

ENOSIS FLOP: BLAME MILITARY MEN

NICOSIA, Wednesday.—
“As I understand it, the gap between Greece and Turkey over the Cypriot problem is rather wide. The reason for this is that the Enosis discussed turned out to be the double Enosis, which, in fact, means partition, and to this Cyprus and Greece could not agree.”

With these words, President Makarios dismissed to me the idea, which has been gathering strength, that despite the failure of the present Greco-Turkish talks, agreement is not far off.

Now if there is one person in Cyprus who is almost certain to disagree, it is the Turkish Vice-President, Dr. Kutchuk.

Yet he said to me yesterday: “I was surprised at these talks being held because Turkey had always made her position clear. The holding of the talks, therefore, suggested that Greece had given up her idea of Enosis, otherwise what was the point of holding them?”

“Turkey, as she has stated, could not change her position and as at the talks Greece refused to move, they were a waste of time.”

Somebody then has blundered. Who?

Certainly it was not the Archbishop who, without committing himself and with consummate skill, continues to dominate the scene.

While the talks were held, his utterances were delphic. So he avoided the enmity of the Cypriot Communists, who are perhaps a third of all Greek Cypriots.

Then, when the talks had definitely broken down, he

uttered a few sentences in favour of the principle of Enosis and retained the support of the pro-Enosis Cypriots and the Greek forces.

So he continues to rule with his authority unchallenged.

Common

Neither has Turkey suffered any loss of prestige. It has all along insisted on terms which practically amount to the creation of two states and has not withdrawn an inch.

No, without question, the loser in this strange affair is the new Greek Government, who apparently made the error common in new administrations of believing

that it held the key of knowledge and had only to initiate talks to bring Turkey to her senses.

All that they have succeeded in doing, however, is committing a diplomatic gaffe which must affect their prestige.

This can have unfortunate consequences in causing the military regime to try to recover lost ground by making an undeserved example of some few remaining civilian Ministers and tightening military control of government.

Pubs raided

Pub thieves stole spirits and cash from the Welsh Harp, Covent Garden, and spirits and cigarettes from the Lamb in Kingsland Road, Dalston, during the night.