

GREECE: "POSITIVE PERSPECTIVES" FROM PORTUGAL

May 31 (IPS) — Greece, the eastern pole of NATO's controlled field in the Mideast, is slated for upheaval. In a variation on the "progressive coup" theme pioneered in Peru and most recently pulled off in Portugal, factions within the military government which supplanted Papadopoulos are being carefully nurtured in preparation for *socially-based military rule*.

Several possible means of effecting a coup are being developed: accusations of laxity in the armed forces, the continuing psychological warfare (especially in the strategic north of Greece) around the Cypriot and Turkish boundary-dispute situations, and attempts to rally student and worker ferment around "national self-determination" with propaganda for the CIA-engineered Kurdish uprising in Iraq and the "independent people's army" revolt in Portugal. To counter this thrust by the so-called Qaddafi faction (reputed to be in direct touch with the Libyan government), the hegemonic Ioannidis faction has made a bid to shift the population's attention with a Watergate-style mass trial of 48 military men formerly of the Papadopoulos governing junta on charges of meat-smuggling. Additionally, May 28 Ioannidis had approximately 200 officers of the Third

Army (Northern Greece) dissident faction arrested in Athens.

The front pages of the CIA-linked *Elefthera Kosmos* tout Spinola and editorialize, "We can draw positive perspectives from the Portuguese example." With Greece's national deficit presently at \$1.2 billion and her trade deficit at \$800 million, with debt service on loans *dating from 1821* still due and new indebtedness so far this year at over \$305 million, the coming revolt can only be aimed at the working class. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, "The peril is that the next upheaval, which could come as early as the end of May, might mean the death of hundreds in the streets of Athens." On the basis of this forecast, the World Bank and Bankers Trust have extended recent loans totalling \$55 million for construction of pipeline and shipyard facilities! An \$800 million deal was just concluded with France for purchase of military hardware.

Whether the present psywar rumor campaign and planned panic in the north — the work of Davados, head of the Third Army — will drive the coup scenario into Athens itself, or whether the alternative of Papadopoulos' reinstatement occurs, the smell of CIA/NATO "political necessity" permeates this latest Greek affair. Greece itself is chiefly a position from which to secure the Middle East. Like Iran and Israel, it is of strategic importance. Cupping the Balkans, Greece is also situated to choke off the Soviet Navy.

LABOR-INTENSIVE STARVATION ECONOMY SLATED FOR SRI LANKA

May 31 (IPS) — Sri Lanka's government currently faces deep economic crisis brought on by the tremendous increase in prices of commodities, particularly food and oil, while the price of tea, Sri Lanka's principal export, continues its decline of the past several years. Sri Lanka's oil bill has more than quadrupled: in 1973, 12 percent of foreign earnings went to buy oil; this year more than 50 per cent went to the oil bill (*Ceylon Daily News*, May 7). Additionally, \$300 million worth of rice had to be imported in 1974. Under the left cover of building socialism in Sri Lanka, the United Front government of Mrs. S. Banaranaike of the Freedom Party, along with the Communist Party, and the Islamic socialist front, are implementing the McNamara World Bank labor-intensive plan, thus destroying the party's popular base.

The country's two major problems, food production and youth unemployment, are being approached along the lines laid down by McNamara. The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that 400,000 acres of land should be opened for resettlement of peasants from inaccessible villages into new model villages (*Ceylon Daily News*, May 9). As in other former British colonies, in Sri Lanka the universities and educational system

have been geared to the production of civil servants, who in an austerity economy are "nonessential." Thus included in the land reform project will be youth settlement schemes (*Times of Ceylon*, May 2) with the use of labor-intensive methods of agriculture proposed by Anura Banaranaike (*The Sunday Times*, May 5). The Sri Lanka Industrial Development Co., Ltd. will set up labor-intensive small-scale industries utilizing local raw materials in rural areas, which will be turned into "worker cooperatives."

The United Council of Trade Unions, of the hardline faction of the Communist Party, representing nine affiliated unions with over 300,000 workers, has begun negotiations with the employers' Ceylon Mercantile Union for a common program of action for higher wages and higher rice subsidies. Simultaneously, the government is setting up Rockefeller-mandated Zero Growth workshops for trade union leaders on population control and family planning. (*Ceylon Daily News*, May 7).

Rightest opposition to the United Front government is coming from the United Nationalist Party (UNP), which is apparently Rockefeller-linked. Party head J.R. Jayewardene has threatened that if elections are not held by 1975 the UNP will begin staging massive civil-disobedience-style disruptions.