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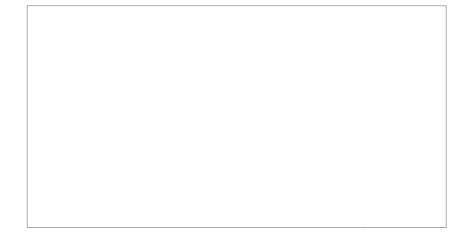
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TOP SECRET	(b)(3
SC No. 00116/74 May 15, 1974	(b)(3
Central Intelligence Bulletin	
CONTENTS	NR Record
CYPRUS: Tensions increase between Makarios govern- ment and national guard. (Page 11)	
FOR THE DECORD: (Dage 16)	NR Record
FOR THE RECORD: (Page 16)	/1 · / -
TOP SECRET	(b)(3

(b)(3)

CYPRUS: Tensions have increased between the Makarios government and the Greek-officered national guard following the theft last week of light weapons from a national guard armory. The arms probably are intended for the hard-line remnants of EOKA-B, the pro-union with Greece organization led by General George Grivas until his death last January. The theft is reportedly the largest of several made from national guard stores this year.

The mainland Greek officers were originally sent to Cyprus to train the national guard and help defend the Greek Cypriot community, but they have also served as a means for Athens to maintain its influence on Cypriot affairs. President Makarios has sought to lessen this influence and increase his independence by creating the tactical reserve unit, a force of about 600 native Greek Cypriots loyal to him. He would like to expand this force into a full-fledged Greek Cypriot army to replace the suspect national guard.

Relations between Makarios and the Greek mainland officers have worsened since the coup in Greece on November 25. The use of these officers by Athens to help sustain the remnants of EOKA-B since the death of Grivas in January has further aggravated these relations. Makarios holds the officers responsible for two other weapons thefts in January and February and for other provocative activities. He is also irritated by their refusal to modify the pro-Greece, pro-enosis thrust of their recruitment and indoctrination program.

Makarios may use the latest arms theft as a pretext to impose further restrictions on national guard activity. He may also demand the recall of some Greek mainland officers as he has done in the past. Further efforts to restrict the national guard could cause a serious new confrontation with the Athens government.

(b)(3)

May 15, 1974

Central Intelligence Bulletin

11

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(b)(3)