

The CIA in Greece



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SENATOR GEORGE McGOVERN, (Dem-S.D.), has dispatched a secret letter to the Senate Intelligence Committee urging an investigation of "unresolved questions" about CIA dirty tricks in support of the now-fallen Greek dictatorship.

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

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McGOVERN, chairman of the Near Eastern Affairs subcommittee when he sent the October 29 letter to Intelligence Committee chairman Daniel Inouye, (Dem-Ha.), suggests a scenario of intrigue at the highest levels.

Inouye had pigeonholed the letter until he learned we had obtained a bootlegged copy.

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, Spiro 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, wrote the senator, 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."

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AN INVESTIGATION is also 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 longstanding ties of (Thomas) Pappas to the Greek junta . . . and the intelligence community . . . indicates a need for a thorough investigation of his activities. . . ."

The wealthy Greek-American businessman, McGovern pointed out, "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 Pappas provided the hush money, he was a prominent Nixon contributor and also served on President Ford's Finance Committee.