

~~SECRET~~

120

OCI No. 0721/67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
21 April 1967

LIBRARY
Mandatory Review
Case # NLJ: 94-38
Document # 120

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece
(Situation Report Number 2--1130 EST)

1. Athens has been quiet the last few hours. Recent reports show that the coup was engineered by a group of middle echelon army and air force officers who had previously referred to themselves as the "Revolutionary Council." They allege that they had solid information that the Communists were preparing "to start riots, strikes and general upheaval in Athens" on Saturday. King Constantino and most of the military high command now seem to support the coup and Lt. Gen. Spandidakis, Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff is reported to have assumed command of the group. It remains to be seen if the high-ranking officers will really have a say in the future activities of the junta or whether they will only be used for window dressing.

2. The "Revolutionary Council," which has been in existence since about 1963, has become progressively more disillusioned with the deteriorating political situation and the inability of the politicians to solve Greece's problems. Many of them had been transferred from Athens to the provinces in 1964 after George Papandreu became Prime Minister.

3. The spokesman for the coup, General Patakos, told the US Air Attache that the coup was designed "to insure domestic tranquillity, loyalty to the king,

NOTE: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared by the Office of Current Intelligence and coordinated with the Clandestine Services.

~~SECRET~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
JUNE 1979

and allegiance to NATO and the West as well as to unify the people" who had been divided by the politicians.

4. The announcement that former Attorney General of the Supreme Court, Constantine Kollas, would be the new Prime Minister with Gen. Spandidakis as his deputy indicates the intention of the junta to attempt a break with the old political figures while maintaining a predominant voice in the government.

5. An unconfirmed press report that elections will still be held on 28 May, as scheduled is a clear attempt to calm public fears of a dictatorship and maintain a business as usual appearance. It is a foregone conclusion, however, that the main opposition elements, the Papandreas now jailed, will play no part in the elections. There is no further word on their fate. There has been no reaction yet from the supporters of the Papandreas or from the far left. They may attempt to start trouble when they recover from their initial shock, but the security forces should be able to maintain order.