

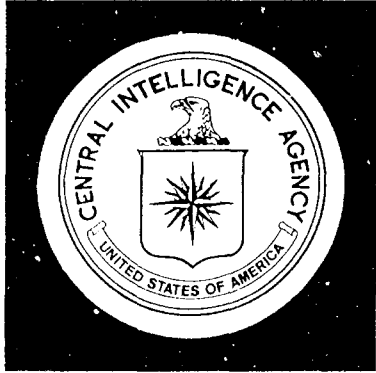
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Weekly Review

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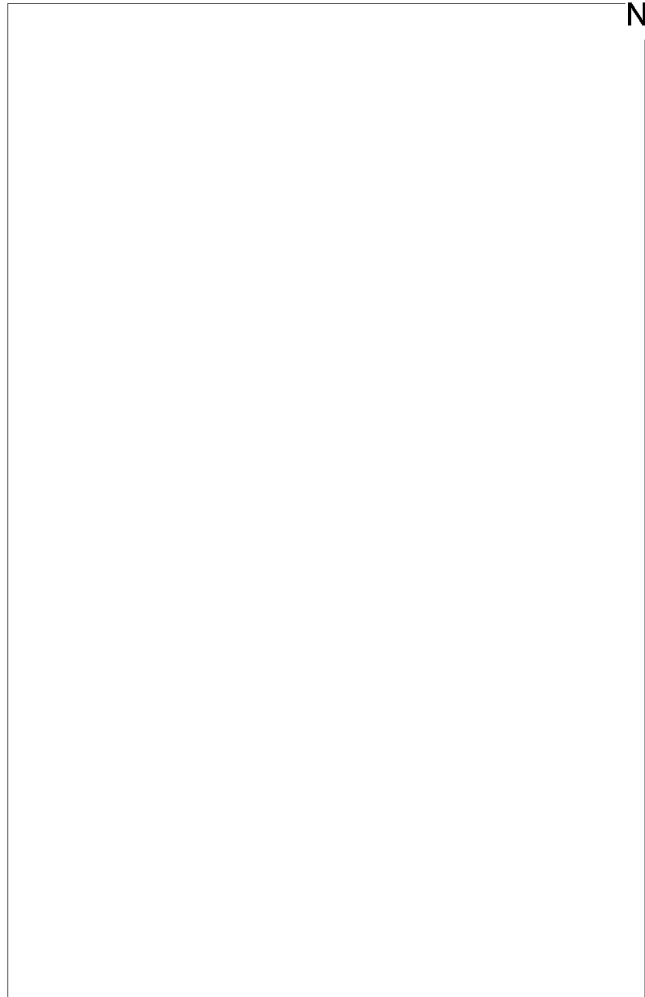
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NR Record

CYPRUS: GROWING TENSIONS

Tensions have increased in Cyprus since the adjournment on April 2 of the intercommunal talks that have been going on for six years between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. On the Greek Cypriot side, there have been renewed clashes between supporters of President Makarios and the followers of the late General George Grivas, who advocate the union of Cyprus and Greece (enosis). These pro-enosis forces enjoy the support of elements of the Greek-officered

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National Guard on the island. Relations between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities have also worsened.

Following General Grivas' death last January, members of EOKA-B, his pro-enosis terrorist organization, became embroiled in a struggle over who would succeed him and what strategy to pursue. On April 22, a hard-line faction severely beat and injured a group of Makarios supporters--the first instance of EOKA-B violence since the death of Grivas. Reacting strongly, Makarios formally outlawed EOKA-B, set a deadline of April 27 for the general amnesty extended to all wanted men in January, and announced his determination to wipe out those remnants of EOKA-B who remained in hiding. Only a few turned themselves in before the deadline, thereby setting the stage for more clashes.

Makarios has also been angered by a series of arms thefts from national guard stores and by anti-government incidents involving pro-enosis elements of the national guard whom he suspects are in collusion with EOKA-B. The latest incident involved the theft of light weapons on May 7 from a national guard armory and their probable transfer to EOKA-B. The theft will probably lead Makarios to try again to restrict the activities of the national guard and ultimately replace it with a full-fledged Greek Cypriot army formed around his personal military force. Makarios' determination to break the back of the remnants of EOKA-B and his attempt to curb the national guard may well prompt a dispute with the Athens government, which views these two elements as indispensable tools for maintaining its influence in Cyprus.

The intercommunal talks were suspended by the Greek Cypriots when the Turkish Cypriot negotiator refused to disavow Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit's statement in late March calling for a "federal" system of government for Cyprus.

Any system that would preclude majority Greek Cypriot rule is anathema to Greek Cyp-

riots. They view it as the first step toward partition of the island. The Greek Cypriots charge that the Turkish Cypriot side is attempting to modify the terms of reference for the talks. According to the Greek Cypriots, the terms of reference provided for a "unitary, independent, and sovereign" Cypriot state.

The Turkish Cypriots claim that neither side agreed to such terms of reference. They have played down the Ecevit statement, however, interpreting it to mean a functional type of federalism rather than geographic separation of the two communities.

Osorio Tafall, the UN special representative in Cyprus, is attempting to get the talks resumed on the basis of a mutually agreed formula. The Makarios government rejected his first proposal as too vague, and he is now making a second effort. Although Makarios probably will permit the talks to resume eventually, he appears to be in no hurry. He hopes to extract concessions from the Turkish Cypriots, who are more anxious to reopen the talks. Their anxiety has been aroused by the growth of anti-Turkish sentiment within the Greek Cypriot community. This has been fueled by the Ecevit statement and by the Greece-Turkey dispute over Aegean oil exploration rights, both of which are being exploited by the pro-enosis Greek officers of the national guard. Turkish Cypriots became especially alarmed after an incident on May 9 in a mixed village when national guardsmen harassed Turkish Cypriot residents.

By stalling, Makarios is also protecting himself from accusation by national guard officers and other pro-enosis elements that he is too accommodating with the Turkish Cypriots. Because tension between the two communities on the island is usually reflected in relations between their mainland sponsors, Makarios' abstention from the talks could stir up trouble between Athens and Ankara. This would distract the Greek rulers and strengthen Makarios' hand against their possible machinations, but it would also further inflame intercommunal tensions on the island. [REDACTED]

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