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Manchester Evening News

32,742

TUESDAY JULY 16 1974

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Island Britons 'all safe'

THERE are no British casualties in the fighting so far, the British High Commission in Nicosia telegraphed early today.

Staff of the High Commission spent the night in makeshift beds at their offices, said a Foreign Office spokesman.

Passengers, including some from the North West, who were stranded at Nicosia airport after an airliner was held at the edge of a runway during the coup were taken to hotels in the capital last night.

All are "safe and well," said the High Commission telegram.

Meanwhile, at RAF Fairford, in Gloucestershire, servicemen were today waiting for news as to whether there will be an airlift of British families from the island.

CANCELLED

All four British Airways scheduled flights from Heathrow to Nicosia today were cancelled.

British Airways in Manchester were still uncertain today about a flight to Nicosia scheduled to leave on Saturday. The flight is due to take about 60 holidaymakers from the North West to Cyprus, picking up a further 20 or so in Brussels.

Cosmos, one of the largest tour operators in Cyprus, have cancelled their next two flights, due to depart on July 20 and 27. The 300 people involved are to be offered alternative holidays.

Cyprus Airways said their flights were suspended "until the situation is clarified." Alternative holidays or full refunds were being offered.



SAMPSON—Eoka gunman who says he is President.

Archbishop makes a dramatic plea to stop a dictatorship

DEFIANT MAKARIOS: WE'LL BATTLE ON

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IN A shaking voice, Archbishop Makarios today broadcast an appeal from hiding to Greek Cypriots to rally round him and fight against the military takeover.

Speaking on Radio Free Cyprus from his home-town stronghold of Paphos, in western Cyprus, he told his supporters not to obey the orders of newly proclaimed President Nicos Sampson, the ex-EOKA gunman.

The 10,000-strong National Guard yesterday claimed the archbishop was dead after storming his palace in Nicosia, but in his broadcast at 10 am today he said:

"Greek Cypriots, you know who is talking to you. You have elected me. I am not dead. I am by your side, a co-fighter and the bearer of the flag of the national struggle. The junta will not pass."

He added that the coupist people "would not tolerate violence and a coup d'etat."

"The resistance of the presidential guard and of the Cypriot people have stopped the junta."

He added: "Rally round the legal President. Now is the time for struggle—now or never. The sacred victory will be ours."

"I appeal to the world's countries not to allow these reactionaries to turn Cyprus into a dictatorship. The archbishop ended with a rally call—Long live Cyprus. Long live the Greek Cypriots. Long live the nation."

Shortly afterwards, Greece pledged it would respect the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

Action

Foreign Minister Constantine Kyprianou, said Greece had always followed a policy of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. It was the first official reaction to Makarios's actions that yesterday's coup was engineered by Greece.

Turkey said that it wanted to take joint action with Britain over Cyprus and clearly intimated it was considering intervening in the Mediterranean island.

Turkish Information Minister Orhan Birgit said Turkey would make certain demands of the British Government under the 1960 guarantee agreement which grants Britain, Turkey and Greece the rights to intervene in the island to restore the status quo.

Fighting was still going on today, said the British Armed Forces Radio. Clashes were reported in Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca and Limassol.

A contact

"The most intense fire has centred on police stations," the radio said. "Other clashes between armed groups have been reported on outskirts of main towns, especially Limassol."

A Cyprus High Commission spokesman in London said that according to reports a column of Makarios supporters from Paphos were advancing on Nicosia.

He said according to radio reports anti-rebel forces had attacked National Guard troops holding the airport.

Nicosia Airport remained closed and all direct communications with the island republic were still cut.

The first official confirmation that the 66-year-old Cypriot leader had not been killed came from a UN spokesman.

He said Archbishop Makarios had made contact with a British district commander of the UN force at Paphos. This was confirmed in London today by the Foreign Office.



Two teenage girls were killed when this car was in collision with a lorry at Rixton, near Warrington.

Two girls die in head-on crash



'75 rate rise warning

The rates protest led by the Greater Manchester district councils might have to be increased substantially next year.

The warning came at today's meeting of the GMC finance committee, when the most of the 231 set aside for supplementary costs was already spoken for, with over £200,000 being accounted for by threshold payments.

But his plea for a special treasurer's report on financial trends and implications was turned down. (Times threshold bill—Page 5)

TWO TEENAGE GIRLS were killed and two others badly injured in a head-on crash at Rixton, near Warrington.

The car in which they were travelling collided with an articulated lorry on the A57 Manchester Road last night.

Firemen were called to free the occupants of the car, who were trapped in the wreckage. The road was blocked for about an hour.

The two dead girls were identified as the car driver, Carol Whitby, aged 17, of Tenynson Drive, and Diane Callan, aged 16, of Ullswater Avenue both Warrington.

Seriously injured were Judith Baxter, aged 17, of Windermere Avenue, Warrington, who was today very poorly, and Margaret Leigh, aged 17, of Statham Avenue, Warrington, who was "critically ill."

Miss Baxter received face and eye injuries and Miss Leigh who had an emergency operation, was injured in the neck.

The driver of the lorry, Mr Douglas Booth, of Lock Lane, Partington, Manchester was unhurt.

The car was travelling towards Manchester when the crash occurred on a bend.

Both vehicles finished in the front garden of a house, and the car was completely wrecked.

Play on

Mr Geoffrey Gearing, manager of a Donside cinema centre and an ex-manager of the English basketball team, has been appointed to the Sports Council for Wales.

British radio says fighting raging in major towns



MAKARIOS—"I am alive and still President."

Eight swept to death on Mont Blanc

AN AVALANCHE today swept eight climbers including six teenagers — two of them girls — from the North face of the 15,774 ft Mont Blanc — Europe's highest mountain.

The avalanche began when an ice avalanche broke away early this morning at about 12,400 feet.

Police said the climbing party consisted of four boys and two girls, aged 16 to 18, and two adults. The teenagers, employed by the State Electricity Company, were holidaying in the Alps.

Officials said they believed all of the climbers were French.

TV and radio
FULL 24 HOUR
GUIDE ON PAGE 3
Classified
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NEWS DESK 061 602 2201

10 praised in rescue bid

Four women who recovered unconscious bodies of mother and three children from blinding snow, praised by Manchester's coroner, Mr Donald Summerville. St. Nicholas also commended for bravery. Children died, but mother, Mrs Frances Gorman, 60, Southall Road, Stochley, survived. Very little of accidental death were recorded on Terence Gorman (16), Paul (5) and Harry (3).

Mr Wilson said the rescue bid was a "miracle" and that the women were "brave and selfless."

Mr J G H Loubser, of South African Airways, said the jets, each with accommodation for 272 passengers, would be delivered in the first half of 1975.

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Dilemma for the Cabinet

Mr Andrew Roth, who has been appointed as the new chief of the British Broadcasting Corporation, said that the BBC was in a "dilemma" over the appointment of a new chairman.

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that I really liked,
so I sent this coupon
to Muirs...

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