

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten CIA Involvement in Greece Eyed

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) has dispatched a secret letter to the Senate Intelligence Committee urging an investigation of "unresolved questions" about Central Intelligence Agency dirty tricks in support of the now-fallen Greek dictatorship.

Such a probe could spark more fireworks in the volatile U.S.-Greek-Turkish situation. It also could prompt official interrogation of such former Washington stalwarts as President Nixon, Vice President Agnew, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Attorney General John N. Mitchell, and CIA director William E. Colby. Millionaire oil man Thomas Pappas, a former Nixon fund-raiser, also might be queried.

McGovern, chairman of the Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee when he sent the Oct. 29 letter to Intelligence Committee chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), suggests a scenario of intrigue at the highest levels.

Inouye had pigeonholed the letter until he learned we had obtained a bootleg copy. Within hours after our call, he agreed to meet with McGovern.

In his missive, McGovern asserted that the CIA's involvement with the Greek dictators between 1967 and 1974 and in the Cyprus coup of 1974 "merits . . . a careful investigation by your committee."

McGovern quoted Kissinger, Colby and former CIA special counsel Mitchell Rogovin as saying that "our covert involvement in Greece was substantial enough to endanger our present relations with the restored democratic government of Greece."

Moreover, wrote McGovern, Agnew offered to testify in 1975 "before the Church committee on charges that he changed his position from one of 'neutrality' toward the Greek military dictatorship in 1968 to support for the junta."

But the reason for the switch "has never been investigated" by U.S. officials, said McGovern. For a while, he wrote, the Greek government had planned to study the junta's ties with the CIA but had dropped the idea "at the request of the CIA station chief in Athens."

An investigation also is needed, claimed McGovern, to determine the truth concerning charges that CIA funds were sent to Greece and then "funneled . . . back to the U.S. for use in the 1968 presidential campaign."

In addition, "the extensive and long-standing ties of Pappas to the Greek junta . . . and the intelligence community . . . indicates a need for a thorough investigation of its activities . . ." he wrote.

The wealthy Greek-American businessman, McGovern wrote, "was the first person named by President Nixon in the White House tapes as the man to be approached for money to satisfy the demands of Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt."

Although there is no evidence that Pappas provided the hush money, he was a prominent Nixon contributor and served on President Ford's election finance committee.

Hospital Hustle—A lucrative franchise scheme is milking millions of dollars from taxpayers and insurance companies by legally exploiting visits to hospital emergency rooms.

The franchises resemble fast-food chains, except that instead of hamburgers and french fries, they dispense sutures, X-rays and pills. But unlike food franchise operations, the U.S. Treasury pays the bills.

It works this way:

Hospitals have always had difficulty staffing emergency rooms.

To overcome the problem, they are increasingly turning to franchise operators who supply doctors eager to pick up extra dollars.

According to a study done by Dr. Eugene Schoenfeld, head of the Hermes Foundation, which distributes medical data and does on-the-spot emergency room investigations, the medical-mercenaries by and large perform well.

But they often charge what the traffic will bear, and most emergency room visits are Medicaid patients, for whom taxpayers foot the bills. The hospitals and patients, therefore, care little about the costs. Insurance firms, which should be griping usually have preferred to avoid squabbles with hospitals and instead raise premium rates.

As a result, such abuses as these have occurred:

- A Washington hospital with a franchise emergency room charged the parents of one patient with almost every X-ray taken during one shift. The child only needed one X-ray, but if the parents had not squawked, the insurance company would have paid without a question.

- In a California emergency room, 11 members of one family showed up with sniffles. Medicaid paid \$400 for "emergency" treatment.

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