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GEHEIM

Land : Cyprus.
Onderwerp : General George GRIVAS.

Referenties :

Datum van waarneming : Tweede helft juli 1959.

Bron : Van bevriende zijde.

Opmerkingen :

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. J.E. de QUAY
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no. 4

's-GRAVENHAGE.

GEHEIM

Cyprus

GENERAL GEORGE GRIVAS

Recent statements and actions of Lt.-Gen. George GRIVAS, leader of the Greek Cypriot underground organization EOKA during its terrorist campaign against British rule in Cyprus, indicate that his entrance on the Greek political scene is imminent. This event will confront the pro-Western, moderate conservative government of Premier KARAMANLIS with the most serious challenge in its nearly four years in office. If GRIVAS were successful in a bid for power, he could wreck the Cyprus accords, which he has criticized in recent weeks.

The 61-year-old GRIVAS was born on Cyprus but became a Greek citizen in his youth and graduated from the Army Cadet School in Athens. When Italy invaded Greece in 1940, he became chief of staff of a division fighting in Albania. Following the German occupation of Greece and demobilization of the Greek Army, GRIVAS was instrumental in forming a secret, extreme-rightist organization known as "X". This organization, devoted primarily to curtailing Communist strength in Greece, took part in helping quell the Communist uprising of December 1944.

GRIVAS, apparently disappointed by his assignments, resigned from the army as a lieutenant colonel in March 1945 and tried to convert "X" into a rightist political party with himself as leader. This initial effort failed; "X" was unable to elect a single deputy in the elections of 1946 and 1950.

In October 1954, GRIVAS secretly returned to Cyprus to organize EOKA and initiate a terrorist campaign which lasted, with interruptions, from April 1955 to February 1959. He returned to Athens in March and received numerous honors, a hero's welcome from the people,

and promotion to lieutenant general.

GRIVAS has a reputation for coolness and bravery in action, is regarded as modest and ascetic in personal tastes, and has often been described as a "man of the people". His romanticism and highly emotional nature have caused him to jump to hasty conclusions on personal and political issues. He is known to be intensely anti-Turkish and anti-British, and he has denounced Greece's "subservience" to foreign powers.

GRIVAS has criticized the handling of the Cyprus issue by Archbishop MAKARIOS and the Greek Government and has scolded the Greek political parties as lacking principles. He has announced his willingness to serve if the nation "calls" him.

His rise to power would face several obstacles - lack of political experience, probable covert opposition from the palace, and his reputation as an ultrarightist. GRIVAS' political strength would appear to lie mainly in his reputation for incorruptibility and his appeal to intense Greek nationalism.

Tweede helft juli 1959.