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ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ

CYPRUS ARMS DEALS AS REVOLUTION LOOKS CLOSE

TENSION mounts in Cyprus is growing after a plot to overthrow the island's Government was reported.

The reports of a conspiracy against President Makarios has been officially confirmed.

Reports from Nicosia said yesterday that special security measures have been taken

throughout the island, the police have been alerted, barricades have been set up in main thorough fares and that all vehicles are being searched.

At the same time, hundreds of policemen are reported to be combing the mountainous area at Metsero in search for armed groups which appeared there recently.

In the mines nearby there are stores of explosives, the reports said.

Meanwhile, a Cypriot Government spokesman has stated that the island's police will be reinforced.

Reports say that some 2,000 men will soon join the police force "in order to face any dynamic action taken by the supporters of General Grivas."

In another Cyprus development, a government spokesman has denied local press reports that arms have secretly been imported into the island from abroad, and called the reports imaginary.

He also denied that the Greek Government had protested to Nicosia over the smuggling of arms.

The reports had said that some 15,000 rifles and automatic weapons were imported in Cyprus from Czechoslovakia to be used by Makarios' supporters.

A Cabinet meeting in Nicosia Thursday discussed the situation.

Large quantities of medical supplies suitable for a field hospital unit have been stolen from the British Royal Air Force hospital at Akrotiri airbase in southwestern Cyprus, British sources said yesterday.

An official British forces statement was expected later.

The thefts were connected by diplomatic observers here with the formation of clandestine anti-government bands acting in the name of the former EOKA leader, General George Grivas.

Dozens of machineguns, automatic weapons and rifles stolen from a Cyprus national guard camp at Trikomo in eastern Cyprus are believed to have found their way into their hands.

On the Czechoslovakian arms story a Government spokesman today repeated his denial that Greek Ambas-

sador Constantine Panayotakos had officially protested to President Makarios about the secret importation of arms. The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation reported that President Makarios had received the Greek Ambassador this morning, but gave no details of the meeting.

Diplomatic sources late yesterday stated that the Greek Government made a violent approach to President Makarios for the importation of Czechoslovak weapons to Cyprus without the knowledge of the military leaders of the island.

It was made by Foreign Undersecretary Panayotakis to President Makarios asking that the weapons should be delivered to the National Guard.