

Campaign '72

U.S. Greek Drive for Nixon on Aid Issue

The nation's some 1.3 million Greek-American voters are being urged to vote for President Nixon because of George McGovern's announced determination to cut off all U.S. aid to

Greece, it was disclosed today.

The all-out campaign was described by former San Francisco Mayor George Christopher, himself of Greek descent.

"McGovern doesn't like what he calls the Greek 'dictatorship,'" Christopher said. "But if the Greeks like it — and they do — that's their business.

Expedient

"I was there just two months ago, and the Greeks still feel that their present government is an expedient form of overcoming civil war and civil strife.

"They've got peace and prosperity; they feel they have Communist countries staring them in the face and they want no part of Communism.

Christopher referred to the Democratic presidential candidate's statement that "In January of next year, I would announce the immediate termination of all U.S. aid to the Greek dictatorship."

"Sure, you can call it a military dictatorship. But the Greeks are this kind of people: if they don't like their form of government, it won't take them long to overthrow it."

Christopher said that the 1945 Greek civil war, involving Communist and nationalists, cost the nation more lives than World War II itself.

"They don't want another civil war," he declared.

Raps McGovern

The former Mayor accused McGovern of trying to "be President of the United States and President of Greece at the same time."

"If he wants to rectify the ills of other countries," he declared, "why doesn't he declare war on Cuba or the others like it. But no — because these are Communist countries he won't criticize them.

"Greece is our only non-Communist ally in that part of the world."

The anti-McGovern campaign was initiated by the United Hellenic Societies of Northern California, of which Christopher is an advisor.

The group is communicating with other Greek American associations over the country, urging them to take similar positions.

Christopher, a Republican, said 80 percent of the Greek-American voters are Democrats who would ordinarily vote for the Democratic candidate.