

# Agnew Said to Seek to Testify on C.I.A.-Greece Tie

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 31—Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has asked the Senate Committee on Intelligence for an opportunity to testify about Central Intelligence Agency relationships with the military junta that ruled Greece from 1967 until 1974, authoritative Government sources said today.

One source said that Mr. Agnew would be able to make a "substantive" addition to the committee's information. However, no sources appeared ready to disclose specifically what Mr. Agnew might tell the committee.

According to the sources, Mr. Agnew approached the committee and offered his testimony in the last 10 days after reading an article by the syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak saying that his role in Greek-American affairs was under investigation by the committee. These sources confirmed that the committee was investigating C.I.A. covert operations in Greece.

When Mr. Agnew became Vice President, it was the highest United States office ever held by an American of Greek descent.

During 1967, as the Governor of Maryland, press reports indicated, Mr. Agnew took a neutral position on the take-over of the Greek Government by a military junta. But, according to the Evans and Novak article,

on July 16, the Senate Select Committee received an allegation that a few weeks before the 1968 United States election Mr. Agnew shifted to support of the junta.

The article said that the committee had obtained a letter written in 1968 by Louise Gore, a prominent Republican supporter of Mr. Agnew in Maryland, in which she said that Mr. Agnew's shift came literally "overnight."

From 1969 until he left government in 1973, Mr. Agnew gave a strong public appearance of supporting the junta and made an official trip to Greece. Many Greeks living in this country who were opposed to military dictatorship in Greece charged that Mr. Agnew's support was won by a secret political donation from the Greek military leaders in 1968.

Because of Mr. Agnew's prominence in the Greek community, his support for the junta made it far more palatable to many Americans than it might otherwise have been. Greek opponents of the militarists also charged that the junta was supported by the C.I.A. and received technical assistance from the agency.

There has been no substantial evidence uncovered that the junta made a contribution to Mr. Agnew's or President Nixon's campaign. Suspicion was often fed by the fact that one of the key fund-raisers for the Nixon-Agnew ticket was Tho-

mas Pappas, a prominent Boston businessman who holds both Greek and American citizenship.

Mr. Pappas, according to the Evans and Novak article, once told a Greek newspaper, "I have worked for the C.I.A. any time my help was requested." Mr. Pappas spends much of his time in Greece and could not be reached for comment.

According to authoritative Government sources, Mr. Agnew made contact with Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, the vice chairman of the Senate committee, a few days after the Evans and Novak article appeared and asked for a chance to testify.

## Part of Panel's Inquiry

Senator Tower had no comment on the matter, nor did the committee chairman, Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho. But other sources said the committee had been investigating C.I.A. operations in support of the junta as part of its inquiry into covert activities.

These sources said that material on the Greek operations had also been reviewed by the staff of the Rockefeller commission on the C.I.A., but that the operations had been found not to be covered by the commission's mandate to investigate allegations of

domestic law violations by the agency.

It was expected that Mr. Agnew would have an opportunity to tell his story to the committee, though the matter might well be handled in closed session. Mr. Agnew could not be reached at his Maryland office for comment.