

Director of Central Intelligence

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TURKEY

The new military government appears to have consolidated its hold over the country, and the nationwide curfew seems to be maintaining public order.

The National Security Council, composed of five top commanders and chaired by Chief of Staff Evren, has banned all political party and trade union activities and placed leading politicians under arrest. The generals stated that they would prosecute only those politicians guilty of illegal activities.

General Evren has publicly promised that the country would be returned to civilian rule as soon as the military government can establish a Council of Ministers to run the state, revise the constitution, and pass laws governing elections and political parties. The Council also affirmed its commitment to seek a solution to Turkey's economic problems and confirmed the country's commitment to Name and to existing agreements with foreign nations.

The military apparently has begun a sweep of the urban shantytowns to search out extremists, who probably will try to step up violence. If--as seems likely--the military authorities move forcefully against them, the extremists probably will go underground.

The generals, who recognize that they do not have the answers to all of Turkey's problems, made their move only after issuing several warnings to civilian leaders to unite in the national interest. Press reports suggest that the final straw was the appearance on Wednesday in Ankara of booby-trapped Communist posters attacking the military--which considers itself the traditional guardian of the Turkish state.

Reactions to the Takeover

Government officials in Western Europe have indicated concern over the situation and expressed hope that democracy will be restored as soon as possible. An EC

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Commissioner noted yesterday that a Turkish application for full membership--which former Prime Minister Demirel had promised to make--would automatically be denied unless the democratic prerequisite is reinstituted.

West German officials are skeptical about the ability of the Turkish military to cope with economic problems. Although they foresee no change in Bonn's official aid policy toward Turkey, the officials are worried by the effect of the coup on German public opinion and on parliament, which already is concerned by the growing influx of Turks seeking asylum in West Germany and by the human rights situation in Turkey. Further disbursement of aid funds by Bonn, therefore, may be affected by the course of the takeover.

The USSR has not commented officially on the coup, and Soviet press coverage has been limited to replaying Western reports.

4

Top Secret 13 September 1980