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OCI No. 1968/67

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
22 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 4:00 PM EST)

1. The Greek government has unconditionally accepted the offer of good offices of NATO Secretary-General Brosio. Brosio told the Greek Permanent Representative to NATO that the only condition to his efforts was that neither side start military action. Brosio has communicated the Greek agreement to the Turkish government, presumably with his one condition stated.

2. Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis told the US, UK and Canadian Ambassadors that his government would study carefully the Turkish-approved interim solution presented to him this morning. At first glance he believed that the real difficulty will revolve around the point which suggests removal of all illegal Greek (and Turkish) troops from Cyprus. From his initial reaction, it is clear that Pipinelis continues to believe that tensions must be reduced before removal of troops can be discussed, while the Turks insist that troop removal is a prerequisite to reduction of tensions.

3. Pipinelis made it clear, however, that he was not rejecting any of the proposals, and would present them to his government immediately.

25X1

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Pipinelis also confirmed that the Greek response to the Turkish note of 17 November had been sent to Ankara, but he gave little indication as to its content.

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25X1

State Department review(s) completed.

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25X1

SECRET

5. Tension in Turkey remains high. About 5,000 Turks, mostly students, demonstrated in Istanbul today in favor of war with Greece. There were also some anti-American overtones. According to a Turkish newspaper, the Finance Ministry has made \$17 million available to the Defense Ministry, and the government is preparing lists of food stocks in case of war.

6. The US Embassy in Nicosia reports that the situation appears to be worsening, and notes that it may be calling on aircraft for evacuation.

7. UN Secretary U Thant announced today that he would send a personal representative to Nicosia, Athens, and Ankara to address urgent appeals to avert a recurrence of war in Cyprus. Thant urged the three governments to observe the "utmost restraint."

8. The Soviet government today issued a statement which, after blaming the US, NATO, and Greece for the crisis, called for all the protagonists to seek a "peaceful settlement." The statement urged Greece and Turkey to show restraint and admonished the Cyprus government to do more to prevent an increase in tensions. Moscow, which has throughout favored the independence of Cyprus, is probably fearful that an outbreak of hostilities would damage its relations with both Turks and Cypriots. Also, the Soviets do not welcome a buildup of further tensions in the Mediterranean while the Arab-Israeli situation remains unsettled. In any event, the Soviets want to avoid a situation which would require them to take sides.

- 2 -

SECRET

25X1



25X1

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

OCI No. 1967/67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
22 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 12:00 Noon EST)

1. No major breakthrough has been achieved as yet in the diplomatic effort to forestall military action over Cyprus. The US, UK, and Canadian Ambassadors this morning presented to Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis the proposed interim solutions accepted by Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil yesterday. We have no news of the Greek response to these proposals, but the US Ambassador yesterday believed that there was no chance that they would be accepted.

SECRET

25X1

4. The Government-controlled Ankara Radio last night broadcast a virtual call to arms, indicating that force was the only way to lift the constant threat against the Turkish Cypriot community. Papers of all political views highlight a sense of urgency to make a decision and act, declaring the necessity to save Turkish honor and dignity.

5. Turkish, Greek, and Cypriot forces remain on a high state of alert, based on a full state of readiness. Governmental pressure at all levels is so intense that it is thought that individual action by individual commanders of Turk, Greek or Cypriot forces is unlikely. The rumor is widespread that only poor flying conditions from 20-22 November prevented a Turkish offensive. The Turks stopped broadcasting weather reports yesterday, and the Greeks followed suit. Presumably both governments are attempting to deny any useful intelligence to the other.

6. Athens is attempting to avoid sensational press treatment, and an air of normalcy prevails among the populace. One estimate indicates that many Greek military officials also believe that Turkish military action is unlikely, and may in fact be over-sanguine. Nevertheless, they are attempting to avoid any provocative action. King Constantine has expressed great interest in arranging direct Greek-Turkish talks at a high level, and told the US Ambassador that most of his ministers and chiefs of staff want to get Greek troops out of Cyprus--presumably on a phase-out basis.

7. Although President Makarios reaffirmed to the US Ambassador in Nicosia that he wished to see the gradual withdrawal of Greek troops from Cyprus, he refused the Ambassador's suggestion that he make diplomatic overtures to this effect. Although he would support Greek government proposals on the withdrawal, he refused to take any initiative himself.

8. The Embassy in Nicosia is concerned by the

- 2 -

25X1

SECRET

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menacing mood in the Turkish Cypriot community, which might initiate provocative actions in order to hasten Turkish military intervention. Even previously moderate Turkish Cypriots now oppose a negotiated settlement of the crisis.

- 3 -

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