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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
August 19, 1974

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

CYPRUS

Situation Report Number 13
(As of 0700 EDT)

(All times cited are Nicosia time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. The cease-fire appears to be holding throughout the island today. A spokesman for the UN peace keeping force told the press this morning that there had been no reports of any new firing incidents.

2. By yesterday afternoon, Turkish units southeast of Nicosia, had advanced as far as Pyroi, Athienou and Troulli and had cut the road from Nicosia to the port of Larnaca. According to Cypriot President Clerides, the Turks were advancing from Pyroi yesterday to cut the Nicosia-Limmasol road--the last major route south from the capital city. There is no evidence available to confirm this, however, and the Nicosia-Limmasol road is still believed to be open.

3. Elsewhere on the island yesterday, Turkish units continued to advance along the Karpas Peninsula and reached Galinoporni. In the west, scattered fighting between the Greek National Guard and the Turks resulted in what may be the beginning of a Greek withdrawal from the Kokkina-Limnitis area.

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4. The Turks are making a concerted effort to lay the blame for cease-fire violations on the Greek Cypriots. In Ankara yesterday Minister of Information Birgit held a press conference to tell foreign correspondents that Turkey has complied with the cease-fire and that the rest of the world should bring pressure on the "other side" to stop fighting. He pointed to reports of Greek attacks on Turkish Cypriots and cited a Red Cross letter noting that six had died in Paphos. Birgit also said that the Nicosia airport was surrounded to protect against destructive acts by the Greeks. He hoped, however, that his government would be able to fly a large group of foreign correspondents from Ankara to Cyprus today to get the story first hand.

5. The Turkish embassy in Nicosia has elaborated on this version of the cease-fire violations by denying that Turkish forces have advanced beyond the village of Pyroi. An embassy spokesman said that the Turks had captured Pyroi before the cease-fire. On the morning of August 17 Turkish forces had been surprised to find two Greek Cypriot tanks and a number of soldiers had re-entered the town after the Turks had withdrawn to just outside the town and fighting to recapture the town ensued. This is in general agreement with information given the US defense attache by a Greek Cypriot military leader. The Turkish embassy explicitly denied any intent to cut the Limassol road and said that local commanders are under "strict instructions" to observe the cease-fire.

6. Calm returned to Nicosia today following a brief period of panic yesterday after President Clerides claimed in a BBC interview that Turkey was trying to occupy all of Cyprus. Clerides said that, in the end, the Greek Cypriots would probably be driven into the hills where they would make their "last stand." The statement apparently touched off a flight of civilians from the capital with refugees

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crowding the roads toward Limassol on the southern coast and toward the Troodos Mountains and the Athna Forest southwest of Nicosia.

GREECE

7. Defense Minister Averoff has told the US ambassador that the movement of military forces from the Athens area on August 11 was in response to the possibility of a new military coup which came to the government's attention in time. He said that Prime Minister Karamanlis went immediately to President Gizikis and threatened to return to Paris unless the President supported him. Gizikis agreed to transfer the military units involved. Averoff said he now felt that the government was no longer in danger of a military coup, although he believed that younger officers trained in military schools since 1967 had to be kept under surveillance.

LATE ITEM

At noon Nicosia time today, 500 Greek Cypriots shouting anti-American slogans began burning cars in front of the US Embassy in Nicosia and started a fire behind the building. Ambassador Davies reportedly has been hit by gunfire and is seriously wounded.

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A later report indicates that Cypriot President Clerides is now in the US Embassy and is attempting to get the ambassador to a hospital.

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