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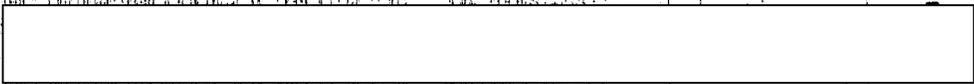
WESTERN EUROPE - CANADA - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Makarios Moves To Consolidate Position

President Makarios is moving to consolidate his position within the Greek Cypriot community prior to resuming the intercommunal talks.

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Makarios is moving ahead cautiously to reimpose his control over the Greek Cypriot sector but is attempting to avoid provoking his opponents on the far right or arousing the expectations of his supporters. Since his return to the island on December 7, the archbishop has held several meetings with former acting president Clerides and other Greek Cypriot leaders to solicit their views on the composition of his government and on a negotiating strategy in talks with the Turkish Cypriots.

Clerides believes that Makarios is inclined to form a government of national unity comprised of individuals representing all political interests. The ministers, however, would not serve as official representatives of any group or be responsible to them. Such an arrangement would permit Makarios to choose only those individuals on the far left or far right who placed their loyalty to him above their respective political parties.

Clerides is reportedly attempting to persuade Makarios to select a cabinet consisting largely of technicians and civil servants in order to deal more effectively with the many problems confronting the Greek Cypriot sector. Clerides suggested to Makarios that such a cabinet could be assisted by a separate "advisory board" composed of the leaders of all political groups to counsel the archbishop on the negotiations with the Turkish Cypriots. [REDACTED]

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