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MORNING VIEW
Tuesday, July 16, 1974
GUARD FOR ULLSTER

Support pledge for talks on power

Mr. Merlyn Rees yesterday pledged that the Government would give any assistance it could to the proposed Ulster Constitutional Convention.

During the second reading of the Northern Ireland Bill in the Commons, the Ulster Secretary of State stressed that the Government would, however, play no part in its deliberations.

The kind of help the Government had in mind was information on procedures, details of which would be published in due course.

Mr. Rees said that the Assembly would not be dissolved until an election was called for the Convention.

He warned that the Convention must be acceptable to both sections of the community. It would be modelled closely on the Assembly, with the same number of members and method of election.

The Convention would have a life of six months, or less if its report were completed and laid before Parliament within that time.

If more time were needed, the Bill gave the Secretary of State power to extend the Convention by up to three months at a time. He would also be able to recall the Convention within six months of dissolution.

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Troops seize Cyprus
MAKARIOS
COUP
MISERY

Heavy fighting between troops and police swept Cyprus yesterday as President Makarios was reportedly overthrown and possibly killed in a coup d'etat.

The fate of the 60-year-old President was unclear in the confused situation. The rebel-held Nicosia radio declared him dead and the so-called "Free" Cyprus Radio of Paphos stated he was still alive.

Reuter Reporter

Reports that he was at a British base in Cyprus were denied by the Foreign Office last night.

Nicosia radio, taken over by the Greek-backed national guard after sharp fighting in the capital, announced the swearing in of a new President — former EOKA fighter Nicholas (Nicos) Sampson.

In Ottawa, Canadian external affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp quoted UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim as saying that Makarios still alive.

British Forces radio in Cyprus said last night there had been heavy fighting on the island in the wake of the coup.

The radio, monitored in Tel Aviv, said there were reports of serious fighting, mainly around police stations in Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Famagusta.

The radio called for calm among British residents and holidaymakers on the island and warned them to stay indoors.



Archbishop Makarios pictured during a visit to London for the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference.

Crowd cheers man in murder case

A crowd of about 200 shouted abuse at a 21-year-old Lurgan man as he left a special court in the town yesterday where he was charged with the murder of eight-year-old Barbara Lehmann on July 15.

An attempt was also made to block the passage of the vehicle taking him to custody. This demonstration was quickly broken up by police and troops.

Patrick Noel Coleman, a 21-year-old trowel worker from Killybegs, Lurgan, was remanded to Belfast Magistrates Court on July 26. Legal aid was granted.

Tidily dressed

Tidily dressed in blue jersey and check trousers and wearing his red hair-shoulder-length, Coleman spoke only once during the 11-minute hearing — to say "No" when asked if he wished to question a witness.

Earlier he had nodded assent when asked if he agreed to a custody remand over the statutory eight days that a magistrate can impose.

Throughout the hearing he stared at the floor, raising his head only momentarily to answer the questions put to him.

Detective Inspector Francis Thomas Murray, who said that he had not yet completed his enquiries, sought a remand which was granted by Mr Carter Johnston, JP.

Youth shot in knees

A 17-year-old youth admitted hospital in Belfast last night was believed to be the victim of a terrorist shooting.

He had gunshot wounds to both knees and the attack on him was understood to have occurred in the area. The police were investigating the matter.

Home guard recruit plan

No recruiting has yet been started for an Ulster home guard according to loyalist sources yesterday.

But discussions between various interested groups have been going on throughout the Province in preparation for a secret recruiting campaign which would be staged if the Government dismissed the idea of a third force.

It is understood that members of the Official Unionist Party will be meeting representatives of loyalist para-military organisations tomorrow to discuss the position.

"The Unionists are definitely not been recruiting for the third force so far," a source within a para-military organisation said yesterday.

"We have had discussions but we are waiting to see whether the Govern-

Home guard recruit plan

ment backs the scheme or not. Either way it will definitely go ahead."

Unionist Assembly member Mr John Taylor backed the call for an armed home guard in his speech to O'Riordan at Edenderry on the 12th.

He said that the UDR and RUC Reserve were part-time forces which could only be expected to operate at night. This left a major security lapse which could only be answered by authorising private citizens as members of the home guard to carry firearms to protect their own areas.

But pro-Assembly Unionist Lord Brookeborough yesterday attacked the "continued sniping" by some politicians at the UDR and Police Reserve.

"The people of Ulster are making a tremendous contribution to the defeat of

RIISING ROAD TOLL DANGER

The slaughter on Ulster's roads will continue to soar unless drivers and pedestrians showed more care, Henderson warned yesterday.

The vast majority of motorists in the exodus to seaside resorts during the four day holiday period showed exemplary road manners, he said.

But there were "the bloody minded" drivers too. Chief Supt. Henderson also hit out at motorists who completely disregarded traffic signals and road signs.

Education of the public, and strict enforcement of the motoring and pedestrian laws were the ways to personal responsibility on the roads, he said.

The police traffic chief hoped that there could have been more RUC men on traffic duty, but the situation in the Province meant that they had to be diverted to a security role.

It was wrong to suppose that accidents were inevitable, he said.

And it was deplorable that seven people should have died on Ulster's roads during the holidays, he said.

A total of 121 people were injured in 72 crashes from last Thursday.

The RUC chief was not, however, commiserating with reports of injury or loss to the thousands of Britons — mostly Servicemen and their families — on the island.

First wins for twins

The unhappy history of the people of Cyprus, arising in the main out of the diametrically opposed political aspirations of the Greek and Turkish communities, bears a marked resemblance to that of Northern Ireland, the major factual difference being the almost complete segregation of the two groups in the Mediterranean island.

The parallel is extended with the involvement of church leaders in the political affairs of Cyprus, and the stormy career of Archbishop Makarios, which reaches the depth of the inter-play of these powerful forces.

His removal from office can only be seen as a prelude to difficult, even tragic days in an island which, like our own, has had more than its share of distress and tears.

The hope must be that the long-expected coup will not, as so often in European history, mark the tinder of more dangerous material.



'Death to end terror' vision

Hamilton Farmer, the well-known cleric, has predicted the murder of a leading Ulster figure.

He said it will be the death knell of terrorism in Ulster.

"This ultimate act of violence will produce a reaction that great pressure will be brought to bear on the Westminster Government for the re-formation of our own Parliament," he claimed.

Mr. Farmer is the man who accurately predicted the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, the break-up of the Beatles and the narrow win for the Labour Party in the last General Election.

MPs meet Eire chiefs

Seven British MPs arrived in Dublin yesterday to discuss Northern Ireland and other matters of common interest with the Irish-British Parliamentary group in Leinster House.

The MPs will hold meetings with various people during their two-day stay, including the Prime Minister.

Holiday Britons safe

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. James Callaghan, told the Commons last night that there were no reports of injury or loss to the thousands of Britons — mostly Servicemen and their families — on the island.

There are 7,000 British troops in bases on the island and a further 900 in the Northern Nations occupying forces there are no Northern Ireland regiments there at present.

The Inniskilling Dragoons returned a few weeks ago.

There are also 10,300 civilians in the British community, but it is not known how many British holidaymakers there were on the island.

All flights to and from the island have been stopped and anxious relatives in Britain waited by their telephones to find out what had happened to their families.

Hundreds of people arriving at London's Heathrow Airport yesterday were told that their Cyprus holidays were off.

A spokesman for Cyprus Airways said fares would be refunded.

Rain can't stop play

Rain, and more rain. That was the message to Ulster's holiday makers yesterday from the post Office. Traditionally, July is the wettest month of the year, and this year is not going to be the exception.

But, in spite of gloomy weather, holiday-makers are enjoying themselves.

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