
THE BALKANS

Papandreou ups the ante on Cyprus issue

by Nancy Coker

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and his Socialist International allies in Europe are deliberately provoking a new crisis over the island of Cyprus. Papandreou's efforts in this direction, combined with the threat of overt hostilities between Greece and Turkey, have weakened the resistance of Turkey's military leaders to Anglo-American pressure to transform Turkey into a forward base for NATO activities in the Middle East.

Turkey is a "first choice" of NATO strategies as a jumping-off point for military operations in the Persian Gulf. Historically, Turkish leaders have been reluctant to cooperate with moves to expand NATO or to work with the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) in the Middle East.

Following the decision in mid-May by NATO's defense ministers to authorize the deployment of NATO strike forces worldwide, pressure on Turkey to become NATO's launching pad for operations into the Persian Gulf has, of course, increased.

On May 13, immediately after the NATO defense ministers' meeting, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, an architect of extra-European NATO deployment, arrived in Ankara. Courting the Turks, Haig reportedly expressed support for Turkey's continued presence in Cyprus and may even have given Ankara a green light to carry out some sort of military operation on Cyprus, along with a promise of U.S. support. Two days later, Haig flew to Athens, this time giving the Greeks a green light to put the screws on Ankara through aggravated tensions over Cyprus and numerous other issues. Soon after his tour of the region, the Soviet Union through its Cypriot Communist Party extension, AKEL, made public a two-month-old warning to Turkey to desist from any military adventures on Cyprus.

Sources report that in terms of intelligence and communications, Turkey is open to cooperating with Haig. At the end of May, it was announced that AWACS early-warning surveillance planes would be stationed in Turkey under NATO auspices in 1983—one year earlier than had been planned—because of the situation in the Gulf. The planes will be positioned in Van and Diyarbakir in eastern Turkey for use in the Gulf, and in Konya in the central part of the country for use in the event of an

Aegean crisis.

Papandreou's crusade

Relations between Greece and Turkey have deteriorated since the election last year of Andreas Papandreou as Prime Minister of Greece. Papandreou, who through his father maintains extensive ties to British intelligence, was brought to power on an anti-Turkish platform. Since assuming office, he has suspended all dialogue with Turkey on such disputed issues as the Aegean continental shelf, Aegean airspace, and the Aegean islands.

Papandreou's prime weapon, however, is Cyprus. Since visiting the island in early spring, Papandreou has been stirring up conflict and has thereby caused a serious falling-out with Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou. Working with his fellow socialist and fellow drunkard, Willy Brandt of West Germany, Papandreou has launched what he calls an "international crusade" to "internationalize" the Cyprus issue.

Papandreou's efforts to transfer the Cyprus problem to the ministrations of the Socialist International are designed to undo the delicate intercommunal negotiations between Kyprianou and the Turkish Cypriots. By barging in and demanding that this process be halted and Willy Brandt be named mediator of an "international peace effort," Papandreou has estranged Greece both from Turkey, which rejects internationalization of the matter, and from Kyprianou, who has rejected Brandt as a mediator.

Taking Papandreou's side in the Greece-Cyprus rift are Cypriot socialist leader Vassos Lyssarides, the pro-British Democratic Rally Party leader Glafkos Clerides, and Archbishop Chrisostomos, head of the Cypriot Orthodox Church. The Greek paper *Eleftheros Kosmos* has threatened Kyprianou with "defeat and overthrow" at the hands of the Orthodox Church on Cyprus if he doesn't tow the line.

Kyprianou's abandonment by Papandreou and his island collaborators has forced the Cypriot president to form a coalition government with powerful Moscow-backed AKEL communist party. Kyprianou's spurning of the Socialist International initiative has in turn angered Papandreou.

If Kyprianou is overthrown or seems about to be, a Turkish military move into Cyprus as in 1974, and possibly against Greece, could result. A coup in Greece itself could follow, by military factions seeking the return of King Constantine to the throne.

Turkey has thus far remained silent on the Cyprus question. But Ankara dispatched Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu to Turkish Cyprus at end of May, the first such visit made by a Turkish prime minister. The visit was designed as a "provocation" to match Papandreou's "provocations."