



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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~~DATE: 7/2/2019~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: WSAG Meeting of 15 July 1974 on Cyprus

Participants:

Principals

- Secretary of State Kissinger
- DepSecDef Clements
- ASD/ISA Ellsworth
- DepSecState Ingersoll
- UnderSecState Sisco
- Chairman/JCS Brown
- DCI Colby

Time and Place: White House Situation Room, 10:15 AM

Mr. Colby briefed on the situation in Cyprus reflecting that we knew very little of what was going on including whether Makarios was alive or dead. It did appear that inter-communal warfare had not broken out and that conflicts so far were confined to the Greek Cypriots.

Gen. Brown said that the aircraft carrier AMERICA was due to chop out of the Mediterranean today with its relief not due for 10-12 days. Provisionally he was holding the AMERICA at Rota. Secretary Kissinger said the AMERICA should continue to be held and steam neither east nor west as, he agreed with Gen. Brown, either would provide a signal.

Mr. Sisco said he didn't think there was much we could do within the next 48 hours. He said our objective should be to avoid a war between Greece and Turkey and to avoid giving the Soviets a pretext for exploiting the crisis. So far he did not see the integrity of Cyprus as being in question as there is no inter-communal conflict and it appears to be a coup not a civil war.

Secretary Kissinger said we must prevent the internationalization of the issue by which he meant either Greek or Turkish involvement or Soviet action. He said we should keep it an internal Cypriot affair and develop a few common themes for articulation in Athens and Ankara as well as in other capitals, international organizations, and our public statements.

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It was decided to make demarches both in Athens and in Ankara. To the Greeks we should say the United States opposes change in the political status of Cyprus or any change in the rights of the Turkish minority. In Ankara we should say we are aiming at preventing the internationalization of the crisis, that we urge the Turks not to let themselves get provoked, that we support the maintenance of the existing rights of the Turkish minority on Cyprus, and that we have told the Greeks we oppose any change in the political status of the Island or in the rights of the Turkish minority.

Mr. Ellsworth mentioned Luns' watching brief and Secretary Kissinger said he saw no disadvantage in letting NATO take a hand and in encouraging Luns to talk to the Turks and the Greeks.

It was agreed to hold another meeting on the following day or the next with the discussion enlarged to include the Greek-Turkish Aegean conflict.

Prepared by:

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