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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1  
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CITE

DIST 9 AUGUST 1967

1.5(c)  
3.4(b)(1)

COUNTRY : GREECE

DOI : [REDACTED] AUGUST 1967

SUBJECT : GREEK MILITARY REGIME CONFRONTATION WITH KING  
CONSTANTINE

*(Handwritten signature)*

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ACQ :

SOURCE :

[REDACTED]

1.5(c)(d)  
3.4(b)(1)(G)

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[REDACTED]

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
JUNE 1999

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(classification)

[REDACTED]  
(dissem controls)

1.5(c)  
3.4(b)(1)

1. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] AUGUST 1967 KEY GREEK GOVERNMENT FIGURES MET WITH KING CONSTANTINE AT HIS ATHENS PALACE IN WHAT AMOUNTED TO A SHOWDOWN OVER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RÉGIME AND THE THRONE. THE MILITARY RÉGIME, DISTURBED OVER GROWING INDICATIONS THAT THE KING IS WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES WITH THE RÉGIME, PRESENTED A BILL OF PARTICULARS ON ALLEGED ACTIONS OF THE KING, DEMANDED CLARIFICATION, AND RECEIVED A PLEDGE FROM THE KING THAT HE WAS NOT IMPOSING ANY OBSTACLES TO THE PROSECUTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 21 APRIL COUP.

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2. [REDACTED] AUGUST 1967 MINISTER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND MINISTER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS SEVERE PRESSURE FROM KING CONSTANTINE, PRIME MINISTER KONSTANTINOS KOLLIAS, AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS TALBOT UPON THE MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

1.5(c)(d)  
3.4(b)(1)(6)

[REDACTED] THESE PRESSURES WERE FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF A FREE PRESS, CHANGING OF RÉGIME IDEAS ON THE SHAPE OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, AND SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS;

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(classification)[REDACTED]  
(dissem controls)

AND [REDACTED] THESE PRESSURES WERE BEING EXERTED WITHOUT PROPER APPRECIATION OF THE FACT THAT A RETURN TO A CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM MUST BE PRECEDED BY A PERIOD OF UNPREDICTABLE DURATION IN WHICH THE MILITARY RÉGIME MUST CARRY OUT THE REFORMS NECESSITATED BY THE SITUATION WHICH PROVOKED THE 21 APRIL COUP. MOREOVER, THERE MUST BE TIME TO PREPARE FOR AN ORDERLY POLITICAL SUCCESSION, BY THE RÉGIME OR ITS CHOSEN POLITICAL HEIRS AS DESIGNATED IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH PREREQUISITIES, THE RÉGIME CANNOT CONSIDER YIELDING TO PRESSURE AND IN FACT IS WELL AWARE THAT IF IT DID, IT WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY BE OVERTHROWN BY ITS OWN SUPPORTERS AMONG THE MORE JUNIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE EVEN THREATENED TO KILL PAPADOPOULOS IF HE "BETRAYS THE REVOLUTION." [REDACTED]

1.5(c)(d)  
3.4(b)(1)(6)

[REDACTED] THE RÉGIME DID NOT TAKE ALL THE RISKS OF THE 21 APRIL COUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF QUICKLY RESTORING THE GREEK SITUATION TO THE SAME VENAL AND LEFTIST-INFLUENCED PARTIES FROM WHOM IT WAS TEMPORARILY SAVED. MOREOVER, UNTIL THE NECESSARY REFORMS CAN BE EFFECTED, THE MILITARY RÉGIME AND ITS SUPPORTERS HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT THEIR OWN NECKS WILL NOT BE ON THE BLOCK WITH A SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT.

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1.5(c)  
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3. [REDACTED] AUGUST THE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP HELD A LONG DISCUSSION WITH KING CONSTANTINE IN HIS ATHENS PALACE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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1.5(c)(d)  
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SECURITY ALERT WAS MEANWHILE CALLED THROUGHOUT THE GREEK ARMED FORCES. AT THIS MEETING THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS LAID BEFORE THE KING A FULL LISTING OF THE KING'S ALLEGED ANTI-RÉGIME STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES, AND DEMANDED THAT THE KING CLARIFY HIS POSTURE TOWARDS THE RÉGIME, INCLUDING HIS VIEWS ON PRESS CENSORSHIP, AN IMPENDING GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE, AND OTHER MEASURES ON WHICH THEY FEEL THEY MUST HAVE A FREE HAND.

4. THE KING REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT TO BLAME FOR VARIOUS STORIES BEING CIRCULATED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER PANAGIOTIS KANELLOPOULOS, MANUFACTURER GEORGIOS DRAKOS, AND OTHERS,

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TO THE EFFECT THAT THE KING WAS THE FOCUS OF POPULAR SENTIMENT AGAINST THE RÉGIME. THE KING THEN GAVE HIS WORD OF HONOR THAT HE THOROUGHLY ENDORSED THE RÉGIME AND WOULD NOT IMPOSE ANY OBSTACLES TO ITS PROSECUTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COUP. THE RÉGIME LEADERS THEN TOLD THE KING THAT THEY MUST STAY IN POWER AS LONG AS WAS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THEIR OBJECTIVES, WHETHER IT BE TWO, THREE, OR EVEN FIVE YEARS. THE KING INTERPOSED NO OBJECTION. THE MEETING THEN BROKE UP AND THE SECURITY ALERT WAS LIFTED.

1.5(c)(d)  
3.4(b)(1)(G)

[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] AUGUST IT WAS [REDACTED] STATED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE RÉGIME HAD HELD TWO LONG CONFERENCES, AT ONE OF WHICH TEMPER BECAME SO HEATED THAT MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DREW THEIR PISTOLS. THE POINTS AT ISSUE IN THE CONFERENCES WERE BELIEVED TO BE (A) PRESS FREEDOM, WHICH MOST OF THE COUNCIL OPPOSE, (B) A GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE TO REMOVE ALL INCOMPETENTS, INCLUDING

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[REDACTED]

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(classification)[REDACTED]  
(dissem controls)

LABOR MINISTER ALEXANDROS LEKKAS, FINANCE MINISTER ADAMANDIOS ANDROUTSOPOULOS, WELFARE MINISTER EVANGELOS POULANDZAS, COMMERCE MINISTER GEORGIOS PAPADIMITRAKOPOULOS, AND PUBLIC ORDER MINISTER PAVLOS TOTOMIS, AND (C) PAPADOPOULOS' PLAN TO REPLACE THE MINISTRY TO THE PRIME MINISTER WITH AN OMNIPOTENT MINISTRY OF DIRECTION AND POLICY (OR GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION AND POLICY) HEADED BY PAPADOPOULOS AND INCLUDING THREE DIVISIONS-COORDINATION UNDER COLONEL KONSTANTINOS KARYDAS, PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION UNDER BRIGADIER GENERAL ILIAS PAPAPOULOS, AND POLICY UNDER (FNU) OIKONOMOPOULOS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE LATTER IS PROBABLY NOT THE ELDERLY JURIST, INDUSTRY MINISTER NIKOLAOS OIKONOMOPOULOS, BUT A MILITARY OFFICER CLOSE TO PAPADOPOULOS.)

1.5(c)(d)  
3.4(b)(1)(6)

6. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY EUCOM CINCSOUTH (PERSONAL)  
CINCUSNAVEUR CINCPACAFSA USAREUR USAF [REDACTED]

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~