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Heavy fighting as Greek officers claim victory

Mystery over fate of Makarios deers

Heavy fighting between troops and police swept Cyprus yesterday as President Makarios was reported overthrown and possibly killed in a coup d'etat engineered by the Greek-officered National Guard.

The fate of the 60-year-old President was unclear in the confused situation on the island, with the rebel-held Nicosia Radio declaring him dead and the so-called "Free Cyprus Radio" of Paphos stating that he was still alive.

Nicosia Radio, which was taken over by the troops after sharp fighting in the capital, announced the swearing-in of a new President—the former Eoka fighter, Nicholas (Nicos) Sampson. But the "Free" radio from Paphos carried what purported to be an announcement by President Makarios himself on the situation. He said he was far from dead.

In Ottawa, the Canadian Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, quoted the Secretary-General of the U.N., Dr. Kurt Waldheim, as saying that Archbishop Makarios was still alive.

Denial
Mr. Sharp said that he had spoken to Dr. Waldheim on the telephone and that Dr. Waldheim had assured him that Archbishop Makarios was alive.

The Archbishop had reached a UN base in Cyprus and Dr. Waldheim had radioed Dr. Waldheim.

In New York, a spokesman for the United Nations denied the report that the whereabouts of President Makarios were unknown.

This report must be the result of a misunderstanding, the spokesman said after checking with the Secretary-General.

It was true that Dr. Waldheim had talked to the Secretary-General "but no information on the fate of whereabouts of President Makarios and to make a statement about that," he said.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Foreign Office said they had received information that Makarios is still alive.

But the spokesman definitely denied reports that the Greek had been reported as a post-British base on the island.

He added: "The information was received from the British High Commission in Nicosia and the evidence is further details are available at present."

Monitored
The Cypriot Ambassador in London, Mr. Dimitrios, said that he was confident that the speech made by President Makarios was made by President Makarios.

Mr. Dimitrios heard parts of the speech monitored in Tel Aviv and telephoned to Washington by an American television network. "I think it

would be safe to confirm that it is his voice," he said. "If I was hearing it without all these circumstances, I would immediately say it is Makarios."

Mr. Costas Athiotti, the Cyprus High Commissioner in London, also said it was the Archbishop's voice speaking in the broadcast. On "News at Ten" he played a recording of the voice, calling the National Guard "traitors."

He said: "I know his voice. I can distinguish between genuine voice and a fake voice."

The radio in Paphos said that Makarios had ordered a struggle against "the Fascist Junta." It claimed that the forces of the state in Limassol had taken charge and overthrown the "subversives."

An English-language broadcast, the radio appealed for support from Western countries. "This country," it said, "President Makarios is the truly elected leader," the announcer said.

The world could not allow the imposition of Greece to export dictatorship, the radio added.

No Britons hurt, says Callaghan

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

There are 7000 British troops in Cyprus, the Foreign Secretary said. The British High Commissioner in Cyprus went on the air to call on Britons to stay calm, and to stay indoors.

British Servicemen have been told that all bars, shops and places of entertainment in Nicosia, Larnaca, Pafos and Limassol have been placed out of bounds.

The news of the coup came only minutes before Mr. Ecevit left on a one-day whistle-stop tour south west Anatolia, to explain to poppy farmers impositions of the government's decision to lift the American embargo on opium cultivation.

In the city of Afyon, in an unusually quiet mood, Mr. Ecevit said that he wanted the whole world to know that nobody should attempt to profit from the chaos in Cyprus by trying to touch the rights of the Turks.

"We will never accept a fait accompli," he declared.

He told a crowd of several thousand that Turkey had heard of "this armed, bloody coup with anxiety."

There was brief applause when he spoke of reports that President Makarios had been killed. But the Premier's silence in Turkey did not believe that anything was solved by killing people.—Butler.



Nicos Sampson, the newspaper owner and former Eoka leader, reported to be the new President, pictured in 1964.

Inquiry into 'Scottish Legion'

Scotland Yard experts are investigating a "press release" claiming to come from a group prepared to carry out terrorist attacks on English targets to get independence for Scotland.

The document was sent to the "Guardian" last night, a Scotland Yard spokesman had no comment to make on the investigation.

According to the newspaper, the document says: "Two years ago a group of Scottish men, including lawyers, the professions, and the services, met to examine the many where Scotland could obtain complete freedom from England. It was decided that freedom could never be obtained by normal constitutional means. The cause of Scotland's freedom."

"These plans have now come to fruition. The Scottish Legion, comprising men and women, carefully chosen, some well-placed in government and other spheres of public life and sworn to action and secrecy for the cause of Scotland's freedom."

"The Scottish Legion has no connection with any political party, any church, or other organisation. Its command structure has been carefully planned by the intelligence officer and is such that it cannot be infiltrated. It has the organisation, the dedication, the finance, and the means to achieve its aim."

"The Scottish Legion sincerely hopes that by peaceful influence it can help Scotland gain her freedom but it says that, should all else fail it has the capability to inflict serious and sustained damage on the United Kingdom. The speech and actions of all members of Parliament and of certain business and professional men are being scrutinised."

Jail siege pair holding out

WASHINGTON, Monday.—Officials today held up in the Federal courthouse here that only one course of action remained open to them—surround and go to a prison hospital.

The convict, Frank Cochrane (26) and Robert Jones (26), have been holding the courtroom basement for four days. All the hostages they took have either been released or have escaped.

Keep quiet on tour, rugby parents told

By MIKE MURFORD

As opposition grew yesterday to the secret rugby tour of Rhodesia by Scottish schoolboys, it emerged that they were to travel under an assumed name and with heavy Rhodesian sponsorship.

The organizers want to the extent of instructing parents of boys going on the four-week tour not to talk about the trip.

Details of the travel schedule were not known last night, but it is thought that the party will travel to London today, aiming to reach London in time for a direct flight to Salisbury from there on Thursday.

The party comprise about 22 players, drawn mostly from private and public schools in Scotland and probably three or four managers.

They are to play games in six areas, moving in with local families at each stop. The father of one boy said yesterday that he was perfectly happy with the travel and tour arrangements.

"I can see nothing but good coming from this. The Lord's playing in South Africa seems far bigger issue to me," he said. He added that they had been "instructed" by their organizers to keep details of the trip to themselves. He thought matches would be against white opposition drawn from Rhodesia's public schools.

TWO FLIGHTS
Only two airlines fly directly from London to Rhodesia: British Airways and the Portuguese national airline, and South African Airways, each with two flights a week.

SAA said they had no booking for a party of about 25 from Scotland to Rhodesia this week. A TAP spokesman in Glasgow said they did not have a booking for a "party of Scottish schoolboy rugby players."

Asked if they had a booking under any other name for a party of that size, he declined to give details, but did not deny they had a booking for a Scottish party going to Rhodesia.

Headmasters at a number of Scottish public schools are known to be opposed to the tour, but feel unable to act over the boys' outwith school terms.

Mr. Anthony Chenevix-Trench, headmaster at Retts College, Edinburgh, said yesterday he understood the team selection was not restricted to independent and grant-aided schools. Letters of the government, along with representatives from George Watson's College, were sent to the schools.

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Russia accuses Greece of gross interference

MOSCOW, Monday.—The Soviet Union tonight accused the Greek Government of gross interference in the internal affairs of Cyprus and gave warning of "grave consequences" of continued interference.

The Soviet news agency Tass said responsibility for the coup rested with the Greek charter and the university recognised norms of international law.

The Soviet Government expected that Athens "will without delay put an end to the gross interference in the internal affairs of the republic of Cyprus, a sovereign state and member of the U.N."

"Any continuation of this interference would mean that the Greek Government would be assuming grave responsibility for the consequences," the statement said.

Tass said the only Government supported by the will of the people was the Government of President Makarios, stressed.

Approaches to the Greek and Turkish Governments as well as to the Governments of the United States, Britain and France.—Butler.

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The junta have failed, says Archbishop

POOLED DISPATCH BY NEWS AGENCY CORRESPONDENTS

NICOSIA, Monday.—The voice of President Makarios—earlier reported ousted and killed in an army coup—was heard tonight in a dramatic broadcast calling on the people of Cyprus to fight for their independence.

Speaking from a "Free Cyprus Radio Station" believed to be in the West Cyprus town of Paphos, President Makarios declared: "I was the target for the Athens military junta, but they have failed."

He continued: "The military coup by the junta will not succeed. The only way they have managed to achieve so far was to take over the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation."

"They have been trying to get me for a long time and now they have decided to destroy Cyprus and its people."

"But they will fail. They will have to face the determination of the people of Cyprus to resist and to fight."

Listeners in Nicosia noted the Archbishop's voice quivered with emotion as he appealed to the Greek-Cypriot people to rally round him. "Together we will carry on the sacred resistance and win freedom," he declared.

He ended the broadcast with the call: "Long live freedom. Long live Cyprus."

Sporadic machine-gun fire still resounded through Nicosia tonight. Ambulances were the only vehicles rushing through the capital. Occasionally some men dashed for cover as firing broke out again. Hundreds of motorists stopped outside the city, jamming the narrow country highways as they waited for the firing to die.

Sharp fighting was reported between National Guard troops and the Tactical Police Reserve before the police surrendered in some towns of Larnaca and Pafos.

One report from Larnaca said that the Bishop of Kitium, a staunch supporter of President Makarios, had asked for political asylum at a nearby Royal Air Force base.

A battalion of Turkish troops, normally stationed in Cyprus, appeared to be keeping out of the conflict.

Commander Pantelis Panagiotou, head of the Tactical Police Reserve, tonight made a broadcast appeal to his men to lay down their arms and support the new President.

By late afternoon Mr. Sampson had broadcast a proclamation promising that the Government of Cyprus will be steered to the harbour of spiritual unity and the serenity of the people and the army. He announced six "purposes of my Government":

1. Immediate restoration of law and order;
2. Retention of calm and order through the Church;
3. Immediate facing of the "wounding problems" of all classes of the Cyprus people of serious study and realistic politics;
4. Continuation of the procedure for talks on the Cyprus problem through the enlarged community, meaning the inter-communal talks between Cypriot Greeks and Turks;
5. Cyprus remains neutral, offering friendship to all but demanding respect from all;
6. Declaration of free elections as soon as possible, but not later than a year from now in order that the right opportunity may be given to every one in Cyprus to elect his Government freely;
7. Foreign embassies tonight appealed to their nationals to remain indoors until the confused situation was more clear.

Information sources said that the coup was preceded by a massive police crackdown on Eoka supporters in Nicosia, which was reported held before the Army. The Cabinet was also reported to have expressed appreciation about the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and asked for moderation.

Stern warning by Turkish Premier

From DAVID ROGERS ANKARA, Monday

The Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Bulent Ecevit, tonight met military commanders after issuing a stern warning—clearly aimed at Greece—that his Government would not tolerate any infringement of Turkish rights.

Turkey regards itself as guardian of the 110,000-strong Turkish-speaking community in Cyprus.

Information sources said that Turkish military units had been sent in a state of increased preparedness, but there was no confirmation of local Press reports of a full alert.

Mr. Ecevit cut short a provincial tour to the capital and drove straight to military headquarters accompanied by Chief of General Staff, Semih Sancak.

The Cabinet was also meeting, and the leaders of the three political parties asked President Fahri Kucuk to convene an emergency session of Parliament, adjourned for the summer recess.

During the day British and American diplomats called at the foreign ministry to discuss what observers described as the most serious Cyprus crisis since when Greece and Turkey almost went to war.

It comes at a time when Ankara-Athens relations are already close to breaking point over a dispute about exploration rights in the Aegean Sea.

The Cypriot national guard has always been regarded here as strongly pro-Greek and in unity with Greece and the island instrument for Athens to report over a coup.

Bus crews threaten Edinburgh curfew

Bus crews in Edinburgh are to impose a 9.30 p.m. curfew on all services because attacks on crews are increasing. The ban was announced yesterday after a meeting of the branch committee of the busmen's union, the Transport and General Workers.

Mr. A. G. Weir, the branch secretary, said the action had been decided at a meeting of busmen on Sunday. No services after 9.30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays on dates which would be specified later. He could not comment on when the ban was likely to begin.

He said that the action was being taken because of the increase in assaults on bus crews in recent weeks.

He said: "Members feel that their lack of support from the ordinary travelling public in assisting crews as witnesses when assaults occur. This has meant that many of the assaults have been allowed to 'escape' punishment. This action is designed to draw the attention of the Edinburgh public to the dangers which bus crews are facing when carrying out their normal duties in the service of the public."

Mr. Weir added that he would be meeting corporation transport officials today to discuss the situation. Busmen were very angry over the situation, and it was possible that the ban would begin this weekend.

Mr. R. E. Bottrell, manager of the corporation transport department, said there was no doubt these attacks on busmen and their families in the last few days had been quite a spate, and another had taken place while the union meeting was in progress.

He said: "I am sympathetic with the crews in this situation, particularly those on ocean-man operated bus services. It seems to me that as a result of drink, the public have been having alterations with the crews and resort to violence. This is producing a very unhappy atmosphere."

Mr. Bottrell said the transport department would endeavour to maintain services as well as it could, but he could not predict what the effect would be. If the threat was carried out, there would be no services.

Confidence on the question of bus violence have been held regularly in the city, involving the union, management, and police. More than half the city's buses are now equipped with radio link to transport headquarters, and plain-clothes policemen travel on known trouble routes.

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