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CYPRUS CRISIS IN 1967



The State Department's Executive Secretariat was responsible for creating a documentary record on various International crises during the 1960s. The documents in The Cyprus Crisis, 1967 were collected and collated from a variety of State Department sources and represent an administrative history of the crisis from the perspective of the U.S. government and its foreign policy.

Date Range: 1963-1967

Content: 5,991 images

Source Library: National Archives (U.S.)

Detailed Description:

Source Note: RG 59, General Records of the Department of State, Office of the Executive Secretariat, Cyprus Crisis Files, 1967, National Archives II, College Park, MD

N.B.: This collection comprises the entire contents of the Primary Source Media microfilm product entitled "The Cyprus Crisis, 1967: The State Department's Crisis Files."

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"...Developments on and relating to the Island of Cyprus during the last few days have created a situation of utmost gravity. As I see it, the issue is war or peace and not the rights and wrongs of any specific problem. I appeal to you, as I am appealing to King Constantine and President Sunay, to do everything within the power of your Government to reduce the threat to peace now hanging over your region."

President Johnson Letter to President Makarios

Fighting between Turkish Cypriot military formations and Greek Cypriot police and National Guard units broke out on November 15, 1967, at Agios Theodoros and nearby Kophinou. On November 16, the Turkish Government demanded that Greek Cypriots immediately cease

their attacks and threatened military intervention. The following day, a Turkish note to the Greek Government demanded the removal of its troops on Cyprus, the recall of General Grivas, compensation for victims of Greek Cypriot attacks, and the end of restrictions on Turkish Cypriots. After consultations with the involved states and at the United Nations, the United States decided to send a special envoy to the area to support the efforts of U.N. and NATO representatives to avoid a military clash over the island.

On November 22, President Johnson asked former Under Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance to serve as his envoy. Vance arrived in Ankara at noon the following day. Between November 23 and December 4, Vance shuttled among Ankara, Athens, and Nicosia in an effort to secure a peaceful settlement.

"In my opinion, the Greek Government remains cool and determined as the war clouds thicken. They have a real desire to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. The King again today reaffirmed his commitment that there would be no preventive military actions by Greek forces. The Greek Government has also accepted certain military risks in limiting military call-ups and military movements in order to avoid provocation of the Turks and exciting the populace. They have leaned over backwards in an effort to formulate a proposition for me to convey to the Turks tomorrow which would be compatible with Greek national dignity and Turkish demands for Greek troop Withdrawals. I could not ask them to do more."

Cyrus Vance Telegram to Dean Rusk

This collection includes almost a day-by-day record of the events, including the U.S. and the United Nation's response to the civil war and the threat to NATO.

Research topics include:

- Presidential Adviser Cyrus Vance's Mission
- Arlie House Project
- Greek Cypriot efforts at union with Greece and Turkish efforts to prevent union
- U.S. Defense Attaché reports on Turk-Greek Cypriot guerrilla activities
- Makarios' role as champion of peace
- Turkish government's threat to Greece and pre-invasion plans
- Role of the United Nations peacemaking efforts and the Green Line