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SC No. 07382/74

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
August 17, 1974

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAY 2004

CYPRUS

Situation Report Number 11  
(As of 1530 EDT)

(All times cited are Nicosia time, unless otherwise specified.)

GENERAL SITUATION

1. No major fighting occurred on Cyprus today, although cease-fire violations were widespread as Turkish units attempted to secure areas beyond what they held yesterday. In Greece, there were continuing signs of growing anti-US sentiment but no serious incidents. Meanwhile, the Turks seem quite satisfied with their present position although there are no prospects for an early resumption of the peace talks.

THE MILITARY SITUATION

2. Localized fighting continued on Cyprus today despite the cease-fire. Fighting around the international airport appears to have ended by mid-afternoon, but 12 miles southeast of Nicosia Turkish forces captured the village of Pyroi after a fierce battle. A UN observer believes that the Turks will now move toward Louroujina, some seven miles south of Pyroi, to link up with Turkish Cypriots who have been holding out against Greek National Guard attacks.

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3. The Turkish advance constitutes the most serious violation of the cease-fire so far, and places Turkish forces far south of the "Attila Line" which supposedly delimits the southern boundary of Turkish territorial claims on the island.

4. Elsewhere, sporadic fighting was reported at Limnitis and Kokkina in the west of the island,

[REDACTED]

GREECE-US

5. Ambassador Tasca has been given assurances by the ministry of foreign affairs as well as by Minister of Defense Averoff that the appropriate security officials have been instructed to provide protection to US personnel and installations and to take extra precautions in the present tense circumstances. The ambassador received similar assurances from the Athens police chief and the commanding general of the gendarmerie.

6. [REDACTED] a large anti-American demonstration was held in the city this afternoon but that the demonstrators did not march on the base as had been feared. Greek police and army leaders on the island have promised full support in protecting the base. In addition, a US carrier group is now about 30 miles from Iraklion and is standing by to evacuate personnel should that become necessary.

7. Elsewhere in Greece, relations between Greek and US military personnel have moved from friendly to formal. Moreover, there are some cases in which US airmen and ships were prevented from reaching supplies and equipment, or were required to make long detours to do so. There have been some reports that US vehicles and servicemen in uniform have been stoned and verbally abused outside US bases.

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DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

8. Yugoslav Vice-President and Foreign Minister Milos Minic met today with Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis and Foreign Minister Mavros. Quoting diplomatic sources in Athens, UPI reports that Minic brought a message from Tito urging the Greeks and Turks to begin talking again. UPI also reports that Minic is scheduled to travel on to Ankara tomorrow to deliver Tito's message to Turkish leaders, indicating that the Yugoslavs may be seeking a mediating role.

9. An early resumption of the peace talks seems unlikely, however, as the Greeks continue to refuse to negotiate in the face of a "fait accompli." [REDACTED] the current Greek position is that the Turkish troops must pull back to positions held on August 9--prior to the second round of fighting--before talks can resume.

CYPRIOI VIEWS

10. Political consultations in Nicosia intensified today. Luis Weckmann, special representative of the UN Secretary General, and Vrem Chand, commander of the UN forces on the island, met with Cypriot President Clerides in what was described as a lengthy discussion of the overall situation. No official statement was issued after the meeting but press reports state that Weckmann raised the possibility of resuming the Geneva peace talks. Weckmann and Chand will meet this evening with Turkish Cypriot leader Ecdevit Unell, who is acting vice-president in the absence of Rauf Derktash.

11. Press accounts state that Clerides hopes to postpone the opening of formal peace talks to give himself more time to mobilize international public opinion in support of the Greek Cypriot cause--hopefully to bring pressure on the Turks to withdraw their

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forces. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Clerides does not want to get out in front of the Greek government by accepting any proposal to resume the Geneva talks at this time.

12. In Ankara, Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash criticized the decision by the Greek government not to start negotiations. He stated that the Turkish Cypriots are quite prepared to administer the area under their military control until a final settlement is reached. Should Athens change its mind, Denktash indicated that the Turkish side is prepared to discuss the relationship between the two autonomous sectors and the powers that would be vested in a federal government. He ruled out any discussion at the peace talks concerning the internal affairs of the Turkish sector. He noted that an exchange of populations between the two sectors would probably be necessary but stated that it should be on a voluntary basis.

#### TURKS RELAXING

13. In Ankara today Turkish leaders congratulated the armed forces on their victories in Cyprus. Prime Minister Ecevit, playing the Cyprus operation for all the political mileage he can get, led an official delegation to general staff headquarters to congratulate personally General Sancar, armed forces chief of staff, on the performance of his forces. As tensions eased, the restrictions on public movement through military areas along the coast were lifted.

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