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GREECE: Concern expressed over Papadopoulos' growing power as plebiscite nears. (Page 5)

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GREECE: In the last days before the expected ratification of the new Greek republic by plebiscite on Sunday, George Papadopoulos' opponents and even some of his associates are concerned that he may be attempting to gather too much power in his own hands.

One of the regime's more vociferous critics, Dimitrios Stamatelopoulos, is said to be advocating a move against Papadopoulos before he gains even more power as president. Stamatelopoulos--one of the main recruiters for the 1967 coup--broke with the government a few years later, but he maintains a loyal following within the military. The chief of the military police, Dimitrios Ioannides--whose support will be essential to the new president--and other key military leaders also are reluctant to give Papadopoulos a seven-year hold on the presidency. Ioannides, however, does not appear to have a clear plan of action to block Papadopoulos' rise to the presidency. He has been credited with dissuading Stamatelopoulos from trying a coup in the past, but [redacted]

[redacted] This conceivably could be Ioannides' way of saying that he would join a coup attempt if one were made.

[redacted] armed forces alert began on 23 July and will continue through 29 July, but this is a normal precaution under the circumstances. On balance, most army officers still appear to support Papadopoulos, for lack of an attractive alternative. Papadopoulos himself seems unconcerned and is proceeding with plans for his new government. [redacted]