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U.S.C., section 403g)

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GREECE: Prime Minister Markezinis' efforts to induce former political leaders to participate in the next election have failed so far, but the government still expects to go ahead with the election.

Most of the former civilian leaders have yet to take a final position on whether to participate in the election. The junta will soon decree a law on political parties, and these former leaders may be waiting to see what kind of parties will be permitted before committing themselves. Ex-prime minister Kanellopoulos, however, last week firmly rejected Markezinis' offer to participate in politics under the present constitution, stating that his position toward the junta was unchanged. Ex-minister and Center Union leader Mavros has also expressed disdain for the "Markezinis solution." Some younger politicians, however, apparently have an interest in participating.

Markezinis, in a recent interview in Le Monde, has also issued an invitation to Ilias Iliou of a formerly legal communist-front party to participate in the elections--provided, of course, that his party would renounce any attempt to overthrow the existing political and economic order. Earlier reporting has indicated that Markezinis believes that the leftists want to participate in the election under some thin disguise like the old United Democratic Left, and that such participation should be encouraged.

The prime minister, in the same interview, also said that he favored legalization of the Greek Communist Party. Any movement to restore the Greek Communist Party to legal status would, of course, be met with solid opposition from the military. Greek Armed Forces chief Zagorianakos, however, reportedly took a relaxed attitude toward Markezinis' remarks, laughingly suggesting that it was some sort of "smoke screen." []

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[] the prime minister's provocative comments are largely intended to generate political discussion and demonstrate that the present transitional phase of government is legitimate and healthy and will lead eventually to stable parliamentary democracy.

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Meanwhile, former junta member Konstantinos
Aslanidis has roundly denounced President Papadopoulos,
stating publicly that he cannot tolerate "a dictator-
ship under a parliamentary cloak." This has led
to speculation that he and other dissident junta
members might become part of an anti-Papadopoulos
opposition. []

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