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NEAR EAST/AFRICA DIVISION
OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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WORKING PAPER
APR 5 1950

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NEAR EAST/AFRICA DIVISION

Vol. V No. 13

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week ending
5 April 1950

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NEAR EAST/AFRICA INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

GREECE

Broadened government in sight: Recent developments have increased the possibility that the shaky Venizelos Government will soon give way to a broad centrist coalition. US Ambassador Grady's strong statement about the need for a stable and effective popular government to carry out the US aid program has given new impetus to those who have been urging that Venizelos resign in favor of a coalition government under Nicholas Plastiras. Spurred on by increasing uneasiness within its own ranks, the Liberal Party caucus has forced Venizelos to enter into negotiations with the other center parties, and Minister of Defense Kanellopoulos, the only non-Liberal in the government, has resigned to pave the way for reconstitution of the Plastiras-Venizelos-Papandreu coalition tentatively formed immediately after the elections. Although Venizelos still seems swayed by his own pride and by the King's counsel against Plastiras, arrangements may soon be worked out for the formation of a new coalition government under Plastiras or, possibly, some more neutral figure.

Formation of such a government would prove at least a temporary setback to the King and certain rightist circles, who have been nurturing the Venizelos Cabinet as long as possible in an effort to splinter the center parties irreparably and make new elections an absolute necessity within a period of months. Although the King would probably not

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US leaders in the hope of eventually bringing into power a monarchist party under Marshal Papagos.

TURKEY

Forecasts and forebodings: The electoral campaign has started much as was expected, with leaders of both the principal parties exuding confidence in victory. The principal government party editorial spokesman, Yalçin, is ostensibly incensed by the claim of Celal Bayar (leader of the opposition Democrats) that the nation has already decided that the Democrats should assume power. Yalçin,

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who ascribes certain isolated acts of opposition hooliganism directly to Bayar's self-confident assertions, seems to see dark implications in these statements and purports to believe they offer renewed hints of possible violence following a governmental victory at the polls. Apparently Yalçin, who has spent a journalistic lifetime writing endlessly (and profitably) about assorted national menaces--usually real (e.g., the Soviet threat), but not always--has not been carefully reading the newspaper for which he writes. In an adjacent column, the same government party daily carries the names of voters in numerous provinces who are allegedly resigning from the Democratic Party and joining the pro-government parade. The implication seems to be that hardly anyone will be left to vote for the Democrats anyway, and that Bayar and his friends are making much ado about nothing. It would appear that Yalçin, his colleagues who handle the news columns, and Celal Bayar himself are all indulging in a little pre-election exaggeration.

PALESTINE

The Arab League resolution: The establishment of more normal relations between Israel and the Arab world has again been postponed by the Arab League's recent unanimous decision to expel any member state which negotiates a separate political, military, or economic agreement with Israel. It is particularly significant that Jordan, which had until recently been actively negotiating with Israel and was expected by many to conclude some form of agreement with Israel in April, also voted for the resolution. In spite of encouragement from both the UK and the US, King Abdullah is apparently unwilling to flout Arab opinion at this time, although he has publicly stated that the Arab League attitude toward Israel is unreasonable and may have hopes that conditions will be more propitious for a resumption of negotiations after Jordan's 11 April elections.

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do not want peace and normal relations with Israel. They continue to fear Israeli expansionism, both military and economic, and apparently believe that to isolate Israel is their best defense.

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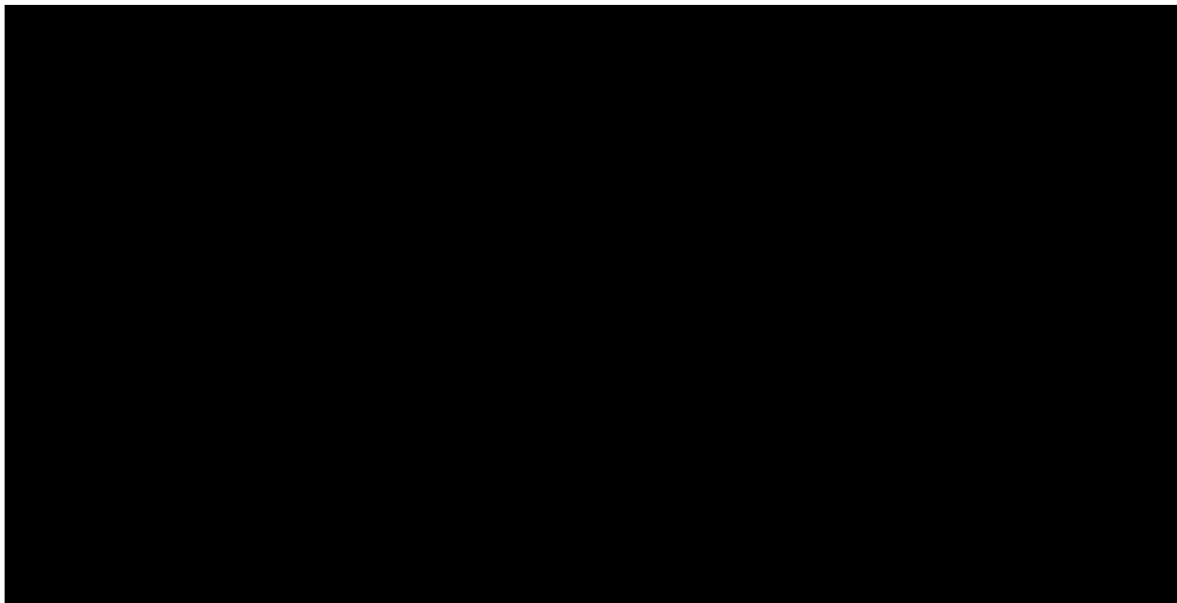
Various proposals for amending the Turkish Constitution will probably come up for debate early in the life of Turkey's next assembly (the Ninth). Amendments will probably be suggested: to create a bicameral legislature (already suggested by President Inönü in his opening campaign speech); to define the presidential powers with respect to a bicameral legislature; to prohibit the Turkish President from heading a political party; and to re-define the role of economic statism in Turkey. This last might amend Article 2 to the extent of deleting the word statist (devletci) in deference to private enterprise, both in Turkey, where private investors have long been apprehensive of rigid governmental controls and competition, and in the US, in the hope of attracting US capital to assist in the development of Turkey's economy. Incidentally, one of the major problems faced by the new assembly will be the need for financial support and foreign exchange when the ECA bonanza comes to an end.

Egypt's Wafd Government is now being openly challenged for the first time since the January parliamentary elections. The recent appearance in the police ranks of a circular complaining of broken Wafdist pledges points up a growing dissatisfaction of police officers with the Nahas Government; while the problem is not serious now, the 1947 police strike furnishes an indication that a seriously embarrassing situation might develop if police dissatisfaction is permitted to grow. The failure of the Wafd to lift the ban against the Moslem Brotherhood (which furnished some support for the Wafd in the past election) has antagonized some of the Ikhwan members, and Egyptian police were obliged to arrest ten Moslem Brothers in a recent Cairo disturbance

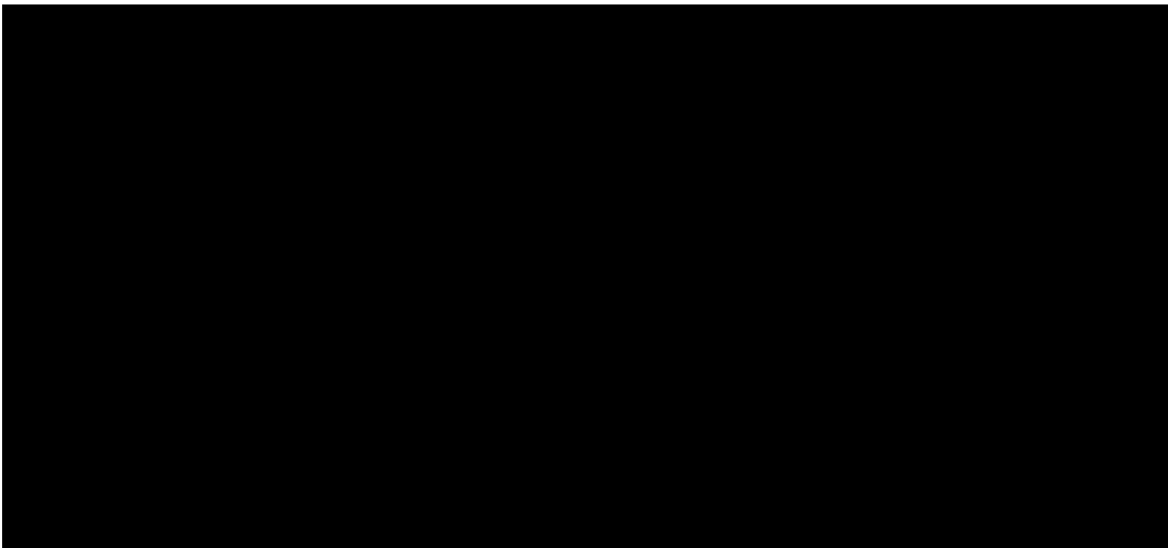
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marked by shouts of "Down with Khas Pasha." Meanwhile, a successful governmental raid against a Communist group headquarters, though it may thwart Communist activity for the time being, serves to indicate that still another source of internal difficulty continues to exist.

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