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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Greece

DATE DISTR. 5 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Attitude of Defense Minister  
Toward Army Leadership Problems

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P D 694

1. Immediately after Admiral Alexander Sakellariou had assumed his duties as new Minister of National Defense, Lieutenant General Stylianos Kitrilakis called upon him and requested a full-scale investigation of charges made by former Defense Minister Spiliotopoulos and certain unnamed generals concerning Kitrilakis' alleged involvement in IDEA. Kitrilakis requested such an investigation, or his assignment to his "rightful position" as Chief of Army General Staff, in lieu of incumbent, Lieutenant General Tsakalotos.
2. According to source, Sakellariou was apparently impressed with Kitrilakis' case, and requested all relevant documents, promising to study the matter carefully and reach a decision within ten days.
3. Kitrilakis has apparently had a subsequent interview with Sakellariou, and is pleased with results to date. Kitrilakis has some hope that he will replace Tsakalotos shortly. [REDACTED] Lieutenant General Grigoropoulos may remain in his present position. 25X1X
4. On 1 November 1951, Sakellariou summoned all ranking Army officers in the Athens area to a general meeting at which he urged devotion to purely military tasks and abstention from outside activities that might harm Army prestige. Sakellariou hinted broadly that he is opposed to any actions against Army personalities by political interests for political purposes, and left the clear implication that he was referring to the issue of IDEA, raised by the anti-Papagos press in connection with the recent elections. Sakellariou made a very favorable initial impression on most of the officers at the meeting. They interpreted his address as indicating at least a fair handling of Army problems, without allowing the Army to become a political football.

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5.  Sakellariou will press hard for a change in the present law to enable him to preside over meetings of the Supreme Military Council, in order to have a more direct hand in Army affairs, especially in the assignment and transfer of senior personnel.

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