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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, GREECE AND TURKEY

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill (S. 2230) to authorize appropriations for the Board for International Broadcasting for fiscal year 1976; and to promote improved relations between the United States, Greece, and Turkey, to assist in the solution of the refugee problem on Cyprus, and to otherwise strengthen the North Atlantic Alliance.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I am glad that someone has finally gotten around to talking about Cyprus, and, incidentally, about Greece.

I can say this to my distinguished colleague from Minnesota: Unless something is done, there will be no give, and there will be no relief for the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands of Cypriot refugees. If something is not done, the situation in the Aegean area is going to remain in the status quo, and that means there will be no settlement in sight, and the impasse which confronts that area and us at this time will remain.

Around the year 1960, the Republic of Cyprus was founded. Its future, its freedom, its independence, its integrity were guaranteed by Greece, by Turkey, and by Great Britain.

Some months ago, the Greek tyrants who were in control of Greece launched an attack against Cyprus, tried to kill Makarios, and put in temporarily a man by the name of Samson, a gangster and a thug, who tried to take over control of that island republic, and when he started on other Greeks, other Cypriots and Turks living on that island, it was then that the Turks came in.

I hold no brief for what the Greek colonels did. They were wrong.

Mr. STENNIS. May we have order, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I hold no brief for what the Turks on the Island of Cyprus did, because they overreacted.

But I want to call to the attention of the Senators this fact, if the Senators believe in the most vital alliance with which this country is allied, NATO, in the minds eye of Senators visualize a map, Portugal on the west end, a very precarious country—we do not know what is going to happen there—Italy in the middle, the Communists have won sweeping elections in regions of Italy in the past several weeks; the Greeks are out of NATO, and Turkey with a 1,000-mile frontier with the Soviet Union, trying to get arms, for which it has already paid, which are in storage in this country and on which they are paying rent.

Do the Senators believe in NATO?

The Senator from Missouri is right when he brings to our attention the legality of the question which he raises. There is no doubt about it.

But what are we going to do to bring a settlement in that area? We cannot even move there now.

What about Karamanlis, one of the great statesman in Europe, buffeted on the right and the left? What is the albatross around his neck? Cyprus and its future.

What are we going to do to bring about hopefully a settlement in that area so that the Turks will withdraw their forces from Cyprus, so that the independence of Cyprus, which is composed of two nations, even at this time, really within one, so that the refugees can be taken care of? What are we going to do if we do not give some assistance at this time, not so much to maintain our bases in Turkey, important though they be, but to help the Cypriots, to help the Greeks? If they are going to be helped, they have to be helped from the outside, and the only country not a signatory to the integrity and the independence of Cyprus, the only country in a position to do so, if given the opportunity, is the United States of America.

So I say I hope that this motion to commit this bill to the Committee on Foreign Relations will fail.

I would hope that we would be aware of the fact that the House of Representatives is still in session, and three attempts to adjourn it tonight beginning at around 8 o'clock have failed.

What is the House of Representatives waiting for? Hopefully for action by the Senate.

Look at Turkey. If the Senators do not think it is not an important country, think of the thousand-mile frontier with the Soviet Union; think of the fact that Turkey is a Moslem country, which has down through the years adopted a hands-off policy as far as the Middle East is concerned.

Where are they going to get their arms—in Western Europe, in Eastern Europe, or in the Soviet Union?

I noticed by the ticker that the Soviets are contemplating sending helicopters to Turkey at the present time. I would be quite a coup for them.

Where are the Turks going to get the money—from the Arab countries?

And where are the Turks going to become more interested—in the Middle East, a cockpit if ever there was one.

I hope, may I say to our colleagues, that they will take all these factors into consideration, because the President is trying to bring about a settlement of sorts. He needs support. If our colleagues want to do something for Cyprus, if they want to do something for Greece, I say vote against the motion to commit and vote to pass the resolution reported out of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

SEVERAL SENATORS. Vote! Vote!