morning ceremony, which would have left potential demonstrators plenty of daylight hours in which to take full advantage of the television coverage, the funeral was held at sunset.

Then, in a move demanded by the UN, Greek police and national guardsmen were instructed to make certain no protesters reached the buffer zone, where Turkish troops were fully prepared for action on the other side.

Trenches were dug and rolls of barbed wire brought in to block the route, and for the first time, the police wore riot gear. They were armed with teargas and batons.

The UN had sent in additional British reinforcements from 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, to help the Austrian and Hungarian peacekeepers. The Turkish forces were also told that, should any demonstrators reach the zone, the UN soldiers were to be left to deal with them.

Thursday's visit by Turkey's foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, to the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which only her country recognises, provided some tough public talking, but also a call for the UN to push for a settlement.

Mr Simitis, who arrives for talks today, is expected to take a strong line too, but the emphasis will be on the prospects for peace.

The main difficulty is the continued intransigence being shown by the two communities and their reluctance to make the concessions a settlement will require.

In the north yesterday, two rightwing Turkish parties formed a new coalition government.

● Turkey's Anatolian news agency said Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party, had sent a wreath to Solomou's funeral.