

~~SECRET~~

CIA LIBRARY

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week Ending
25 August 1948

Vol. III No.33

0250204

Document No. 6010
 NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
 Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
 DDA REG. 77/1763
 Date: 3 MAR 1978 By: oll

F16

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Vol. III No.33

For Week Ending
25 August 1948

GREECE

The guerrilla-held territory in the Grammos area has now been reduced to a pocket along the Albanian border so small as to be of little military significance, but the forces remaining in this pocket continue to resist Greek Army attacks in an effort to keep alive the idea of a 'free' Greece. The majority of the guerrillas have presumably escaped into Albania, and it is apparent that, contrary to previous rumors, Albania (along with Bulgaria and Yugoslavia) is still giving at least passive aid to the rebels. Although the northern neighbors are not expected to supply aid sufficient to turn the tide of battle or to make good guerrilla losses, they will--in the absence of effective UN action--continue to furnish some measure of military assistance to the guerrillas until the Greek Communist Party launches its campaign of political subversion in Greece. Meanwhile, the Greek Army, acting with unaccustomed vigor, is already following up the Grammos successes by moving against those areas threatened with guerrilla re-infiltration from the neighboring countries.

The call for withdrawal of the Liberals from Greece's two-party coalition government which was recently issued by Venizelos, the Liberal second-in-command, probably foreshadows the eventual fall of the coalition. Prime Minister Sophoulis, who heads the Liberal Party, promptly answered the Venizelos statement by flatly expressing his conviction that the coalition must be preserved. It is nevertheless problematical how long he will be able to keep Venizelos and his followers in line. As the internal security of the country improves, the malcontents will feel more and more free to agitate for a change and they will eventually force a showdown. Actually, the Liberals, as the minority, would have little to gain by definitely leaving the government, since the Populist

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

2.

majority has every legal right to form a one-party government without them. The Venizelos agitation is probably based on the belief that the US considers the coalition sacred and would therefore force the Populists to make concessions to the Liberals in order to preserve joint two-party control.

PALESTINE

The UN truce appears to have been strengthened by the Security Council's recent warning to both Jews and Arabs to cease truce violations whether committed by regular or irregular forces. Although there is no evidence that the Jews have abandoned their claim to Jerusalem, the SC warning has apparently checked their military aggressiveness--at least for the time being. The Arabs, however, remain suspicious of Jewish intentions as well as of the role of the Western powers in the Middle East, and there are indications that some of the Arab states may be considering a rapprochement with the USSR. David Solod, the Soviet Minister to Syria and Lebanon and reputedly the USSR's top man in the Arab states, is said to have engaged in several lengthy meetings with Syrian political leaders. His recent return to Moscow has given rise to speculation that he may recommend a complete 'overhauling' of Soviet policy toward the Middle East. The Syrian Government is allegedly consulting the Kremlin on what reward the Arab states may expect if they place themselves within the Soviet orbit, and Communists in Iraq and Lebanon are reported to be advocating closer Arab-Soviet ties.

~~SECRET~~