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23 June 1966

No. 1364/66 Copy No. 23

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

THE LATEST CYPRUS IMBROGLIO

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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No. 1364/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Directorate of Intelligence 23 June 1966

### INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM\*

### The Latest Cyprus Imbroglio

- 1. The political temperature on Cyprus has risen again. Two blockades of the Turkish sector of Nicosia in the last three weeks appear to be part and parcel of Cyprus President Makarios' strategy to erode the position of the Turkish Cypriots gradually, to destroy their confidence in the Turkish mainland leadership, and to complicate—if not wreck—the efforts of the Greek and Turkish governments to find a workable solution.
- 2. On 2 June and again on 21 June, Makarios clamped restrictions on the movement of Turkish Cypriots to and from the Turkish sector of Nicosia. He cited bombing incidents in the Greek sector of the city as justification. Some of the bombings may have been the work of Turkish Cypriots, but there is good reason to believe that others were contrived by Greek Cypriot officials. To keep the Greek Government in Athens out of his act, Makarios assigned the implementation of the blockades to his minister of interior, rather than to his old rival, General Grivas, who commands the Cyprus armed forces but is more responsive to Athens.
- 3. Immediate Turkish Cypriot reaction to the first blockade was relatively mild. Turkish Cypriot judges, however, subsequently withdrew from participation in courts in the Greek sector

<sup>\*</sup>Prepared by the Office of Current Intelligence.

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of the city. These courts were one of the few vestiges of official cooperation between the two communities. The judges apparently meant their action to support the aims of the Turkish Cypriot leadership, which seeks de facto partition; in effect, however, the withdrawal served to underscore Makarios' argument that it is impossible for the Greeks' to work with the Turkish community.

- 4. Ankara's reaction to the incidents this week--its "ultimatum," without any significant follow-up--further undercuts the Turkish position. The local Turkish Cypriots in particular may well be shaken by what seems to have been a failure of coordination in Ankara but may look like a failure of nerve.
- 5. Makarios has thus won still another round. The latest episodes also will tend to remind the Turkish and Greek negotiators, who plan to resume talks soon, that the wily archbishop must be a party to any agreement bearing on the island's future. This fact of Cyprus' politics makes it even less likely that Athens and Ankara can work out something politically tolerable at home. The prospect thus is for Makarios to continue whittling away at the Turkish Cypriots while Ankara fumes and periodically creates an international crisis by threatening to intervene. The danger nonetheless remains that at some point Turkey's frustrations may become overwhelming.

