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PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

October 7, 1974

Statement for White House Press Secretary

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The President met this afternoon with Archbishop Iakovos (YAH-ko-vos), Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America. The meeting afforded the President and the Archbishop the opportunity for informal discussion primarily on matters relating to the situation in Cyprus. I would note, in particular, that the President and the Archbishop discussed the need for continuing humanitarian efforts to relieve the suffering on Cyprus, and the President reviewed the steps the United States has and is taking in the relief effort.

\* \* \* \* \*

Q: What is the level of the U.S. contribution?

A: The United States has already contributed \$4.5 million for Cyprus relief, and the President has authorized a \$750,000 grant to the International Red Cross. This is only an interim figure. The U.S. contributions will continue.

10/7/74

- 2 -

Q: Why did the President meet with the Archbishop?

A: The Archbishop is a leading figure in the Greek-American community. He had earlier been in correspondence with the President on developments relating to Cyprus, and the President wanted to take this opportunity to review U.S. policy on this subject.

Q: Was the Archbishop critical of U.S. policy?

A: No, I would not characterize the tone of the meeting as one of criticism -- rather as an informal, cordial, helpful exchange of views.

Q: Did the President say the United States would be stepping up its role?

A: The United States has made clear its continuing willingness to assist the negotiating process in whatever way the parties involved believe would be most helpful. That continues to be the U.S. position.

Q: Did the issue of U.S. military aid to Turkey come up during the conversation?

A: Yes, I believe it was one of the topics of conversation, but I don't have any specifics for you.



1. Do you have any reaction to the election of Karamanalis in Greece?  
Has the President sent a message to him?

Guidance: The President and Secretary of State Kissinger have sent congratulatory messages to Prime Minister Karamanalis. In his message, the President said that he was heartened by the return of democracy to the land of its birth.

FYI: We do not plan to release the text of the messages. It is possible that the Government of Greece may do so. End FYI.

2. Do you have any comment on reports that the Greek government may allow the U.S. to keep its bases in Greece?

Guidance: Refer to State.

12/13/74  
FYI: The State Department has received a note from the Greek government asking for discussions on the technical problems involved with the removal or readjustment of NATO bases in Greece.

4/21/75

**Q.** Mr. President, in your April 10 message to the Congress you mentioned economic and military assistance to Greece. What are the amounts and categories of this assistance?

**A.** We are consulting very closely with the Greek government on the details of this assistance. Since these consultations are still in progress, I will simply say that this program is being developed in keeping with the common interests we share with Greece as friends and allies.

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1/21/75

AID TO GREECE

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ANTI-AMERICAN RIOTS IN ATHENS

Q. What is the President's reaction to the anti-American demonstrations in Athens? Who perpetrated them and how will they affect our relations with Greece as a whole?

A. I think the President stated our policy toward Greece very clearly in his speech to the Congress April 10 when he said that we are reaffirming our traditional ties with the people of Greece and actively discussing a program of economic and military assistance to them.

As for the demonstration specifically, I have been informed that no Americans have been injured nor has the Embassy suffered intensive property damage. I think for further details on the incident you should check with the State Department.



GREEK BASES CLOSED

- Q. Would you comment on the termination of the home port arrangements for Sixth Fleet ships and the closing of the American air base at Athens airport? What are the implications of these closures for U.S. policy?
- A. The announcement of these closures came at the end of a second round of talks on the status of the U.S. military facilities in Greece. These talks, which are still underway, have proceeded in a spirit of friendship and understanding in an effort to achieve a mutually satisfactory agreement on terms acceptable to both sides.

While the talks are underway we would not want to speculate about the results of the discussions, but let me just say that we have enjoyed a long-standing friendship with Greece, which the President reaffirmed in his address to the Congress on April 10.

August 6, 1975

FIGHTER PLANES TO GREECE

Q. Would you comment on the first delivery of 60 U.S. A-7 fighter bombers to Greece? Doesn't this sale simply exacerbate the precarious situation in NATO's southern flank? Why are we doing this now, when Turkey cannot receive U.S. military equipment? Are we, in fact, tilting toward Greece?

A. This is a routine weapons sale contracted over 12 months ago (June, 1974) for which we are now following through. These weapons are supplied to Greece as a part of our overall foreign military assistance program to friendly foreign nations and benefits the security interests not only of the United States, but also of Greece in the Eastern Mediterranean area. As you know, the Administration is forbidden, at this time, by the Congressional embargo to supply arms to Turkey.

FYI: Greece withdrew its military forces from NATO in August, 1974. The Turkish arms embargo was levied in February, 1975.

For specifics on the A-7, or its capabilities, refer to DOD.

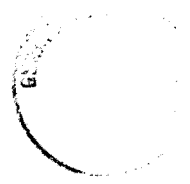
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Q. How many bases do we have in Greece?

A. Three major installations; an air base, a naval base, and a naval communications facility.

Q. How long has this agreement been negotiated?

A. This particular renegotiation of our bilateral security agreement has been negotiated for about a year.

Q. Can you give us any details of the new agreement?

A. I suggest you check with State on that.

1. Is the U. S. considering raising the price of its gold as France did yesterday?

1/10/75  
GUIDANCE: The U.S. has no plans to raise the valuation of its gold stocks, but I would suggest you check with Treasury for detailed comment on this subject.

GREEK BASES NEGOTIATIONS

Q. Can you tell us about progress on a U. S. -Greek security agreement. Will a new one be signed soon? Is it in response to our agreement with Turkey and will it be approximately the same kind of agreement and of the same magnitude?

A. As you may know, Greek Foreign Minister Bitsios is in Washington at our invitation for consultations to put the finishing touches on the principles of a U. S. -Greek bases agreement.

In connection with these ongoing negotiations, he will be meeting with the President tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 p.m. We expect to have more information for you following that meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH BITSIOS

The President will be meeting today at 3:30 p.m. with Greek Foreign Minister Dimitrios Bitsios. Bitsios is in Washington at our invitation to put the finishing touches on the principles of a new U. S. -Greek Security Agreement. We expect to have a read-out for you following the meeting.

Q. Is an agreement likely to be reached while Bitsios is here in D. C. ?

A. The principles of the agreement are near completion.

I understand that State may have something for you on that later today.

\* \* \* \* \*

FYI: Signing ceremony to initial the principles at 1:30 p.m. ;  
State Backgrounder on the agreement at 3:00 p.m. END FYI.

\* \* \* \* \*

Q. How much aid are we talking about for Greece this year?

A. You may want to check with State, but it is approximately \$700 million.

Q. Does Greece participate militarily in NATO?

A. No, but they remain politically active in NATO.

April 21, 1976

RUMORS OF CARAMANLIS VISIT

Q: There are rumors out of Athens that Greek Prime Minister Caramanlis will visit the United States soon. Do you have any information on that?

A: As you may recall, the President mentioned in his remarks at the AHEPA banquet in Washington on April 5 that he was looking forward to meeting with Prime Minister Caramanlis in the near future. Beyond that I don't have any specific information for you at this time on a visit to the U.S. by the Greek Prime Minister.





July 16, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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The President and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had a second round of discussions in the Oval Office this morning. FRG Foreign Minister Genscher, Dr. Jurgen Ruhfus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Federal Chancellery, Secretary of State Kissinger and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Brent Scowcroft again participated in today's meeting which last<sup>ed</sup> 90 minutes.

President Ford and Chancellor Schmidt devoted a considerable portion of this morning's meeting to a review of specific matters of current bilateral interest to the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. They agreed that US-FRG bilateral relations are excellent. The two leaders continued yesterday's discussions on the subject of cooperation between the developed and developing nations, and in this context they discussed current African developments.

This morning's meeting also included a review of East-West relations as well as a discussion of the current status of the SALT and MBFR negotiations. Finally, they discussed issues relating to the 1975 Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the President and the Chancellor agreed on the importance that both the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany attach to implementation of the CSCE documents.

President Ford will attend a reception hosted by Chancellor Schmidt aboard the German sail training ship Gorch Fock in Baltimore this evening.

11 August 1976

GREEK/TURK SITUATION IN AEGEAN

Q: Do you have any comment about the fact that the Greeks and Turks appear to be heading toward an outbreak of hostilities in the Aegean Sea?

A: We understand that the Greeks have made an appeal to the World Court and have asked for an emergency meeting of the UN Security COUNCIL. We hope that they can resolve this issue peacefully and are encouraging both sides to work constructively to this end.

ok

## US-GREEK BASES NEGOTIATIONS

**Q:** Mr. President, the second round in the US-Greek bases negotiations was held in Athens April 7-29. According to the joint communique issued at the close of the session, we agreed to Greek requests to close Athenai Air Force Base near Athens and terminate home-porting. How does this affect our security commitments in the Eastern Mediterranean?

**A:** First, I would note that I had a very good, very useful meeting with Prime Minister Caramanlis in Brussels.

Our current discussions with the Greek Government on bilateral defense issues are being conducted in a spirit of cooperation and cordiality reflecting our longstanding relationship with that country. We are satisfied with the steps being taken as a result of the second round of talks. They were mutually agreed upon and insure the continued viability and strength of security arrangements in the Eastern Mediterranean.

OK

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11. When will the President submit specific requests to the Congress for economic and military assistance to Greece? What are the amounts and categories of assistance?

Aid to Greece - Refer to the State Department.

## THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

Q: Will you be agreeing with President Sadat, when you meet him, on the resumption of the Geneva Conference? When do you expect Geneva to be resumed and how do you envisage the role of the Soviets, the PLO and/or a Palestinian representation and of others like France, the UK or some of the non-aligned countries which Sadat has mentioned?

A: Although we are prepared to go to Geneva, its resumption is a matter which involves all of the parties. We are still seeking their views and we are in touch with the Soviets who share with us the role of Co-Chairman of the Conference. As to the inclusion of other participants, this is a matter for the parties involved to decide, and there is still the difficult problem that the PLO does not recognize Israel's right to exist.

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GREECE-TURKEY-CYPRUS

Q: Your Administration is being accused of "tilting" toward Turkey, being unfair to Greece, and thus seriously damaging our relations with that country. Could you comment on this and the U.S. role in the Cyprus crisis?

A: We have not "tilted" toward Turkey. The diplomatic efforts of the United States have focused on three essential objectives:

--to stop the fighting on Cyprus;

--to assist in relieving the human suffering of the people of Cyprus;

--to assist the parties toward productive negotiations for the restoration of peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

We have made progress in each area. A ceasefire has been achieved and is holding. The United States has urged military restraint and we have supported every UN Security Council resolution on Cyprus, including the most recent resolution disapproving unilateral military actions taken against the Republic of Cyprus and urging that negotiations be resumed among the parties.

The United States has been a major contributor to international efforts aimed at relieving suffering on the island. I have directed that money and supplies be provided to the International Red Cross and the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. By December 31, we will have contributed more than \$7.6 million to this Cyprus relief effort.

In seeking to bring the parties into productive negotiations, the United States has maintained direct and frequent contact with the leaders of the Greek, Turkish and Cypriot Governments. We have been encouraged by the talks on Cyprus between Acting President Clerides and Vice President Denktash.

The United States is prepared to play a more active role, if that is what the parties desire, in helping to find a solution to the difficult Cyprus problem. Such a role would be in the context of the continuing overall goals I have set; to preserve the territorial integrity and independence of Cyprus and to restore stability and peace to the Eastern Mediterranean. I want to emphasize that the U. S. greatly values the friendship of Greece, Cyprus and Turkey, and it is in this context that we will continue to offer our assistance.