



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

~~SECRET~~  
~~NOFORN~~  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

copied by T for adm 4  
15 JUL 1976

*clw*

9 JUL 1976

In reply refer to:  
I-23123/76

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Potential Turkish-Greek Conflict in the Aegean -- **INFORMATION**  
MEMORANDUM

(U) Tension between Greece and Turkey has increased significantly with the imminent entry of the Turkish seismic exploration ship SISMİK-I (formerly the "Horā") into the Aegean' Sea.. On-going Turkish naval and air exercises, SEA-WOLF-76, also contribute to this tension. The exercises will continue until 13 July in the Marmara Sea, and we believe they will extend into the Aegean and possibly the Eastern Mediterranean. SISMİK-I is completing dock testing and is due to begin its test cruise in the Marmara Sea 9 or 10 July. It will subsequently enter the Aegean for oil exploration, tentatively after 15 July.

*Turkey*

~~(S/NOFORN)~~ Both Greek and Turkish press accounts have created a frenzy of apprehension concerning these events. The Turkish press reports that Greece has ordered warships to stand by near the islands off the Turkish mainland and to sink SISMİK-I if it enters the Aegean. Press reports from Athens indicate that the Greek Armed Forces are in a state of increased preparedness in anticipation of the sailing of SISMİK-I. In an apparent effort to reduce tensions, Greek Defense Minister Averof on 26 June ordered the Commander-in-Chief of the Hellenic Armed Forces to take no offensive action in response to SISMİK-I's entry in the Aegean without his personal approval. The Greek press reported on 8 July that Averof declared that Turkish forces had not violated international rules during their air and naval exercises.

~~(S)~~ Increased Greek-Turkish tensions could affect the conclusion of the new Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with Greece, presently at a difficult moment in the negotiations. Further, the tensions could affect Congressional consideration of the new DCA with Turkey, apart from any dependence on a successful DCA with Greece.

*9 July 76*

~~(S)~~ Finally, Aegean tensions could also affect developments on Cyprus. The Cypriot press has speculated that the Turks might seek to gain new

Classified by Director, European Region  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 84



~~SECRET~~

SEC DEF CONTR No. X-2049

~~SECRET~~

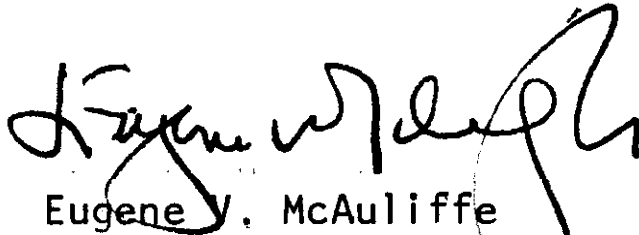
~~NOFORN~~

2

advantages on the island if the Greeks attack SISMIK-1 in the Aegean. The current Turkish military exercises include naval landing exercises on Cyprus. The Turks imposed restrictions on the movement of foreigners in the occupied areas as of 7 July. Furthermore, the families of western diplomats are reportedly leaving or planning to leave.

(C) The United States does not enjoy great leverage over the Greeks and Turks on this issue, but we have strongly counseled moderation and restraint in discussions both in Washington and in the field, and believe our advice has had some helpful effect.

(S) State's assessment is that the Turks will neither send the SISMIK-1 into disputed waters nor provide it with naval escorts. They expect the Greeks will also exercise restraint. Nevertheless, Kissinger's concern was relayed to the Turks and Greeks yesterday.

  
Eugene V. McAuliffe  
Assistant Secretary of Defense

~~NOFORN~~

~~SECRET~~

