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Cyprus

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
10 February 1964

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Probability of Attacks Against US Troops
Sent to Cyprus

1. A majority of the Greek Cypriot community appears convinced that the US supports the Turkish Cypriots. The plan to send an international police force to Cyprus from NATO countries is denounced by Greek Cypriots as an American attempt to enforce partition of the island.
2. Considerable danger exists that US troops would be singled out for attack if sent to Cyprus under NATO auspices. The well-armed non-Communist Greek Cypriot emergency forces operate throughout the island and would be a threat to US forces in all areas.
3. Attacks might occur even if Makarios gives his approval to the sending of a NATO force. Recent reports indicate that he may have lost control over local units, increasing the possibility that attacks against Americans could be launched on the initiative of local emergency force commanders.
4. The well-organized Communists could be expected to use any means at their disposal to harass members of a NATO force, particularly the Americans. There are about 10,000 hard-core Communists on Cyprus but the party controls many front organizations. Most nationalist Greek Cypriot leaders have opposed giving arms to the Communists. There are indications, however, that the Communists have obtained weapons in recent weeks. The Communists are concentrated to some degree in the urban areas-- particularly in the cities of Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca, and Limassol. Presumably, neither Greek Cypriot nationalists nor Communists would oppose US forces participating in a UN-approved police operation.

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5. In short, emotions on the island are so high, and anti-US feeling sufficiently prevalent, as to make attacks on US troops likely. They would probably run less risk of attack in the rural areas than if they are used as a buffer between the communities in the larger cities and towns. Also, US troops might encounter a slightly more friendly reception in areas where the percentage of Turkish population is greatest. In view of the intermingling of Greek and Turkish populations throughout the island, however, it would be imprudent to assume that any area of the island would provide a safe deployment zone for US troops. (Map attached.)

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