

SWP



The President's Daily Brief

September 20, 1974

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CYPRUS

The UK is stalling in the face of increasing pressure from Ankara to release about 8,500 Turkish Cypriots who have taken refuge in the British sovereign bases on Cyprus.

The British High Commissioner in Nicosia believes that the Turks will take matters into their own hands in a few more days and try to evacuate these refugees. Before that happens, Britain is prepared to agree to the transfer of the refugees to Turkey, from where they would probably go to the Turkish-occupied zone of Cyprus.

As part of an effort to buy time, the British flew Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash yesterday to the bases to visit the refugees. Greek Cypriot leader Clerides had already visited the refugees from his own community; he has asked only that the UK take no action on the refugees until he has made some progress in his negotiations with Denktash on other issues. Clerides is scheduled to meet Denktash again today.

The British are reluctant to deprive Clerides of a bargaining chip, but believe that a unilateral military action by Ankara to evacuate the refugees would halt the negotiations altogether.

The US embassy in Nicosia believes that the Denktash trip might increase the pressure for release of the Turkish Cypriot refugees rather than reduce it. The group has been holding demonstrations in favor of a transfer to Turkey and is becoming increasingly difficult to handle. Most have become convinced that they can no longer return to their own homes on Cyprus.

Soviet Interest

The USSR continues to try to be more actively involved in Cyprus affairs. A delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev has arrived in Cyprus from Ankara to take soundings on Moscow's proposal for an international conference on Cyprus. Clerides had told the press that he agrees with Moscow on the need to find new ways to guarantee Cyprus' independence as a state; Denktash has followed Ankara's line in rejecting such a proposal. Soviet public comments about Cyprus have taken on

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an increasingly pro-Greek tone, but Moscow still avoids open criticism of the Turks. The Soviets have treated Ankara's negative position on their proposal gingerly, both publicly and privately.

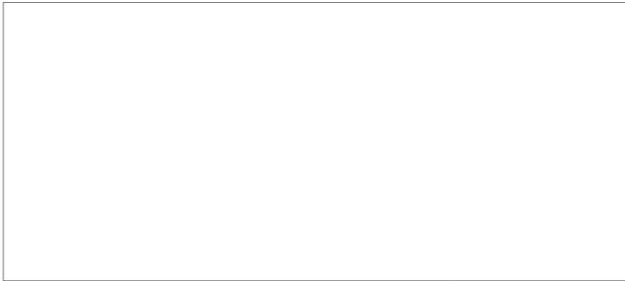
Archbishop Makarios

Archbishop Makarios made his sharpest attack to date on the US in connection with the Cyprus affair in an interview earlier this week in Le Monde. He accused the US of wanting to partition the island so that Cyprus may become part of NATO and permit bases there. The archbishop also criticized acting President Clerides for failing to control Greek Cypriot terrorism. Coupled with Makarios' plans to address the UN General Assembly as the legal president of Cyprus, the interview appears designed to upstage Clerides and possibly to derail the current negotiations on Cyprus in which the archbishop plays no role.

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EGYPT-FRANCE-UK



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ARGENTINA

In the worst outbreak of terrorism since Maria Estela de Peron assumed power 12 weeks ago, over a hundred bomb explosions and a dozen killings have occurred within the past few days. This violence follows the Peronist Montonero guerrillas' break with the government on September 6. The Montoneros are making good on their declaration of "war" against the government.

The Montoneros, who fought against the military dictatorship to help Juan Peron return to power, have a strong political base among left-wing Peronist youth and labor groups. Because of the rightward trend begun by Juan Peron and continued by his widow, the leftists have turned back to armed struggle in hope of bringing down the regime they helped reinstate. The Montoneros are well armed and organized to conduct spectacular terrorist acts.

The government's immediate concern is with Montonero-inspired trouble at the universities. Sentiment in favor of the Montoneros runs high among students, from whom the organization recruits most of its activists. If the government chooses to use force in putting down student opposition, it will risk swelling the ranks of the Montoneros and other terrorist groups claiming to fight against increased "repression."

Threat to Foreigners

Although foreign businesses were not singled out as principal targets by the Montoneros, US and other foreign companies are likely to be frequent targets. For the most part, however, the US presence has been reduced to minimum visibility--both officially and unofficially. Like many other foreign companies, US firms have recalled their nationals and replaced them with Argentines. The effect on US nationals should be tangential, unless the terrorists launch a determined drive against the US diplomatic community--a possibility that cannot be ruled out.

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Police Performance

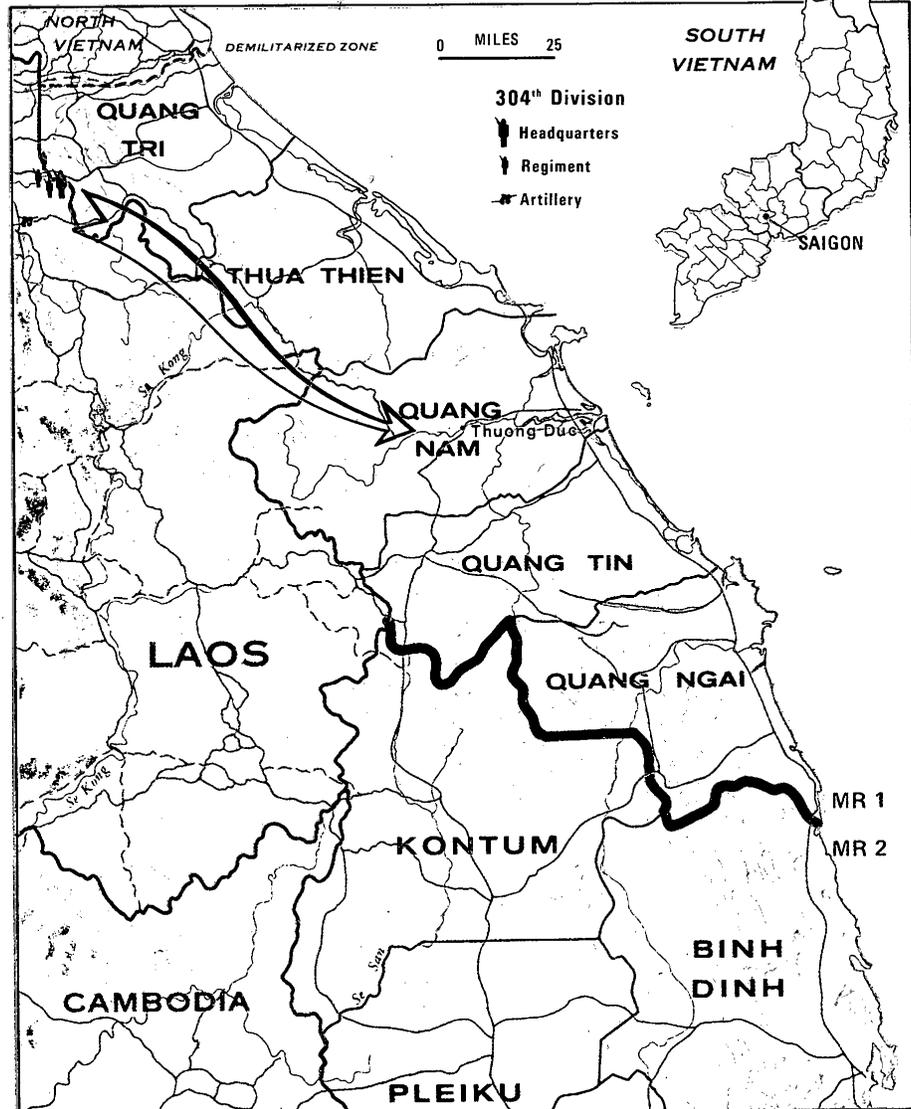
The poor performance of police in the counter-terrorism effort has increased the prospect that the military will be forced to take a more active role.



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The military is still committed to a constitutional government, but should the situation threaten a breakdown of authority or should Mrs. Peron show signs of wavering, military leaders may demand a more active and direct role in the political process.

NVA 304th Division Moving to Quang Nam



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NOTES

South Vietnam: Recently available intercepted messages confirm that units of the North Vietnamese 304th Division did participate in the Quang Nam Province fighting during August, and also suggest that the entire division may be moving to that area. Such a transfer would offset the two airborne brigades which the government has sent to the province. Although the move of the 304th may be largely defensive, fresh troops and firepower might encourage the Communists to carry out additional ground operations before weather deteriorates in this sector beginning next month. Fighting in Quang Nam Province has declined in recent weeks, but government forces have made little headway in their drive to recapture Thuong Duc and other positions lost to the Communists in July and August.

South Korea - Japan: A special Japanese envoy arrived in Seoul yesterday bringing with him a personal letter to President Pak from Prime Minister Tanaka and assurances--negotiated in advance--that Tokyo accepted a degree of responsibility for the assassination in Seoul last month. The envoy also promised that Tokyo would take action to curb anti-Pak activities by Koreans in Japan. Both Seoul and Tokyo have acknowledged publicly that US mediation played an important role in bringing about a settlement.

Ethiopia: Ethiopian labor unionists have joined students in demanding the end of military rule and the formation of a broadly based government in which civilians would share power. The military has threatened to use force if labor and students mount a physical challenge. The Armed Forces Coordinating Committee faces civilian demands before it has resolved the dispute within its own ranks on the pace of political change. The head of the provisional military government, General Aman, sides with the faction that favors a slower pace toward constitutional civilian rule. His power relative to the military committee, however, remains unclear.

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