



ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΕΩΣ
ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ & ΗΜΙΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ
ΤΡΑΠΕΖΩΝ, ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΩΝ Κ.Α.Π.
ΔΙ' ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑΤΩΝ ΤΥΠΟΥ
ΟΔΟΣ ΣΚΟΥΛΕΝΙΟΥ 4 - 5^{ΟΣ} ΟΡΟΦΟΣ - ΑΘΗΝΑΙ
ΤΗΛ. 236.455

ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΟΣ

ATHENS NEWS

ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ

10 ΦΕΒ. 1972

TOP LEVEL GREEK MEETING ON CYPRUS TENSION

THE Greek Government announced that a high level meeting took place yesterday to consider the situation in Cyprus "As it has develt of weapons from Czechoslovakia."

A government spokesman said the meeting took place under the chairmanship of the Regent, Gen. George Zoetakis.

It was the first time since the Cyprus crisis in November 1967 which brought Greece and Turkey to the brink of war that a meeting to discuss the situation in the island has been called under Greece's top executives.

The spokesman did not announce details of the meeting or the officials who participated.

Earlier, another spokesman said Foreign Undersecretary Costas Panayotakos, accompanied by General Christos Charalambopoulos, commander of the Cyprus National Guard, and Colonel John Papadakis, were summoned from Nicosia to attend the meeting in Athens.

A government source said Premier George Papadopoulos and Alternate Foreign Minister Christian Xanthopoulos-Palamas were also present.

The Greek Government on Saturday denied reports from Cyprus that it had protested

the importation of a large shipment of weapons which were allegedly for the needs of a para-military organization being organized by President Archbishop Makarios.

According to Cyprus newspapers, 10,000 containers with weapons and ammunition arrived in Cyprus on Jan. 21, on board the Danish ship Stassia Kopenhagen.

The arms included automatic weapons, machine guns, bazookas and 32 millimeter mortars and were stored in the grounds of the Greek mining company at Mitseson village in northern Cyprus under heavy police guard, the reports said. The armaments were reportedly of Czechoslovakian make.

An official announcement yesterday reported that the meeting was held to examine the situation in Cyprus.

The government has recently found proof of the importation of large quantities of arms from Czechoslovakia.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister George Papadopoulos, Alternate Foreign Minister Christian Xanthopoulos-Palamas, Deputy Premiers Stylianos Pattakos and Nikolaos Makarezos, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Odysseus Anghelis, Foreign Undersecretary Constantine Panayotakos, the Chief of the Cyprus National Guard, Lt. Gen. Haralambopoulos, the Commander of the Greek contingent in Cyprus, Colonel Papadakis and other senior officials.

Meanwhile, the sudden departure from Nicosia to Athens of Foreign Undersecretary Panayotakos, the Chief of the

Cyprus National Guard and the Commander of the Greek contingent on the island gave rise to rumors that it was connected with the import of arms by the Cyprus Government.

Reports said that the Greek Government had asked Cyprus President Archbishop Makarios to hand over the arms to the Cyprus National Guard — a military body commanded by Greek Officers — but that Makarios refused.

The Cypriot press yesterday gave wide coverage to the reports about the intervention of the Greek Government to Makarios about the handing over of the arms to the National Guard and added that the Turkish Government had protested the import of the arms which was in violation of existing agreements.

Other reports from sources in Athens said that Makarios was disposed to deliver the heavy arms to the National Guard under certain conditions.

CONCERN

Following yesterday's top level meeting and the latest developments, Greek politicians expressed their concern for the mounting tension in Cyprus.

We are also in a position to know that Tuesday's long talk between the Alternate Foreign Minister, Christian Xanthopoulos-Palamas, and the U.S. Ambassador to Athens, Henry Tasca, mainly revolved around the developments in Cyprus.

Other press reports said that the Soviet diplomats in Athens are also closely following the situation.

Meanwhile it was reported from Nicosia that the entire Cypriot press attributed particular importance to the sudden departure to Athens of the Greek Foreign Undersecretary, the Commander of the National Guard and the Commander of the Greek Contingent in Cyprus.

The Cyprus Government spokesman made no statement

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TOP LEVEL CYPRUS MEETING

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on the departure of the Greek officials, but political circles in Nicosia appeared to be convinced that the talks of Panayotakos and the two senior Greek Officers in Athens aim at a detente of the tension in Cyprus .

Meanwhile, it was authoritatively denied in Nicosia that Ankara had lodged a strong protest with the Cyprus Government on the import of arms from Czechoslovakia.

Reliable sources said that U.N. Secretary General Waldheim gave instructions to his representative in Cyprus, Osorio Taffal, to explore the alleged import of arms by the Cyprus, Osorio Taffal, to explore the alleged import of arms by the Cyprus Govern-

of the Turkish Government to Dr. Waldheim.

Taffal will be received by Archbishop Makarios within the next few days to discuss the question of the arms.

Unconfirmed reports said that Turkey demanded that these arms be placed under the U.N. control, before a resumption of the inter-Cypriot talks.

It was also reported from Nicosia last night that the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot leaders Glafkos Cleridis and Rauf Denktash will come in touch next week to fix the date of the reopening of the new phase of inter-Cypriot talks, and the place where they will be held.

The reports said that the two men will come in touch as soon as Greece and Turk