

22

RNR 883
GREECE*****

ATHENS, SEPT 23, REUTER -- THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TODAY RESTORED FREEDOM OF ACTION TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN GREECE AND LEGALIZED THE COMMUNIST PARTY, OUTLAWED SINCE IT FAILED TO SEIZE POWER IN AN ARMED REBELLION IN 1947.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO RESTORE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

PRIME MINISTER KONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS SAID THAT THE MOVES CONSTITUTED "NEW DECISIVE STEPS TOWARD THE EFFORT OF SECURING THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL."

MR KARAMANLIS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD VERY SOON ANNOUNCE THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW AND SET A DATE FOR ELECTIONS.

"THE NEW MEASURES CONSTITUTE THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC LEGALITY," THE PREMIER SAID.

MORE 1627

27

RNR 884
GREECE 2 ATHENS

MR KARAMANLIS SAID THAT STARTING TODAY, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WERE FREE TO WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION.

HE SAID TODAY'S MOVES WERE AIMED AT LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A GENUINE AND PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY IN GREECE.

THE DECREE SAID THAT STARTING TODAY, THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES WAS FREE AND ALL THOSE DISSOLVED IN THE PAST WERE ALLOWED TO FUNCTION ONCE MORE.

WHEN THE ARMY SEIZED POWER IN APRIL, 1967, IT SUSPENDED ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND DISSOLVED SEVERAL LEFT-WING POLITICAL GROUPS.

MORE 1628

ZZ

RNR 819

GREECE 3 ATHENS

ACCORDING TO THE DECREE, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WILL HAVE TO TAKE STATEMENTS TO THE PROSECUTOR OF THE SUPREME COURT THAT THEIR PRINCIPLES ARE AGAINST ANY ACT AIMED AT SEIZING POWER BY FORCE OR OVERTHROWING THE FREE DEMOCRATIC REGIME.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TONIGHT DECLINED TO REVEAL THE DATE OF THE NEW ELECTIONS, WHICH WILL BE THE FIRST SINCE 1964.

CIRCLES CLOSE TO PREMIER KARAMANLIS SAID TODAY THAT HE WOULD FORM A NEW PARTY TO BE KNOWN AS "THE NEW DEMOCRACY."

THEY SAID THAT THE PARTY WOULD EMBRACE POLITICAL GROUPS RANGING FROM THE RIGHT TO THE LEFT OF CENTER.

MORE 1630

ZZ

RNR 886

GREECE 4 ATHENS

OTHER PARTIES EXPECTED TO CONTEST THE ELECTIONS -- THOUGHT LIKELY TO BE HELD IN MID-NOVEMBER -- WILL BE THE PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, LED BY ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, VARIOUS RESISTANCE GROUPS WHICH FOUGHT AGAINST THE MILITARY REGIME, AND THE COMMUNISTS.

USUALLY WELL INFORMED SOURCES SAID HERE TONIGHT THAT MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY REGIME WHICH RELINQUISHED POWER LAST JULY MIGHT FORM A POLITICAL PARTY, LED BY FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS.

REUTER 1631