

11-10-9 sent  
8-16, 11:30am  
ACTION 6136X

August 11, 1972

~~SECRET~~

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** DR. KISSINGER  
**FROM:** HAROLD H. SAUNDERS  
**SUBJECT:** Message from Ambassador Tasca

Ambassador Tasca has written you a short message [Tab B] simply calling your attention to recent telegrams from Athens and Nicosia and to a response to the State Department. Those telegrams [under his message] reveal Greek views on Communist influence in Cyprus and the analysis of our embassy in Nicosia. Tasca says: "in my view, this is a serious and growing problem which could be far more serious than the recent experience that we have had in Malta. Incidentally, presidential elections in Cyprus are due in February 1973."

The Greek view reflected by Tasca's report is that the Communist Party of Cyprus (AKEL) represents a growing threat to the US and NATO position in the eastern Mediterranean. They feel that the party can win the vote of some 40% of the voters in Cyprus.

Ambassador Popper on Cyprus reports that while the Communist Party is numerically very strong in Cyprus, the Embassy has not believed that it poses so imminent a threat as the Greeks seem to be thinking. He does not see a dramatic change in the communist infrastructure in Cyprus.

State is closer to Popper's view than to the Greeks' view.

Recommendation: That you send the reply to Tasca at Tab A simply acknowledging his message.

NSS/NSC, State Dept. review completed

~~SECRET~~

MORI C05147295

HHSaunders:imp:8/11/72

SECRET

August 11, 1972

25X1

**FROM: THE WHITE HOUSE/HENRY A. KISSINGER**  
**TO: AMEMBASSY ATHENS**  
**FOR: AMBASSADOR TASCA/EYES ONLY**

Thank you for calling my attention to recent reporting on the problem of communism in Cyprus. I have read these reports with interest and hope you will continue to keep us informed.

*Warm regards,*

SECRET

HHSaunders:imp:8/11/72

S E C R E T 061544Z JUL 72 [REDACTED]  
FROM AMBASSADOR TASCA ATHENS 658  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER

25X1

I WISH TO CALL YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO NICOSIA 1299,  
ATHENS 3737 AS WELL AS DEPT'S 120297 REGARDING THE PROBLEM  
OF COMMUNISM IN CYPRUS. IN MY VIEW, THIS IS A SERIOUS AND  
GROWING PROBLEM, WHICH COULD BE FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN THE RECENT  
EXPERIENCE WE HAVE HAD IN MALTA. INCIDENTLY PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS IN CYPRUS ARE DUE IN FEBRUARY 1973. WARM REGARDS.

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