

The Cyprus gambit

One result of Armacost's visit may be to throw the entire region into a deepened crisis around Cyprus. Joining with those Europeans who are arguing that Turkey's membership in the European Community should be linked to withdrawal from Cyprus, the State Department is calling for "further Turkish concessions" on the issue. On July 23, the Ankara-based *Turkish Daily News* quoted sources close to Armacost, arguing that unless Turkey made further concessions, Washington would "be forced to accept the Soviet proposal." Since January 1986, the Soviets have been calling for a U.N. Security Council-sponsored international conference on Cyprus. The conference would discuss withdrawal of "all foreign troops," meaning the Turkish forces and the two British military bases on the Greek part of the island. In Moscow's own words, the Soviet Union, a "neighbor of Cyprus," has a *droit de regard* over the fate of the island. Not surprisingly, the proposal has the full support of Greece's Prime Minister Papandreou, and has received backing from Cypriot President Kyprianou. Against Moscow's initiative, Turkey supports the March 1986 U.N. resolution calling for direct negotiations between the two republics. Papandreou opposes such negotiations.

In recent months, East bloc delegations have been parading through Nicosia. Most spectacular was the late-May visit of a large East German military delegation, including the defense minister and the entire military leadership. Diplomacy is only the public side of more sinister operations. Since September 1986, there have been several Libyan-sponsored terrorist actions against the British bases. In the spring, the Cyprus Communist Party began agitating against the British, while Communist-connected "pacifists" tried to cross the Green Line.

On another level, it is known that some 8,000 Greek troops have been included within the 25,000-strong army of Cyprus, and that Athens is contemplating sending two additional armored brigades to "face the Turkish threat." Additionally, the agreements regulating the water and energy supplies of both republics have been violated by Nicosia. While the Turkish republic supplies water to the southern part of the island, the Greeks are to supply electricity from the power plants built by both communities before partition. In recent months, there has been a systematic disruption of the energy supplies which have affected industrial production in the north.

Obviously a new Cyprus crisis would give the Soviets the perfect pretext to impose their initiative and for the State Department to accept it as "a gesture of goodwill" to Moscow. Armacost made a step in that direction during his trip to Greece on July 29. Not yet acknowledged publicly, the Armacost-Papandreou deal implies that Washington will support Greece's position on Cyprus, in exchange for Greece allowing the United States to keep its facilities in Greece. If that were to be concretized, it would be the last straw for American-Turkish relations, with disastrous consequences.

The Kurdish terrorists: Soviet irregular warfare

The Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), which has carried out systematic massacres of Turkish villagers since the beginning of this year, was created in 1975 as a splinter from the Kurdish Socialist Party. After the Sept. 12, 1980 military coup, PKK members in Turkey were either arrested or driven into exile.

It then established bases in Stockholm, West Berlin, Stuttgart, the Netherlands, and France. According to a mid-July 1987 release from government sources in Ankara, some 70 organizations in Europe are presently giving logistical help to the PKK, including the German Green Party. By 1982, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan established his new political headquarters in Damascus. In the spring of 1984, meetings were held in Damascus between Ocalan and the Bulgarian ambassador, leading to the establishment of a PKK training camp in Bulgaria. By late 1984, the PKK began hit-and-run operations against Turkish forces, from its bases in northern Iran, northern Iraq, and Syria. In mid-January 1987, it began its massacres of Kurdish villagers in southeast Anatolia. In June 1987, it held its political congress in Latakia, Syria, and announced the creation of a Kurdish National Liberation Army.

The PKK is not a "national liberation movement," but a primary component of Soviet-sponsored terrorism. Since the late 1970s, its main source of financing has been the drugs-for-arms "Bulgarian Connection." It works with the Turkish Communist Party-Marxist Leninist (TKP-ML), West Germany's Red Army Faction, and France's Direct Action. Through the TKP-ML and a shadowy Revolutionary International Movement, established in 1984, it even has ties with the Peruvian Communist Party-Shining Path.

The PKK has military training bases in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley. It also maintains political offices and training bases in Athens and Sofia. Terror operations are also controlled through Cyprus, where the PKK and the Armenian terrorist group ASALA share camps in the Trodos Mountains, with members of the Abu Nidal terrorist organization.

On July 23, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Özal revealed that weapons used in Anatolia by the PKK were shipped from Cyprus. Intelligence reports indicate that an important part of the arms-smuggling operation is run by former EOKA-B terrorist Nikos Sampson, whose name surfaced in 1983 in France in connection with an ASALA terror bombing.