

## OVERSEAS NEWS 11

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# Greek Cypriots snub peace plan

**Nicosia:** American efforts to defuse tension in Cyprus were snubbed yesterday when the Greek Cypriots rejected a proposal to ban Greek and Turkish warplanes from flying over the divided island, because to do so they would have to make an agreement with Turkey (Michael Theodoulou writes).

As a result, European diplomats expressed concern that Washington may now decide to defer indefinitely an initiative to help to reunite the island. The setback came amid further sabre-rattling by Turkey, which announced it was sending warships to northern Cyprus on Friday in a show of solidarity with the Turkish Cypriots over Greek Cypriot plans to buy Russian anti-aircraft missiles.