

cyprus

## Cyprus Phony War Covers NATO Consolidation

July 26 (IPS) — As the stage-effect troops and gunfire grow quiet on the island of Cyprus, it becomes clear that both the coup and the subsequent “war” was one of the greatest covert operation extravaganzas in CIA history. The effect of the week-long spectacular has been to oust the one remaining non-aligned government in the Mediterranean and to provide a cover for a “slick” change of governments in Greece, while establishing an ongoing arena for the type of “limited confrontation” aimed at the Soviet Union, which is espoused by U.S. Defense Secretary Schlesinger.

Reports issued by the Turkish General Staff confirm IPS’s previous statement that, despite lurid front-page accounts of intense fighting printed in the *New York Times* and other manipulated press “confusion,” little fighting was actually involved in the war-games which served as the cover for NATO consolidation in the Mediterranean region. The General Staff reported that throughout the fighting only 57 Turkish soldiers were killed.

### Phony War Scenario

The real sequence of events in the operation can now be put together.

July 15 the Greek officer corps stationed in Cyprus effected a coup against the neutralist Makarios government. These officers are directly controlled by the KYP (the Greek Central Intelligence Agency), which in turn is a mere appendage of the CIA.

The “government” of junta head Sampson was intended to provide Turkey with the necessary provocation for an invasion of Cyprus. The Turkish government was given its signal by Under-Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco, who coordinated the war for the CIA between shuttle flights to Ankara and Athens.

The objective of the invasion was to secure a de facto military presence, which in the long run will lead to partitioning of the island between the CIA/NATO-run countries of Greece and Turkey. The Turkish Army concentrated on securing and consolidating a landing beachhead at Kyrenia and a 10-mile road strip to Nicosia. This allows Turkey to resupply and maintain a force on Cyprus which becomes an important factor in the upcoming negotiations.

Meanwhile, there are indications that the CIA became impatient over the embarrassing lack of fighting, and carried out several “black operations” to provide the press and the public with a semblance of war. Key in this charade were CIA operatives and policymakers in

Rockefeller-connected U.S. newspapers.

Screaming headlines on the front page of the July 22 *New York Times* and elsewhere announced: “Turks and Greeks Clash in Sea Battle Off Cyprus...Greeks Felled in Landing.” Since Greece lacks both air support and warship capability to deploy in the Turkish-controlled waters around Cyprus, unnamed “British military observers” were cited as reporting that it “was neither a landing force nor...a supply effort.”

Two days earlier the front page of the *Times* had primed war hysteria by informing readers that the Soviets had mobilized seven airborne divisions. When IPS called *Tass*, the Soviet press agency, they immediately denied that any such mobilization had taken place.

The *Times* also fed the rumor mill with stories that the city of Athens was on fire, that the Greek junta had issued an ultimatum to Ankara, and so on.

### A Change That’s No Change

In Greece, the change of government was timed to coincide with the news of a ceasefire accord. The more obvious CIA flunkies — the Sampson government and the Greek junta — were replaced by governments that can credibly negotiate a NATO-written “settlement” without alerting the Soviets.

The manipulation within Greece is achieved by the CIA’s ability to choose from among the many layers within the army that it has cultivated over the years. By playing them off against each other the CIA always has a spectrum of ready-made governments to summon into existence.

The new “democratic” government is headed by Premier Karamanlis, who ruled Greece for NATO through the 1950s with mass imprisonments, terror, and assassinations. It was during his tenure in power that the assassination of Lambrakis, documented by the movie *Z*, took place. Once the euphoria dies down, such a government will not last long on the basis of popularity.

The only question is which faction in the Greek Army the CIA has programmed to play the strong-man role.

The immediate problem that Rockefeller faces this week is to soothe the Soviets into believing that a negotiated return of Makarios and neutralism is perhaps feasible. Indications are that Brezhnev has already swallowed the bait. Considering what is strategically involved and what is to unfold, this may prove to have grave consequences for the workers states governments bordering Greece and Turkey.