

The CIA Runs the Show

August 12 (IPS) — It was a simple matter for the CIA to detonate the “Cyprus crisis,” for nationalism had been established as the only political “reality” in the eastern Mediterranean ever since the announcement of the Truman Doctrine/Marshall Plan for Greece and Turkey in 1947. Equally readily, with the help of the Communist parties of the region, the CIA was able to trap the Soviet Union into supporting State Department politics. From the beginning to end, the entire Cyprus affair was planned, conceived, and directed by top echelons in NATO and the CIA as a major offensive in the strategic and psychological warfare now being waged by Rockefeller against the Soviet Union.

The Soviets gullibly accept the nationalist “rules of the game” and eagerly back the “good guys,” the “progressives,” within the controlled environment of each national tangle. The Great Russian Bear sits like a novice playing chess with a grand master — the CIA — which has set up “hard” and “soft” factions in Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus.

The Soviets fail to understand that just as the ferocious Greek colonels are CIA puppets, so are the new “democratic” civilians and the “progressive nationalist” military behind them! While the NATO-controlled Turkish military deserves Soviet condemnation, the weak-kneed puppet regime of Social Democrat Bulent Ecevit is just as much a creation of William Colby! Most important, while the Sampson regime on Cyprus was obviously CIA, for 13 long years the Soviets and the 120,000-member Cypriote Communist party had provided the political muscle for master State Department agent, Archbishop Makarios!

“Instant Governments”

In Greece, especially since 1967, the year of the CIA coup, politics has consisted of nothing but the crystallization of several military factions, each carefully nurtured by the CIA and each usually ignorant of what and who were behind the other faction. Thus the CIA created several alternative “instant governments” which could be manipulated as necessary. In recent years two top factions emerged: the hard faction, the repressive colonels and the military police — who are now being linked to the CIA and Kissinger — and the “democratic-minded” soft faction, typified by General Davos. Davos is the prime mover of the latest “coup” in Greece — that of Karamanlis — reported in the press to have ties to

Ambassador Tasca and the U.S. State Department.

In addition to the immediate purpose the Cyprus affair was designed to serve — the consolidation of the southern flank of NATO — the affair has a secondary objective. Rockefeller is trying to clothe NATO in progressive garb. This maneuver requires discrediting the CIA apparatus and Kissinger in favor of the “progressive military,” already revealed in its hideousness in Spínola’s Portugal. By “exposing” the connections and covert support given by Kissinger and the CIA to the shopworn Ioannides clique, the CIA forces hope to obscure their role in supporting the new progressive fascists. Apparently, the Soviets have taken the bait.

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How It Worked

Early in 1974, with the cooperation of the puppet regimes in Athens and Ankara, the CIA activated the terrorists in the EOKA-B organization, who wrought havoc under the slogan of *enosis* (union with Greece). As the Cyprus crisis built, the rightist Ioannides regime in Athens began warning Makarios that if he refused “to stop playing with the Communists, his head would be chopped off.” This line was echoed by EOKA-B and the press aligned with the Ioannides clique.

At the same time, the CIA’s other face, the Greek “progressive” military around General Davos in Salonika, at CIA instigation, supported the independence of Cyprus under Makarios. At the same time it took the lead in provoking nationalist hysteria over the contrived Greek-Turkish Aegean oil dispute. The stage was thus set: Ioannides (the “hard”) versus Davos (the “soft”), both overseen by the CIA and the State Department.

In this controlled environment, the governments of Greece and Turkey were programmed to stir up an atmosphere of war hysteria, which allowed the mobilization of armies — essentially war-games exercises with live ammunition.

From The "Bad Greeks" . . .

From the first days of the crisis following the Ioannides-Sampson coup in Nicosia, the Rockefeller's U.S. press — the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* — were outraged in their condemnation of the "bad Greeks" who dared to destroy "Cypriote democracy." Makarios won the full backing of the State Department and NATO, as well as the Soviet Union; and incredibly, the Soviets found themselves forced to support NATO's largest goon squad — the Turkish army. Apparently the impotent Soviets had no alternative but to support the Turkish invasion, in the hopes that it would restore Makarios and the former status quo.

Simultaneously, U.S. Undersecretary of State Joseph Sisco was shuttling busily from Athens to Ankara, directing the entire operation. The minor skirmishes between the Turks and Greeks on Cyprus — blown up by the press as an authentic war — were theatrical maneuvers under Sisco's control, as he flew back and forth calling for democracy, peace, justice, etc. As Sisco paved the way for the "democratization" of Greece, it slipped that **no one** was running Greece at all: Sisco blurted that he "could find no military commander who knew who was in charge of the country." In this chaos, Sisco deftly ushered Davos in and Ioannides out. Concurrently, British Foreign Secretary Callaghan continued to back Makarios in case the Soviets balked at the set-up — at which point if necessary Makarios could have rushed back and restored power.

. . . to the Turkish "Invaders"

As Sisco and Callaghan juggled Greek politics, the U.S. press geared up its propaganda campaign in support of the new Greek democracy, and the newspapers began attacking the Turkish "invaders" (as they were now called). As NATO officials chortled "We have a new democratic NATO now," and prepared to launch this democratic NATO against Italian and other workers, the CIA "leaked" the "real story on the Cyprus affair" to the *New York Times*. The *Times* printed this fabricated account under the byline of Steven V. Roberts, in an August 5 story entitled "How the Athens Junta Fell." According to the CIA's standard operating procedure, "official sources" and other anonymities "revealed" to the *Times* reporter the secret workings of the CIA. Naturally, the reporter learned the CIA cover story — and no more.

As mentioned, each puppet-general is told by the CIA operative assigned to him that **he** has been selected as the standard bearer for the U.S., and thus eagerly does what he is told — until he is discarded when no longer needed. The several factions cultivated by the CIA in this manner within the Greek military—both hard and soft—then can be manipulated as required.

According to the Roberts article cited above, the CIA met constantly with Ioannides during the last days of his



Chase Manhattan's Fingertip Control: [Left to Right: Ecevit, Karamanlis, Clerides, Makarios].

regime, while Ambassador Tasca was somewhat removed. Tasca, apparently, was in touch with General Davos. Says *Times* reporter Roberts: "Pressures were building up. According to reliable reports, Gen. Ioannis Davos head of the Third Army in northern Greece, presented a petition signed by forty of his officers urging a return to civilian rule." As readers of *New Solidarity* know, the Labor Committee Intelligence Staff had predicted as early as two months ago that Davos was being groomed by the CIA to be the power behind a "progressive" Greece. By linking the CIA to the ousted Ioannides, the CIA press covered its tracks.

The Role of the Press

Initial ground for this CIA coverup were laid by the press and government attacks on the Greek colonels. This line is exemplified by the August 1 *New York Times* story authored by Leslie H. Gelb, who scribbled that in early July, Sisco had "decided that the leaders of the junta should be warned against going ahead with any such plans [for a coup on Cyprus]." When brainwashed thug Sampson finally was installed after the overthrow of Makarios, Gelb writes, "It did not surprise State Department officials. High officials there felt that they had done all they could, taking all factors into account, but they also felt that U.S. efforts had not had the impact sought." (It would be this supposed "lack of impact" that later was to be cited as evidence that the U.S. did **not** try to prevent the coup.)

The U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Roger P. Davies, who arrived to take up his post **only six days before the Cypriote coup**, meanwhile was assuring Makarios that

the State Department was “concerned” over the rumors of a coup on Cyprus. Kissinger, when asked, whether he expected a coup in Greece, stated nervously: “If I told you we didn’t expect a coup, you would say ‘intelligence failure,’ and if I told you we did expect one, you would say something else.” Indeed, no wonder Greek ex-minister Ioannis Zighdis has stated that “The Cyprus affair will be Kissinger’s Watergate”! As Rockefeller moves to dump both Kissinger and the detente policies he represents, he will use the Kissinger-CIA “bungling” of the Cyprus crisis as a handle; and the press will shriek that Kissinger was more concerned about U.S. bases in Greece than about “democracy.”

As for Makarios, there is no doubt that if the CIA had wanted to, they could have killed him easily. The miraculous escape of the wily Makarios — who was whisked away under British auspices from a base on Cyprus to Malta and hence to London — was arranged by NATO so that Makarios could be restored to power in Nicosia should the USSR wake up and begin grumbling about NATO maneuvers on its borders. But the entire affair served to make the present Karamanlis regime in Greece appear as anything but a CIA creation.

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Karamanlis Regime Transitional

Unfortunately, despite the joy of the Greek Communist party over the return of recycled NATO politician Karamanlis — who had his efficient security police round up thousands of Party members during the 1950s when he was Premier — the present Karamanlis regime is merely transitional to the next progressive military

dictatorship. Already the stage is being set for a new flareup of the Greek-Turkish “conflict” which will return the military to power in Greece, probably bringing Davos out from behind the scenes.

Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit who followed the NATO script faithfully and obtained instant popularity for his shaky regime — is already having the rug pulled out from under him by the CIA. Rumbblings of a crisis between Ecevit and his coalition partners, the Islamic-fascist National Salvation Party, are threatening to pull down the “moderate” Ecevit, bringing Turkey under direct military rule. The advent of a “hard” military faction in power in Turkey no doubt would trigger the elevation of the “soft” military in Greece. The leading bourgeois press already is warning that should Turkey “insist on humiliating the Greeks” by its superior military strength, “it will mean the downfall of the Karamanlis regime,” as the *London Times* put it August 8.

CIA Options

Overall, then, the CIA has virtually unlimited options in the Greece-Turkey-Cyprus triangle. Despite this confusion, it is certain that the NATO/CIA conspirators must maintain a tense military situation under the slogans of nationalism. At the same time, by playing the hard-soft game, the CIA can continue to manipulate the Soviet Union into thinking that it must support either Turkey or Greece, depending on which regime appears the least foul at any given moment. Currently, the Soviets are cozying up to Greece, and the USSR Ambassador in Athens has promised Greek Foreign Minister Mavros full support...in case of Turkish attack!

In the meantime, the NATO/CIA forces are consolidating NATO’s southern flank. In an August 11 column on the Op-Ed page of the *Sunday New York Times*, C.L. Sulzberger warns that “NATO is in poor shape in the critical area separating the Soviet Union from the vital Middle East.” He recommends that Turkey transfer its 40,000 troops now on Cyprus to — where else? — the Russian border!