

JANE SCORRELL  
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27 DEC 43

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(NOFORN IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO RELEASABLE TO [Redacted])

1. CYPRUS: A CEASEFIRE APPARENTLY IS EFFECTIVE 27 DEC. BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERS AGREED TO A BRITISH PROPOSAL THAT WILL PUT UK, GREEK, AND TURKISH FORCES ON CYPRUS UNDER BRITISH COMMAND. THE BRITISH AGREED TO SUPERVISE THE CEASE FIRE AND ESTABLISH A NEUTRAL ZONE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES. THE COMMANDERS OF GREEK TURKISH AND BRITISH MILITARY GARRISONS MET WITH BRITISH DIPLOMATIC LEADERS IN PREPARATION FOR IMPLEMENTING SUPERVISION OF CEASE FIRE. ATHENS AND ANKARA HAD AGREED TO THIS PLAN EARLIER. RETTRENONS AND DISTRUST BETWEEN TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOTS WILL ADD TO PROBLEM OF KEEPING PEACE. THERE IS DOUBT POLITICAL LEADERS OF EITHER COMMUNITY CAN EXERT EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER BATHENIST ELEMENTS. BESIDES PROVIDING FORCE TO POLICE CEASEFIRE THE BRITISH PLAN WILL SERVE TO PREVENT CLASHES BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH ARMY UNITS ON CYPRUS AND CIRCUMVENT UNILATERAL

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~~TURKISH INTERVENTION.~~

3. TURKEY: PRIME MINISTER INONU HAS FORMED NEW MINORITY GOVERNMENT THAT MAY PROVIDE SHORTTERM ANSWER TO TURKEY'S POLITICAL CRISIS. CABINET NAMED 25 DEC IS BASED ON HIS OWN REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AND INCLUDES SEVERAL INDEPENDENTS. INONU PROBABLY BELIEVES ENOUGH MEMBERS OF OTHER PARTIES WILL DEFECT SO WHEN HE CAN WIN VOTE OF APPROVAL.

WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OF THESE PARTIES FROM INONU'S PREVIOUS COALITION CAUSED ITS COLLAPSE EARLY THIS MONTH. ALTHOUGH PARTY LEADERS REJECTED HIS TERMS FOR RECONSTRUCTING THE COALITION, BOTH PARTIES ARE HIT BY DISSEMINATION, AND MAY GIVE INONU VOTES HE NEEDS FOR SHORT TIME.

FACTORS FAVORING INONU'S SHAKY GOVERNMENT ARE SUPPORT OF COUNTRY'S MILITARY LEADERS, NEED FOR UNITY ON CYPRUS ISSUE, AND ABSENCE PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE.

3. HONGKONG: CHINESE MINISTER KALAZAN REPORTEDLY PLANE VISIT ARRANG EARLY NEXT YEAR TO BRITISH HONGKONG'S VETERAN OFFICERS TO HOLD

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BACK TALK

THE TERRITORY HE EVIDENTLY INTENDS EXPLOIT ENTHUSIASM GENERATED IN ANGOLA LAST SEPTEMBER DURING PRESIDENT THOMAZ' VISIT, WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY DEPICTED IN LISBON AS INDICATION OF THE ANGOLANS BASIC LOYALTY TO PORTUGAL. SALAZAR HAS NOT LEFT THE IBERIAN PENINSULA SINCE HE ASSUMED OFFICE IN 1932.

4 GREECE. EARLY GREEK NATIONAL ELECTIONS APPEAR PROBABLE FOLLOWING SUBMISSION PREMIER PAPANDEOU'S RESIGNATION 24 DEC.

PAPANDEOU'S DEPART FOLLOWED PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, WHICH HIS CENTER UNION PARTY WON 167 TO 130 ONLY BECAUSE <sup>27</sup> DEPUTIES OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) SUPPORTED IT. PAPANDEOU HAD REPEATEDLY STATED HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT A MAJORITY TIED TO EDA VOTES.

KING PAUL THEN ASKED PANGIOTIS KANELLOPOULOS, LEADER OF THE MAJOR OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT, THE NATIONAL RADICAL UNION (ERE), TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITIES OF FORMING GOVERNMENT. KANELLOPOULOS REPORTEDLY INFORMED THE KING ON 27 DEC THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FORM WORKABLE COALITION GOVERNMENT.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE REVEALED ERE REMAINS COHESIVE FORCE DESPITE ITS UNEXPECTED DEFEAT IN RECENT ELECTION AND SUBSEQUENT ASSASSINATION OF

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PARTY LEADERSHIP BY FORMER PREMIER KARAHALIS.

SHOULD SITUATION IN CYPRUS CONTINUE DETERIORATE, KING  
 SHOULD ASK NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES FORM GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY  
 FOR DURATION OF THE CRISIS. SHOULD CYPRUS CRISIS TAKE KING  
 SHOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW PAPANDREOU'S ADVICE AND RESOLVE PARLIAMENT IN  
 PREPARATION FOR NEW ELECTION.

END OF MESSAGE

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