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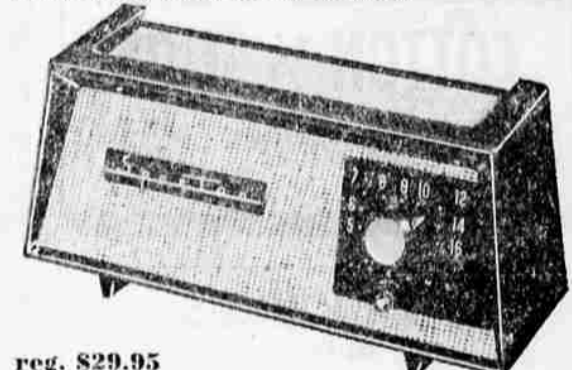
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Soviet Plans Bid to Shift Greek Policy

Foreign Minister to Arrive in Athens Next Thursday

By Charles M. MCCANN
United Press Staff Correspondent
Soviet Russia is due to make a strong bid next week to steer Greece toward a "neutralist" policy.

Dmitri T. Shepilov, Russia's new foreign minister, is to arrive in Athens next Thursday for a two-day visit.

It is evident that Shepilov hopes to capitalize on the Cyprus situation by weakening Greece's ties with its Western allies. Advisers from Europe say he intends to seek a political agreement for closer Greek-Russian relations, offer Greece important trade and credit concessions and try to increase cultural exchanges.

It is a development that the Western allies will need to watch closely.

Greece NATO Member
Greece is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is allied with Turkey, a fellow NATO member, and Yugoslavia in a Balkan defense treaty.

But the Cyprus situation has weakened Greece's cooperation with the Western allies materially.

Greece is bitterly angry over Great Britain's refusal to surrender Cyprus. Greek air force planes have started to intercept British air liners flying over Greece on the allegation that they have deviated from a prescribed air lane.

Greek relations with Turkey are approaching the danger point. It is reported from London that Turkey has informed Britain that it will land troops in Cyprus, if necessary, to prevent Greece from taking it over.

Once Under Turkish Rule
There is no reason to doubt this. Turkey has made it plain that if Britain surrenders Cyprus, Turkey must get it.

Cyprus was under Turkish rule from 1571 until 1878, when it came under British administration. The island is 43 miles from the Turkish mainland and 683 miles from Greece. Greece never has owned it.

In view of Greece's deteriorating relations with Britain and Turkey, Shepilov's visit could not have been better timed.

Athens dispatches have disclosed that Shepilov was not invited to make the visit. He arranged it through Michael Sergeyev, the Soviet ambassador to Greece. It will come after Shepilov's visit to Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

Pressure On Premier
Greek political parties in opposition to Premier Constantine Karamanlis plan to bring pressure on him to use the Shepilov visit to head toward "neutrality."

Leading in this is the Union of the Democratic Left party. The Communist party is opposed to Greece. The Union of the Democratic Left, however, follows the Communist line.

How much of a bill of goods Shepilov will be able to sell Karamanlis and Evangelos Averoff, his new foreign minister, remains to be seen.

It would not be surprising, however, if Greece used the Shepilov visit to play the East against the West, as Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser is doing.

In any event, the visit portends nothing but trouble for the Western allies.

Military to Hold Session

QUANTICO, Va. (AP)—More than 160 civilians and big brass of the military begin their annual conference at the Marine Corps base here today to tell each other their troubles.

As has been the case in the last three annual secretaries' conferences staged by Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, the conferees will come up with no solutions. Wilson specifies the conference is for discussion and "not reaching decisions on defense problems."

All the meetings of the civilian secretaries and the military commanders from at home and abroad are behind closed doors. The printed agenda for the fourth annual conference lists the topics only as "problems confronting" the Army, Navy, Air Force, the Defense Department.

From now until Sunday afternoon, some top ranking figures of the sometimes rivaling services will have a chance to present again their arguments.

East Germans Free 19,046

BERLIN (AP)—Communist-ruled East Germany announced today it has freed 19,046 prisoners in recent months as a concession of the Red regime's strength and its will to reunify divided Germany.

The announcement followed a general clemency wave throughout the Communist world resulting from the Soviet leadership's drive to lay the blame for previous purges and persecution on Stalin.

The East German government press office said 15,736 of those released were convicted of political crimes, including espionage for the West.

The other 3,308 were Germans sentenced by Soviet military tribunals for war crimes. Imprisoned in Russia since the war, they were turned over to the East Germans during the winter when other Germans held in the Soviet Union were allowed to come home.