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CIA Told to Stay

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency has reportedly been instructed by top officials of the Nixon administration not to interfere in the internal affairs of Greece or to play favorites among Greek politicians.

These orders, according to well-placed officials, reflect the thinking of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and of the CIA director, William E. Colby, that Americans should keep out of the politics of other countries as much as possible. The CIA is said to have been deeply involved in Greek politics for 25 years.

Until the last few weeks of the Athens military junta, according to high American officials and Greek sources, American operatives remained quite close to the men in power in Greece.

A U.S. specialist on Greece said the CIA continued to maintain about 60 full-time operatives in Greece and that some had been there 15 years or longer.

The agency, the specialist said, had close contact not only with George Papadopoulos, the Greek colonel who led the 1967 coup, but also with his successor, brigadier general Demetrios

Ioannides.

Papadopoulos, who was deposed last November, was among many Greek political and military figures who received personal subsidies over many years from the intelligence agency, two U.S. officials said. Another source said Papadopoulos had received money from the agency since 1952.

The CIA stopped its subsidies for Greek political figures about two years ago, a high American official said.

The operative closest to Ioannides was said to have been Peter Koromilas, a Greek-American who also went by the name of Korom.

An American official said Koromilas had been sent to Athens to confer with Ioannides shortly before the July 15 coup in Cyprus, which was led by Greek officers.

James M. Potts, the agency's station chief in Athens from 1968 to 1972, was described as having been on close terms throughout his stay with Papadopoulos.

Potts was listed as a political officer in the American embassy. He served earlier in Athens from 1960 to 1964 as deputy station chief of the CIA.

A State Department official said that when Potts left

Out of Greek Politics

Athens in August, 1972, his farewell party was attended by virtually every member of the military junta. The American ambassador, Henry J. Tasca, seeing who was present, turned and walked out, the source said.

Tasca had adopted a chilly attitude toward the Athens junta and was appalled that the CIA section chief would give a party that contradicted the position of the American ambassador.

State Department officials who have served in Greece commented in background interviews on what they described as a negative role

played in the past by the CIA in Greek affairs.

One of them mentioned John M. Maury, the agency's station chief in Athens from 1962 to 1968.

"Maury worked on behalf of the palace in 1965," the official said.

"He helped King Constantine buy Center Union deputies so that the George Papandreou government was toppled."

Maury, 61, left the agency more than a year ago and is now assistant secretary of defense for congressional relations.

Although generally leaning to Greek conservative politicians, the agency flirted briefly with the variant in Greek politics offered by George Papandreou in the early 1960s, a former Greek official said.

A knowledgeable Greek said that Stavris Milton, an operative who objected to the "cozy" relationship between the agency and the junta leaders was sent to Iran and later to the Far East.

Milton was described as one of many Greek-Americans recruited by the agency in the early days of its operations in Greece. An-

other was said to be Thomas H. Karamessines, a 57-year-old New Yorker who served in Athens from 1947 to 1948 during the Greek struggle against Communist insurgents, then again as station chief from 1951 to 1953.

Karamessines rose to be head of the agency's clandestine services before his retirement recently.

A spokesman at CIA headquarters said he had no general comment on the allegations. He did say, however, that CIA agents follow orders approved at the highest level in Washington.

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