

However, if some observers believe that an Arab-Israeli dispute over Geneva will lead to a military confrontation, I believe that the Geneva disappointment will eventually increase the chances for aggravating contradictions in the Arab camp. This will ultimately lead to some changes in the political arena. Furthermore, now is the right time for some Arabs, who believe that U.S.

interests in the Middle East compel the U.S. to protect and help its friends in the area, to stop exaggerating their evaluations of possible U.S. reactions to the chances for changes in the Arab arena.

Baghdad knows this very well. Why then do we not heed the Iraqi capital's words in order to avoid returning empty-handed?

Cyprus Left Seeks Ouster Of Rightist Agents

Efforts by the communist and socialist parties of Cyprus to purge right-wing reactionaries in the government, police and army have brought that country to the edge of head-on confrontation. The Communist Party has called for the ouster of the Interior-Defense Minister for refusing to prosecute collaborators of Nicos Sampson, who in 1974 overthrew Cypriot President Makarios in a NATO-choreographed coup and brought Greece and Turkey to the brink of war, according to the *Baltimore Sun*. Similar allegations have been leveled by Socialist Party leader Lyssarides, who has warned of renewed right-wing coup preparations by sympathizers of the Sampson-linked EOKA-B terrorist organization and has mobilized his personal militia to defend Makarios.

The activation of the EOKA-B terror option is geared to plunge Cyprus into civil war and block Makarios' persistent efforts to resolve the Turkish-Greek dispute over the island outside of NATO's aegis. A Cyprus resolution would not only defuse a potentially dangerous flashpoint for general war but would clear the way for the transformation of the entire Mediterranean into a zone of peace — long the goal of the Soviet Union and many Third World nations.

Following a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis in Athens last week, Makarios emphasized the "absolute necessity" of keeping the Cyprus problem internationalized, and reiterated his support for a Soviet-backed international conference to end the dispute.

To counter Makarios, Clark Clifford, President Carter's personal emissary to the eastern Mediterranean, will arrive in Cyprus next month to "mediate" the conflict. During a similar trip by Clifford earlier this year, Makarios let it be known that Clifford's efforts to keep the Cyprus problem an "internal NATO quarrel" were unwelcome and provocative.

Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish region of the divided island, is likewise doing his best to keep the

situation inflamed by announcing this week that he wants to declare the Turkish-held portion an independent state. His plans are meeting strong resistance from the newly elected Turkish Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, who in an interview in *The Middle East* magazine categorically asserted: "No, Cyprus must be allowed to continue as an independent state."

Destabilization in Turkey

Not surprisingly, Ecevit has also been targeted for attack by the "commandos" of Col. Alparslan Turkes, a pro-U.S. deputy prime minister in the previous government. Describing the commandoes as "fanatical storm-troopers," the *Sunday Times* of London reports that the thugs intended to "obliterate left-wingers on campuses."

Ecevit, whose main task will be to mop up the Turkes network, is currently trying to form a government with independents and defectors from other parties. Such a strategy will make it unnecessary for Ecevit, who is 13 seats short of a parliamentary majority, to enter into an unstable coalition with the fascist National Salvation Party, which holds 22 parliamentary seats.

Former Prime Minister Demirel has blocked with the Salvationists and Turkes' National Action Party to form a government in the event that Ecevit is unable to do so, and has given orders to members of his Justice Party to vote against Ecevit during the upcoming vote of confidence. However, according to the Turkish daily *Cumhuriyet*, there is a faction emerging in Demirel's party that opposes all cooperation with the Salvationists and Turkes. The faction, led by Foreign Minister Caglayangil and backed by Turkish business and industrialist circles, has given signs that it may lend unofficial cross-party support to Ecevit in the interest of forming a solid government. Already, one Justice Party senator has left the party to join up with Ecevit.

— Nancy Parsons