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COUNTRY Greece
SUBJECT Increasing Rumors Regarding Rift between Field Marshal Papagos and King Paul
PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A
DATE OF INFO. Late April 1951

REFERENCE COPY



1. There have reportedly been increasing rumors concerning a rift between Field Marshal Papagos and King Paul, according to which the Palace is said to have told Papagos to concern himself strictly with military duties. This is interpreted by many Athenians as an indication that the John Diakos newspaper attack against the Palace entourage (specifically, Aristides Metaxas) was believed to have been inspired by Papagos.*
25X1X
2. [REDACTED] "completely unconfirmed" rumor states that Papagos is in contact with Michael Kyrkos; this, allegedly, is the reason for the Greek guerrilla radio attack on Kyrkos.** It is also being said that, by reaching an understanding with Kyrkos, Papagos is attempting to isolate the extreme left, thus paving the way to political cooperation between the various factions ranging from the extreme right to the left, excluding only the KKE. Papagos is allegedly being guided by a newspaper article written by Spyros Markezinis entitled "Transitional Government."
- 25X1X 3. In addition, [REDACTED] Papagos was trying to obtain the cooperation of Constantine Maniadakis' Party for the Regeneration of Greece, the Populist Unionist Party of Stephanopoulos and Kanellopoulos, and the Union of Democratic Leftists of John Sophianopoulos.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: Constantine Maniadakis claimed early in March 1951 that Ethnikos Kyrkos, in which the Diakos letter was published, was now entirely under the domination of Spyros Markezinis, who would "stop at nothing" to effect the Papagos solution.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: Presumably the clandestine Free Greece broadcast of 13 April 1951 is meant here. In a commentary entitled "Peace or War," dealing with supposed attempts of the "Papagos clique" to implement the alleged Astrani ("lightning") Plan (according to which Greece was planning to foster revolution within Albania to provide an excuse for intervention), it was stated that "there are persistent rumors that Michael Kyrkos is on their side" (i.e., that of Papagos). Such an attack on Kyrkos might well be an attempt, on the part of the KKE, to cloak him with sufficient political "respectability" to permit his negotiating with other Greek political parties, who might be averse to do so if he were not apparently disassociated with the KKE.

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