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27 December 1963

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

*Cyprus: Tension eased somewhat in Nicosia yesterday as firing, described as heavy in the morning, became sporadic later in the day.

The commanders of the Greek and Turkish military garrisons met in the afternoon with British military and diplomatic leaders in preparation for implementing the three-power plan to supervise the cease-fire.

Britain, meanwhile, began airlifting a battalion of troops from the UK to Cyprus. The operation is expected to be completed within 48 hours. According to recent reports, the British currently have 3,747 army personnel and 7,000 airmen on the island. Greece has a contingent of 950 troops, while Turkey has one of 650.

Bitterness and distrust between Turkish and Greek Cypriots will add to the problem of keeping the peace. In addition, there is doubt that the political leaders of either community can exert effective control over extremist elements. Turkish Cypriots will probably soon demand immediate release of some 300 members of their community currently held as hostages by Greek Cypriot irregulars.

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Turkey: Prime Minister Inonu has formed a new minority government that may provide a short-term answer to Turkey's political crisis.

The cabinet named on 25 December is based on his own Republican People's Party and includes several independents. Inonu probably believes that enough members of other parties will defect so that he can win a vote of approval.

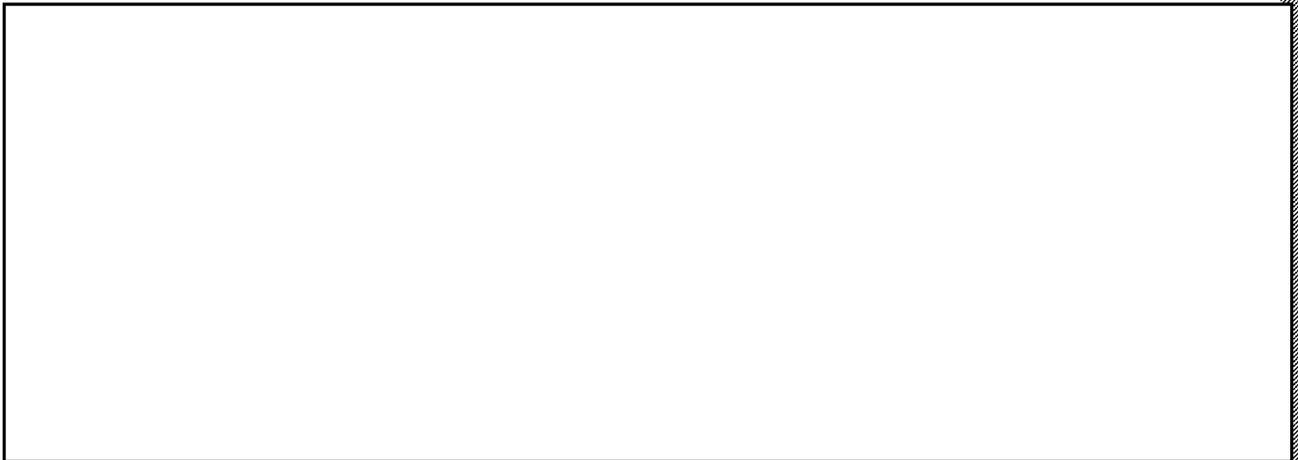
The withdrawal of two of these parties from Inonu's previous coalition caused its collapse early this month. Although the party leaders rejected his terms for reconstructing the coalition, both parties are beset by dissension, and they may give Inonu the votes he needs for a short time.

Factors favoring Inonu's shaky government are the support of the country's military leaders, the current need for unity on the Cyprus issue, and the absence of any practical alternative.

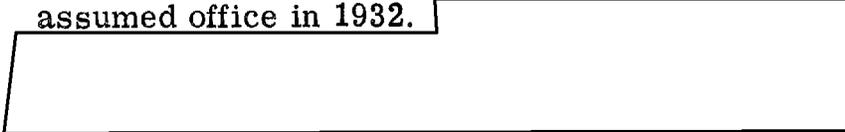
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NOTES

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Portugal: Prime Minister Salazar reportedly plans to visit Angola early next year to dramatize Portugal's determination to hold the territory. He evidently intends to exploit the enthusiasm generated in Angola last September during President Thomaz' visit, which was officially depicted in Lisbon as an indication of the Angolans' basic loyalty to Portugal. Salazar has not left the Iberian Peninsula since he assumed office in 1932.



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