

Kissinger Scapegoated in Bid for NATO Reorganization

NEW YORK, August 18 (IPS) — The alignments emerging from the Cyprus situation are becoming clearer every day. On the one hand, Kissinger and his entourage of reactionary CIA agents and State Department officials are linked to Turkey's "reckless opportunism." On the other hand, British Foreign Minister James Callaghan, saboteur of the Geneva talks and example par excellence of the new breed of "progressives," along with the British government, the Greek left, and manipulated world opinion are lining up behind Greece in an expanded replay of earlier mooted "differences" between Kissinger and Schlesinger.

Watergating Kissinger

The whole Cyprus affair is being used as a handy cover for watergating Kissinger, which had been scheduled to occur this month in any case around the less spectacular Senate Foreign Relations Committee debate on detente. Doing their best to discredit Kissinger for his support of the CIA-backed Greek junta and the short-lived Sampson regime in Cyprus as well as for his "tilt" toward Turkey, the media are taking pains to absolve President Ford, who, according to the *New York Times*, "unlike his Secretary of State, bears no responsibility" for the Cyprus mess. The *Washington Post* echoes the progressive CIA opinion that the Cyprus tangle is a "hard blow for Kissinger," and smashes Kissinger's "upside down diplomacy" in asking Greek Premier

Konstantin Karamanlis to come to Washington rather than going to Greece himself.

Ecevit: A Latter-day Ataturk

Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit is linked to Kissinger as well. Although Ecevit is presently enjoying tremendous popularity in Turkey because of his "no-nonsense" Cyprus policy and is effusively billed as a latter-day Ataturk, the *New York Times* notes smugly that "his success merely papers over a multitude of cracks, any one of which might open up to swallow him." Mentioning that Ecevit studied under Kissinger at a Harvard seminar in 1957, the *Times* pushes the Kissinger-Turkey link even further by citing that both Karamanlis and Greek Foreign Minister George Mavros have rejected Kissinger's mediation attempts while Ecevit "would welcome an initiative by Kissinger."



Ecevit's ties to Kissinger are only one of the many "cracks in the wall" that will do the Turkish Premier in when the time comes for a "progressive" military takeover. Locked into an unlikely and potentially deadly coalition with the fanatic rightwing National Salvation Party, social democrat Ecevit is also surrounded by the military, whose generals have always suspected Ecevit's "left-of-center" rhetoric and are prepared to move in without a second thought should the coalition government collapse or should Ecevit try to compromise Turkish national "honor" in Cyprus.

The Anti-American Cover

Meanwhile anti-American frenzy runs rampant throughout Greece. Demonstrating against "Kissinger the Killer," the Greeks have picked up the anti-American line from Premier Karamanlis, whose withdrawal of Greece from NATO, combined with the possibility of "vacating or at least reorganizing" American military installations in Greece, has served as a distraction for Greece's humiliating decision to refrain from intervening militarily in Cyprus.

According to the *Washington Post*, an American official, unperturbed by the CIA-orchestrated show of anti-U.S. sentiment, blithely dismissed the massive street demonstrations in Athens and other Greek cities as child's play: "We're not going to do anything. They've been repressed for seven years and they've got a lot of steam to blow off, and the quicker the better."

Papandreou Returns

The Greek left, suckered into this display of impotence, has wildly welcomed back long-time "anti-American" Andreas Papandreou after seven years of exile. Softening his earlier statement that the CIA was behind the return of Karamanlis to Greece, Papandreou is so far playing the perfect role by saying only that the CIA was behind Turkey's thrust for power in Cyprus. Although he still criticizes the new Greek civilian government, Papandreou may very likely get drawn into it, along with such counterinsurgents as Mikis Theodorakis. So far, the Soviet Union has refrained from biting the anti-American bait and is supporting neither Greece nor Turkey, suspecting that each alternative spells CIA/NATO.

The removal of Greek forces from NATO hardly means NATO's collapse. Greece is still involved politically in the organization and her troops — as noted wryly by the *New York Times* — have been used by NATO only to defend the Greek border, which Greece will continue to do whether or not she is in NATO. In addition, Greece's "withdrawal" will give a credible cover for the beefing up of Turkey's military now that Turkey is so "exposed."

Cyprus itself remains — and will remain — little more than an armed camp bloodied by perpetual guerrilla warfare and kept hanging with endless peace talks. With the Turkish army firmly encamped on the island, NATO has acquired a new base of operations in the Middle East as well as a new, streamlined "detente-is-over" look.