

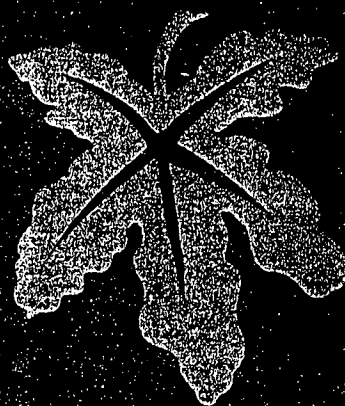
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PRAA-68

Combined Fortnightly Intelligence Review

GREECE

HENLEY



For period ending 22 DEC 1946

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COMBINED FORNIGHTLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW NO. 10.

CONTENTS

Part I OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

- (a) ALBANIA
- (b) JUGOSLAVIA
- (c) BULGARIA

Part II CIVIL SECURITY

- (a) General
- (b) Armed Bands
- (c) MLAS
- (d) War Criminals
- (e) KKE Policy
- (f) DODECANESE - KKE Activity
- (g) Right-Wing Activities

Part III POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

- (a) The Government
- (b) The Assembly
- (c) Internal Politics
- (d) Economic
- (e) Foreign Relations

APPENDICES

"A" Albanian Gendarmerie, DPM and Special DMP.

"B" Greek Frontier Situation

H. G. McKee
Lt-Col,
GS01 (Int).

Distribution: As for CFIRG No. 9.

PART 1

OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

(a) ALBANIA

There have been no further reports of troop movements or identifications in the area of the Greek frontier.

Reports from CORFU indicate that fresh fortifications are being built in the CORFU channel area. The existence of at least one coastal battery in that area has been amply demonstrated in the past and it would appear that another is being constructed in the area of FIKRI bay (QR3070).

A deserter from the Albania Gendarmerie has been interrogated and a note on the Gendarmerie, DMP and special DMP will be found at appx 'A'. The forces are the equivalent of the Militia, KNOJ and UDB in JUGOSLAVIA.

(b) JUGOSLAVIA

Another report that 21 division is moving SOUTH has been received this time from two deserters from 3 division. They stated that 3 division was to be relieved by 21 division. Unfortunately these deserters were returned across the frontier before a thorough interrogation could take place. Their statements do, however, tie up with previous information and the relief of 3 division is not regarded as an unlikely eventuality. Nothing is known about the strength or overall reliability of 21 division but 3 division could not be classed as an elite formation by any means. The switch over of these formations if indeed it is taking place, may well be connected with the UNO proposal for an international investigation in the frontier area; the policy being to remove those units which may have an unhealthy knowledge of frontier affairs. If this is indeed the case 48 division may be destined to move also though this is only a speculation.

No further reports have been received of ~~the~~ numerous other formations which have been reported in or moving down to MACEDONIA.

A recent report from a deserter gives the following layout for 41 division: HQ - KOUMANOVO, 6 Brigade - VRANJE, 8 Brigade - SKOPLJE, 12 Brigade - KOUMANOVO. The location of 8 Brigade at SKOPLJE is not unlikely in view of the fact that a previous report from a deserter also located it there. It is, perhaps, a possibility that the reports of 8 division being in the SKOPLJE area are due to misidentification of 8 Brigade.

(c) BULGARIA

Previous rumours that 13 Infantry Regiment of 7 division was to disband were recently confirmed by a Bulgarian deserter who stated that this formation was disbanded in September. In view of the number of similar reports available and absence of any information to the contrary the disbandment of 13 Infantry Regiment is now accepted. The personnel from the regiment are believed to have been posted to 14 Regiment at GORNA DJUMAYA.

Now that the peace treaty with BULGARIA is approaching maturity, considerable attention must be paid to such efforts as are being made to circumvent its provisions with regard to the armed forces.

It is known that the frontier guard organisation, though now ostensibly under Militia control, is still being recruited from army personnel and it may well be that personnel surplus to the army ceiling are being transferred to frontier units to bring the army strength down to the treaty level. This policy may explain the reported disbandment of some infantry regiments like 13 Infantry regiment who have been engaged in the past in frontier duties.

PART II

CIVIL SECURITY

(a) General

The arrival of a particularly severe Winter has introduced the latest phase of operations throughout GREECE, with the last fortnight seeing a considerable decrease in the number of incidents caused by armed bands. Though the Greek National Army and Gendarmerie have been engaged in many large scale sweeps against the bandits, a small measure of success has been gained, except for unprecedented number of surrenders of andartes to the Government forces. It is not considered, however, that this diminution of armed band activity has in any way lessened the potential threat to public law and order, but that climatic conditions have imposed a partial truce, and major incidents at the initiative of either side are at a standstill. Nevertheless, the armed bands are still capable of attacking communications and isolated garrisons, and of maintaining their courier and supply routes within GREECE and to and from neighbouring countries. It is expected that the static position of today will neither radically deteriorate nor improve until the Spring, though the severe Winter in the mountains may well persuade larger numbers of bandits to surrender to the authorities or to attempt to return to their homes unobserved by nationalist forces.

There is no doubt that civilian morale has improved following the recent extension of the activities of Government Forces and it is hoped that the next few months, when the armed bands will be largely confined to their mountain hideouts, that the Greek National Army and Gendarmerie will regain their lost prestige in formerly demoralised areas.

Since the visit to GREECE of the British Chief of the Imperial General Staff and Field Marshall SMUTS, an increase in public confidence has become apparent. It has been further accentuated by newspaper reports claiming large scale surrenders by bandits. That there have been bandit desertions and surrenders, due in some measure at least to the severe climatic conditions in the mountains, and to the imminent expiring of the Amnesty Law, there is no ground to dispute, indeed 187 armed men surrendering to the Greek Authorities in the last fortnight can be quoted as the most reliable figure. The Right-wing press has, however, by suit of judicious juggling of figures and the omission of the time factor, contrived to give the impression that the Greek Army has achieved a decisive victory in their recent operations. Temporarily at least, Government prestige is somewhat enhanced by this victory on the 'Newspaper part', while the left says that bandits are surrendering 'in an orderly manner'.

In the cities of ATHENS and SALONIKA there has been a considerable increase in the number of political murders, with the Left and Right political factions accusing each other of initiating 'civil war in the towns', though this is regarded as a considerable exaggeration.

(b) Armed Bands

Despite the pessimistic picture that THRACE gave a fortnight ago, it is encouraging to note that bandit activity in that area during the period under review has been on a very minor scale. There is no doubt, however, that many volunteers have joined the ranks of the bands operating in the EVROS and SOUFLION districts and that assistance is being given them by BULGARIA, but counter action by the Greek National Army has recovered a large measure of control. After losing 80 by surrender and approximately the same number killed, a large majority of the bandits operating in THRACE were driven towards and over the Bulgarian frontier. The Turks have reinforced their Western frontier bordering on GREECE with obviously friendly intentions, the main aim being the prevention of the escape of armed bands from THRACE Eastwards.

Central and Western MACEDONIA has been generally quiet after Dec 15, when snowstorms and cold put a temporary stop to operations. Just previous to this date Greek Army Forces were engaged in pursuing bandits in the VERMION Mountain where about 40 bandits were killed and large stocks of food supplies were captured.

North of RHILKIS, an Army Company was attacked at MOURIES on 14 Dec by an armed band, but the latter were repulsed after a few hours.

On 18 December an unarmed Greek Pioneer company stationed near DRAMA (P 99) deserted or fled to the woods when an armed band approached their positions. After the band had been driven off, only a handful of the pioneers returned to their camp, while the fate of the others is still unknown. As these men are unreliable elements it is probable that many of the absconders have joined the bandits.

Generally, throughout MACEDONIA, foraging incidents have continued with little other bandit activity.

Since 8 December no serious incident has occurred in THESSALY though one case of mining has been reported and several vehicles have been either looted or damaged by bandit attacks.

In the PELOPONNESE, where the main bandit area is on Mount PARNON, East of SPARTA, the fortnight has been generally quiet, though the newly formed CSSU - mentioned in para II (g) this Review - had a successful engagement with the bandits, driving off an attacking band and inflicting heavy casualties.

(c) ELAS

It is reported that KKE have decided to reorganise ELAS. These groups which up to date formed the reserve will be reorganised on a military basis, and will come under the orders of ELAS General Staff with the approval of KKE. This measure is said to apply to all the principle towns of GREECE where the andarte habit of organising armed bands with the personal followers of a Kapetanios is unworkable.

(d) War Criminals

The trial of Generals Frederik MULLER and Bruno BRAUER was concluded on the 9th of December, when both received the death sentence, though BRAUER's plea for commutation to life sentence will be reviewed in two months time.

(e) KKE Policy

In conjunction with the development of the Andarte movement, it is reported that KKE propose to start a strong campaign against the Government for the failure of its economic reconstruction of the country. The campaign will be manifested mainly by calling strikes.

Following upon the reaction of the Communist Party of BULGARIA to EAM's policy in support of the Greek National claim for a re-adjustment of the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, it is reported that KKE have sent the following explanation to KKB.

This policy, it is stated, was forced upon EAM by the fascist regime of the country and in order to avoid having differences within its own ranks, in which there are many middle class members who favour the claim.

Further, EAM can exploit this policy by including in its National claims a demand for Eastern THRACE and CYPRUS, thus creating an anti-Turkish and an anti-British atmosphere detrimental to the Turkish-British Block and to the enemies of the Democratic movement of South-East EUROPE.

(f) DODECANESE - KKE Activity

In RHODES nothing further has been heard of the leftist organisation EMPA, since the temporary detention of some of its members. One of the ring leaders George SOURIS has been sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for resisting arrest. The remaining leader, THEOCHARIS, a municipal councillor, is still at large. No further pamphlets have appeared since he withdrew from public life. The beginning of EMPA activities coincided with his arrival in RHODES.

Communist activity has been reported only from LEROS and LIPSOS and even here it seems to amount to no more than coffee house gossip.

(g) Right-wing Activities

Right-wing excesses by auxiliary gendarmes have been increasing. In the KEALMIDICE area at STEPHANINA on the 12th of December a gendarme, having seen a fellow gendarme blown to pieces on a bandit's mine, went berserk and fired upon a group of women relatives of bandits, killing five and wounding six before he could be restrained. He is now awaiting trial by the Public Prosecutor. Another incident playing into the hands of the Left was the indiscriminate firing of shots by auxiliary gendarmes against SALONINA prisoners taking exercise. Fortunately there were no casualties.

On 13 December an armed band attempted to attack the village of VERROIA (VJ 25) in the PELOPONNESE, but were frustrated by members of the newly formed Country Self-Security Units (CSSU), who drove the bandits off after 6 hours of heavy fighting, when the latter lost heavy casualties.

Anton TSAOUS and his irregulars, now in uniform and under Army command, have had considerable success in THRACE with captures, including one bandit who gave valuable intelligence of Bulgarian assistance to the bands.

PART III

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

(a) The Government

Agitation for the formation of a government of national union on a broader basis have continued throughout the period but little progress has been made in TSALDARIS' absence. The threats to internal security have been closely linked with such negotiations as have taken place. The fundamental differences in policy between the Populists and the Liberals, the former demanding more vigorous counter measures and the latter appeasement have been further widened by ZACHARIADES' latest outburst on the situation in which he disclaimed all allegations of external interference in banditry and asserted that NOF was an essentially home-grown organisation protecting Greek Slav interests. To PAPAANDREOU, this announcement was the last straw and EPE has now come down heavily for "dynamic" action. It would, therefore, appear unlikely that further progress towards co-operation between the Liberals on the one hand and EPE or the Populists on the other, at this stage will be made. Reports, however, indicate that the leaders of EPE are prepared to forgo some of their earlier demands and enter a Royalist Government.

GONATAS and KALKANIS, Minister of Public Order, left ATHENS by sea on 18 December to visit VOLOS, SALONIKA, KAVALLA and ALEXANDROUPOLIS.

(b) The Assembly

The civil service purge resolution came in for further discussion and was ratified with certain modifications on 10 December. The main new provisions cancel dismissal for moral or professional incapacity, extend the time limit for the purge by two months and the time limit for postings and transfers by three months. Civil Servants under judgment have also been granted the right to make their defence.

On 12 December the Assembly passed a resolution granting persons under trial for collaboration the rights of defence and appeal. This resolution does not apply to Ministers of the puppet governments but both the Centre and Left press protested vigorously against the resolution.

On 14 December Field-Marshal SMUTS addressed the Assembly. After recalling the glories of GREECE, he appealed for unity in the Greek political world.

On 13 December the Assembly went into recess till 15 January. The opposition objected to the recess at this time since it interrupted parliamentary business at a very critical period.

(c) Internal Politics

Some further developments have been reported in the attempts of the dissident Populists to oust TSALDARIS. George SIRATOS is reported to be continuing his attempts to negotiate with other parliamentary parties especially the EPE.

It is believed, however, that the dissident Populists are still in a quandary as to the ultimate end of their policy. To cause a split in the Populist party would weaken the Royalist cause and put a strong political weapon in the hands of the opposition. Similarly if the downfall of TSALDARIS was successfully engineered, it would be essential for another administration to be set up without playing too much into the opposition's lap. Neither STRATOS nor KARNEZIS can yet rely on sufficient support to force TSALDARIS to resign nor can they find agreement on the thorny question of a successor to TSALDARIS as Prime Minister. MAVROMIHALIS is, of course, a possible starter in this connection but his present attitude towards both the dissident Populists and the EPE is obscure. The fact that parliament is in recess will give TSALDARIS more time to secure his position on his return since there is for the moment no chance of either the dissident Populists or the opposition engineering a defeat of the Government in parliament.

SOFOULIS spoke on the government problem on 20 December and stressed that negotiations for a coalition government must be continued after TSALDARIS' return on what he described as the present sound basis. SOFOULIS' relations with TSOUDEROS have, according to reports, deteriorated due to TSOUDEROS' over ambitious activities to secure for himself the virtual leadership of the Liberal party. ZACHARIADES, in a statement made on 12 December, declared that EAM would participate in a government under SOFOULIS and such a government could implement a policy of national reconciliation and appeasement. From time to time in the past KKE, through EAM, has tried to woo sections of the Centre and Left Centre with negligible success and there is no reason to suppose that SOFOULIS will be any more likely to succumb to Communist offers now than at any other time.

On 20 December SIDERIS, a prominent member of the Liberal Party of long standing, died.

ZACHARIADES in an interview with the "NEWS CHRONICLE" representative has made one of his periodic outbursts on international and domestic issues which though almost certainly intended more for external consumption, certainly did KKE little good in GREECE. While the Greek complaint was before the Security Council, ZACHARIADES categorically denied external aid to banditry and shifted the blame for the situation on to the Greek and British Governments. At the same time he denied that NOF was anything other than an organisation attempting to secure normal liberties for the Greek-Slav minority. He also took the opportunity of stating that EAM would be prepared to join a government under SOFOULIS which followed an appeasement policy. These statements especially with regard to banditry were probably forced on ZACHARIADES by the need not only to support the Albanian, Yugoslav and Bulgarian cases but also to prevent any desertion from the party by those whose nationalist feelings are still stronger than those of international communism. At the same time, KKE has been plugging continuously its campaign for reconciliation. This campaign has led to yet another attempt to assume sheep's clothing by offering KKE/EAM/ELD support to a SOFOULIS administration. ZACHARIADES' remarks, however, on the internal situation had an adverse effect on the success of any such attempt since they nearly shook the Liberals off their appeasement policy stand.

With the transfer of the DODECANESE to Greek administration imminent and interest growing in the CYPRUS question, increased KKE attention to these areas is not improbable. No regional committee for the DODECANESE exists at present but there are

socialist organisations in operation such as EPPA whose activities have been mentioned in previous summaries. In CYPRUS, the Left-wing organisation ANEL has been active for some time. It is probable that KKE will endeavour to bring both these organisations under its wing if not its direct control and operate through them.

The trial of EPOW, the Left-wing youth movement, has been postponed until 17 January at the request of the defence. If and when this trial takes place there is likely to be considerable international complications. KKE is bound to turn it into a "big event" and foreign observers will almost certainly attend. The question of the trial has already been raised in the British Parliament.

(d) Economic

TSALDARIS has held talks in WASHINGTON on the subject of further aid to GREECE for relief and reconstruction. It is generally felt that some further aid will be forthcoming. Meanwhile the Left-wing has gone out of its way recently to enlarge on alleged differences in British and US economic policies with regard to GREECE, developing the theme that a clash of economic imperialistic policies is taking place in which GREECE is merely a pawn in the game.

The demand for gold has again shown a steady decrease and for several days at the end of this period the Bank of GREECE has not had to intervene in the open market. The improvement is due probably to the improvement in the international situation.

There have been no strikes of importance during the fortnight.

(e) Foreign Relations

Naturally the proceedings at the Security Council at UNO have been watched with some anxiety. TSALDARIS opened the Greek case on 12 December in general terms, and the Yugoslav delegate replied by attacking the Greek regime. The Albanian, Yugoslav and Bulgarian representatives spoke on 16 December and again their statements were largely confined to abusing the Greek Government.

The evidence submitted by GREECE was not discussed in detail though several references were made to it. On 19 December the US delegate submitted a proposal that a commission be formed by members of the Security Council to investigate the situation on the spot and report its findings to the Security Council. This proposal was unanimously adopted by the Security Council. The provisions of the US proposal and a note on other factors involved will be found at Appendix "B".

The US proposal was well received by most sections of Greek public opinion. The statements made by the delegates of GREECE's Northern neighbours during the Security Council debate that the whole political situation in GREECE should be examined aroused considerable indignation. SOFOULIS in a strongly worded statement said that though policies for dealing with the situation in GREECE might differ, all condemned the present armed rebellion. Outside interference into Greek political life, he continued, could not be tolerated. Other opposition leaders echoed this statement all emphasising that TSALDARIS was representing GREECE and not merely the Populist party.

On 18 December all shops were closed for four hours in the morning and public transport services were suspended as a protest against the rejection of Greek claims by the Big Four.

The Pomak delegation which is to ask for a plebiscite for the incorporation of Bulgarian Pomaks into GREECE left Britain for the US on 16 December to put their case to UNO.

ALBANIAN GENDARMERIE, DPM and SPECIAL DMP

Within the Ministry of the Interior there are two Police Directorates, one controlling the Gendarmerie and one the DMP and Special DMP. There is a deputy minister for Gendarmerie matters and one for DMP and Special DMP matters.

1. GENDARMERIE

(a) Command

The Gendarmerie Directorate with the Director General of Gendarmerie at its head is divided into nine departments. They are:

- (i) Finance.
- (ii) Police Education.
- (iii) Customs.
- (iv) Traffic.
- (v) Fire prevention.
- (vi) Internal Security.
- (vii) Technical (Forgery Detection etc).
- (viii) Fingerprints.
- (ix) Quartermaster.

The Gendarmerie Directorate exercises control over the country through ten Provincial Commands, which correspond to the ten counties or provinces of ALBANIA.

Each of these provincial commands, headed by the equivalent of a Captain, is divided into areas under Lieutenants, which in turn are divided into sub-areas under 2/Lieutenants. Each sub-area has a number of detachments, each commanded by a WO or NCO and varying in strength according to the size of the village or area to be covered.

(b) Strength, Equipment and Training

The total strength of the Gendarmerie is estimated at 250 officers and 3,500 men. These are equipped with short Italian rifles and Italian pistols.

The Gendarmerie has no automatic weapons other than pistols, and has not been trained in the use of any other weapons but rifle and pistol.

A three months course was recently started to train 500 men in normal police duties.

(c) Badges of Rank

Except for the director general, who has the rank of Colonel, the only gendarme officers are Captains, Lieutenants and 2nd Lieutenants. Rank badges are

Captain: 3 gold stripes longitudinally on epaulette.
Lieutenant: 2 gold stripes longitudinally on epaulette.
2/Lieutenant: 1 gold stripe longitudinally on epaulette.

NCOs have small gold bars across their epaulettes.

(d) Pay

The rate of pay is low. NCOs and men getting from 8½ to 12 paper Napoleons per month. Officers' pay ranges from 12 (2/Lt) to 16 (Capt) paper Napoleons per month.

12 new (paper) Napoleons = 100 American Dollars.
(fixed rate, cutting actual dollar value by approximately 50%.

2. DMP

(a) Chain of Command

The DMP (DIVISIONE MEROIKES POPOLIT - Division of Peoples Security) is similarly organized to the Gendarmerie. It is controlled by a Deputy Minister for DMP and special DMP who exercises his control through a directorate. The directorate is split up into numerous departments, which are unknown but different from those of the Gendarmerie directorate.

The country is divided for DMP purposes into the same geographical sub-divisions as for the Gendarmerie. The local DMP commander is invariably one or more ranks higher than the equivalent Gendarmerie chief, possibly because the DMP have a more responsible task.

(b) Special DMP

The special DMP is also organized on a similar geographical basis. The total strength is approximately 500, and has only senior NCO's and Officers up to and including the rank of Lt-Col.

Its members usually wear civilian clothes.

3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENDARMERIE, DMP, AND SPECIAL DMP

There is little or no co-operation between the Gendarmerie and the DMP. The Gendarmerie deals purely with straightforward police matters, while the DMP deals with political and security matters. If during the course of its duties the Gendarmerie discovers a case of political or security interest, the case is handed over immediately to the DMP and vice - versa. Joint operation on a case is very rare. A senior officer of one service cannot give orders to a junior officer of the other without special authority from the Ministry of the Interior.

Many members of the Gendarmerie including the Director General are under DMP supervision and there exists an atmosphere of general distrust between the two organisations.

The special DMP works closely with the DMP in most cases, but it is responsible only to the Ministry of the Interior, and often works independently of the DMP. Its task is mainly political, in that it operates against dissident elements, but it also dabbles in counter intelligence, in that its tasks include dealing with foreign or dissident agents etc.

SOURCE: Captain of Gendarmerie Memet KOLCINAKOV, Chief of Police for TIRANA province, arrived in GREECE on 1 Nov 46. He had been imprisoned for his anti-communist views and propaganda. A fairly well educated man, sincere, and his information is considered to be reasonably correct.

Greek Frontier Situation.

1. On 19 December the Security Council of UNO approved the US proposal to set up an international commission to investigate the situation along GREECE's Northern frontiers. It will be remembered that a similar proposal submitted to the Security Council in September was vetoed by the Russian delegate; the fact that similar action was not taken on this occasion has not passed unnoticed by the Greek Right-wing press. Whether such a commission will succeed in substantiating the Greek accusations and what repercussions, if any will occur in that event, it is too early to speculate. The approval of this commission is, at least, a step in the right direction.
2. The text of the US proposal is as follows:
 - (a) Whereas there have been presented to the Security Council oral and written statements by the Greek, Yugoslav, Albanian and Bulgarian Governments relating to disturbed conditions in Northern GREECE along the frontier between GREECE on the one hand and ALBANIA, BULGARIA and YUGOSLAVIA on the other: which condition in the opinion of the Council should be investigated before the Council attempts to reach any conclusions regarding the issues involved.
 - (b) Resolved that the Security Council under Article 34 of the Charter established a commission of investigation to ascertain the facts relating to the alleged border violations along the frontier between GREECE on the one hand and ALBANIA, BULGARIA and YUGOSLAVIA on the other.
 - (c) That the commission be composed of a representative of each of the members of the council as it will be constituted in 1947.
 - (d) That the commission shall proceed to the area not later than January 15th 1947 and shall submit to the Security Council at the earliest possible date a report of the facts disclosed by its investigation. The commission shall, if it deems if advisable or if requested by the Security Council, make preliminary reports to the Security Council.
 - (e) That the commission shall have authority to conduct its investigation in Northern GREECE and in such places in other parts of GREECE, in ALBANIA, BULGARIA and YUGOSLAVIA, as the commission considers should be included in its investigation in order to elucidate the causes and nature of the above-mentioned border violations and disturbances, that the commission should have authority to call upon the Government officials and nationals of those countries, as well as such other sources as the commission deems necessary for information relevant to its investigation.
 - (f) That the Security Council request the Secretary General to communicate with the appropriate authorities of the countries named above in order to facilitate the commission's investigation in those countries.

- (g) That each representative on the commission be entitled to select the personnel necessary to assist him and that in addition the Security Council request the Secretary General to provide each staff and assistance to the commission as it deems necessary for the prompt and effective fulfilment of its task.
- (h) That a representative of each of the Governments of GREECE, ALBANIA and YUGOSLAVIA be invited to assist in the work of the commission in a liaison capacity.
- (i) That the commission be invited to make any proposals that it may deem wise for averting a repetition of border violations and disturbances in these areas.

It is not yet known how these proposals will be put into effect to ensure the maximum efficiency of the commission's activities. Although the commission is stipulated to proceed to the frontier area not later than 15 Jan it is most unlikely that any investigation can be begun by that date. The fact that the vast proportion of GREECE's frontier runs along high and inaccessible mountain areas together with winter conditions will militate strongly against the success of the commission until the Spring. At the same time, the longer the commission takes to get into full operation the easier the task of covering up such evidence that exists will be. Another factor affecting the usefulness or otherwise of the commission will be the time it stays in the frontier areas. It should be borne in mind that the frontier areas of the Northern neighbours are strictly controlled and it would be a comparatively easy matter to remove or eliminate lucrative sources of information and to impress on such possible sources the undesirability, where their health was concerned, of making rash statements. Should the commission's activities be confined to a rapid survey of the frontier, its effectiveness, from the Greek point of view, would probably be small, since it would hold no guarantee that a recondescence of activity would not take place soon after its departure.

3. The evidence on which the Greek complaint to UNO was based has not yet been discussed in detail. The Yugoslav spokesman in the Security Council dealt with several minor points and after demolishing them to his own satisfaction questioned the verity of the remainder. Whatever the ultimate conclusions which the commission will draw, its very presence in the frontier areas should have a beneficial effect on the present situation. Signs of apprehension are already evident both within EKE and in the respective Governments of ALBANIA, JUGOSLAVIA and BULGARIA. ZACHARIADES is doing his utmost to present the banditry position as being entirely a domestic development due to the policy of the Government and denies emphatically that any material aid is forthcoming from outside the country. He has recently been at some pains to describe NOF as a purely indigenous organisation aimed at protecting the Slav minority and in no way connected with an "autonomist MACEDONIA". The novel allegation has appeared that frontier incidents have been caused by British sponsored Yugoslav nationalist bands. The Yugoslavs announced that some reinforcing had taken place along the frontier to prevent the entry of bands from GREECE. A number of protests alleging frontier violations of various types have been received by the Greek Government from JUGOSLAVIA and BULGARIA, probably in an attempt to draw a red herring across the Greek protests to UNO.

4. The presence of the commission in the frontier area will almost certainly force a considerable decrease in the scale of help coming from outside, if only temporary. At the same time it should give the Greek authorities and the general public a much needed morale boost. The acquiescence of the Soviet delegation, however, in approving the proposal for the commission, especially bearing in mind the powers of investigating the situation from all sides granted to the commission, may be an indication that the Albanian, Yugoslav and Bulgarian authorities are confident that they can cover up their tracks.