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APPROVED FOR RELEASED DATE: 12-07-2011 CURRE	NT INTELLIGENCE	BULLETIN		
NC CI CI	CCUMENT NO. 6 CHANGE IN CLASS. IF DECLASSIFIED ASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C EXT REVIEW DATE: 2010 ITH: HR 70-2 1980 REVIEWER			

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6. COMMENT ON ANTI-GREEK RIOTING IN TURKEY

The rioting in Istanbul and Izmir on 6 September indicates that the wide breach which has developed in recent months between Greece and Turkey at the diplomatic level has spread to the general public.

The riots were apparently spontaneous, but the Ankara government is searching for evidence of Communist involvement. According to observations by the American consul general in Istanbul, the police stood idly by or cheered the mob which was looting shops. Only later did troops supported with tanks restore order.

Popular emotions now running high in both Greece and Turkey will probably be sharply controlled by the two governments. In relations between the countries, however, antagonisms which have been created by the Cyprus issue will increase mutual recriminations over other issues and seriously reduce area defense co-operation.

8 Sept 55

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 8

