

Issue Date: **August 21, 1956**

## World News: Cypriots Offer Cease-Fire; Other Developments

- [New Constitution Discussed](#)
- [Terrorist Strife Continues](#)
- [Algerians Demand Talks](#)
- [Casualties Increase](#)
- [Palestine](#)

Cypriot rebels August 17 offered a truce in their 17-mo. terrorist campaign against British rule of the island. Leaflets scattered on Cyprus by the activist EOKA (National Organization of Cypriot Fighters) urged the cease fire to test British promises of renewed negotiations after cessation of hostilities. The EOKA appeal warned, however, that if the offer were ignored, "operations will be resumed on a fiercer and more intensive scale." [See 1956 [World News: Cypriot Rebels Executed; Other Developments](#); 1956 [World News: Laborites Dissent on Cyprus; Other Developments](#)]

Cyprus Governor Field Marshal Sir John Harding said August 18 that the EOKA truce offer could provide "an opportunity to make a fresh start" on negotiations for a measure of Cypriot self-rule. The acting Ethnarch of the Greek Orthodox Church on Cyprus, Bishop Anthimos of Kitium, said August 17 that the next move was up to Britain. He urged the return of Archbishop Makarios from British-imposed exile to the Seychelles Is. to lead negotiations. [See 1956 [World News: Laborites Dissent on Cyprus; Other Developments](#)]

Reports from Cyprus August 16 linked the EOKA truce offer to replacement of Colonel George Grivas, EOKA leader, by Anargyros Karadimas, reportedly the EOKA's new leader under the traditional Cypriot rebel name "Dighenis." [See 1956 [World News: Cypriot Rebels Executed; Other Developments](#)]

### New Constitution Discussed

British jurist Lord Radcliffe returned to Britain August 2 from a visit to Cyprus begun July 16 on Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden's orders to hold talks on drafting a new Cyprus constitution. Eden had told the House of Commons July 12 that a "liberal" constitution to protect Cyprus' Greek majority and Turkish minority would be put into effect when "terrorism has been overcome and law and order restored." The House July 19 defeated, 319-246, a Laborite censure motion against Eden's Cyprus policy. [See 1956 [World News: Laborites Dissent on Cyprus; Other Developments](#)]

The Cypriot Orthodox Church Ethnarchy Council July 13 rejected Britain's offer of a new constitution. The council said that "Greek Cypriots will continue to press for...self-determination." The Church statement said that Archbishop Makarios "alone can discuss the terms" for a new constitution. The Ethnarchy accused Britain of "taking refuge behind another power," presumably Turkey, and encouraging Turkish opposition to Cypriot self-determination. [See 1956 [U.S. Policy: Leaders Discuss 'Neutrals'; Other Developments](#)]

(Turkish Premier Adnan Menderes said July 12 that Turkey had made no proposals on Cyprus and would make none until "terrorism in Cyprus" and "the pressure of Greece" had been ended. A July 2 Turkish note to Britain was said to have rejected British plans for Cypriot self rule and demanded protection for Turkish Cypriots under British rule. British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd said July 7 that any "solution which may be put forward" must "take account of Turkey's position.")

(Menderes reportedly charged July 2 that the "Greek Government has not hesitated to imperil the future of NATO, the [Greek-Turk-Yugoslav] Balkan Pact and good relations with Britain and Turkey over the Cyprus problem." Greek Foreign Minister Evangelos Averoff July 3 charged Turkey with distortion of the Cyprus issue. He affirmed Greece's "good will" toward its allies and said Greece would accept any "reasonably" termed Cyprus settlement.) [See 1956 [World News: Laborites Dissent on Cyprus; Other Developments](#)]

### Terrorist Strife Continues

Greek Cypriots Andreas Zakos, 25, Charilaos Michael, 22, and Iacovos Patatsos, 22, were hanged in Nicosia Central Prison August 9. Patatsos was executed for the shooting of a Turkish policeman April 23, Zakos and Michael for the killing of a British soldier December 15, 1955. The EOKA August 3 threatened the retaliatory execution of retired British civil servant John A. Cremer, 78, who was kidnapped in Kyrenia August 1 but freed unharmed August 5 after the 3 condemned terrorists had appealed for his release.

(The EOKA July 3 expressed its "deep regret" at the death of U.S. Vice Consul William Bateler June 18 in a Nicosia bombing and said the bomb had been intended for a Briton [See 1956 [Cyprus: News in Brief](#)]. British Judge Bernard

Vidal Shaw, 65, who reportedly passed sentence on 6 of the 7 EOKA men condemned to death during the rebellion, was seriously wounded June 25 in Nicosia.) [See 1956 [World News: Cypriot Rebels Executed; Other Developments](#)]

Cyprus dispatches said August 13 that 21 Greek Cypriots had been killed in terrorist attacks since July 1. British officials said July 8 that 49 Britons, including 7 civilians, had been killed since the start of the rebellion. EOKA leaflets claimed June 29 that 15 British soldiers had been killed and 59 wounded during May. [See 1956 [World News: Laborites Dissent on Cyprus; Other Developments](#)]

EOKA frogmen August 13 blew up and sank a yacht belonging to Governor Harding's Guard Captain C. W. B. Worthington, prominent British brewing heir. U.S. consular official Paul Sprenger was beaten by 2 Greek Cypriots in Nicosia. Terrorists July 8 beat and shot to death senior British customs agent George P. Kaberry, 33, and his wife after halting their car on a mountain road near Famagusta. Casualties among British soldiers fighting forest fires on Cyprus in June reportedly had mounted to 23 dead by July 3. [See 1956 [Cyprus: News in Brief](#); 1956 [World News: Tito, Soviets Vow Friendship; Other Developments](#)]

57 Famagusta residents filed July 10 for an injunction to prevent British Comm. B. J. Weston from collecting a £40,000 (\$112,000) fine imposed on the city for shielding terrorists. British authorities reported July 10 that a total of £106,000 (\$297,000) in collective fines had been imposed on Cypriot communities. [See 1956 [Cyprus: Curfew Bars Disorders; Other Developments](#)]

### Algerians Demand Talks

Algerian rebel leaders August 19 blamed French Government inactivity for continuation of fighting in Algeria. The rebels called for direct negotiations between France and the Algerian National Liberation Front on terms similar to those announced by the rebels July 19 [See 1956 [Neutralists: Tito, Nehru, Nasser Meet; Other Developments](#)]. The statement, issued by the rebels' Algiers Headquarters and considered authentic, rejected locally-negotiated cease fire agreements sought by the French. [See 1956 [World News: Communists Ask Inter-German Talks; Other Developments](#)]

### Casualties Increase

French military authorities said August 4 that official casualty reports on the Algerian fighting would be halted to avoid shocking the French public [See 1956 [North Africa: Mendes Quits Over Algeria; Other Developments](#)]. Incomplete reports July 18-August 19 listed: 243 rebels killed and 13 wounded; 110 French soldiers killed, 57 wounded, 15 missing; 17 Moslem civilians killed and 31 wounded; 5 Europeans killed and 14 wounded. [See 1956 [World News: Communists Ask Inter-German Talks; Other Developments](#)]

(A New York Times Algiers dispatch August 2 reported rebel casualties as 714 killed and 304 captured in June, 957 killed and 176 captured in July. French Army losses were listed as 32 killed, 11 missing, 73 wounded in June; 127 killed, 6 missing, 68 wounded in July. 19 soldiers and policemen were reported killed in individual terrorist attacks in June, 42 in July. European civilian casualties were set at 61 killed, 100 wounded, 6 kidnapped in June, and 43 killed, 86 wounded, 6 kidnapped during July.) [See 1956 [World News: Communists Ask Inter-German Talks; Other Developments](#); 1956 [World News: Tito, Soviets Vow Friendship; Other Developments](#)]

(Jean-Jacques Servan Schreiber, editor of the pro-Mendes-France Paris newspaper L'Express and a critic of the French Government's Algerian policy, was recalled to active service in Algeria July 16. The Government was reported to have recalled Schreiber to silence him.) [See 1956 [North Africa: Spain to Free Morocco; Other Developments](#); 1956 [World News: Extremists Gain in France; Other Developments](#)]

### Palestine

UN Truce Supervision Organization observers August 16-17 were investigating new clashes along Arab-Israeli frontiers. 9 Egyptian soldiers were killed August 17, reportedly by Israeli infiltrators on the Egyptian side of the Gaza border. 3 Israeli soldiers and a woman were killed and 12 Israelis wounded August 16 when Arabs attacked a bus and detonated a land mine in the Negev. The bus attack reportedly was made by 20 Bedouins with automatic arms near the Jordanian frontier. **Jordan charged August 18 that 4 Israeli soldiers had passed the border near Faroun, been challenged and started a gunfight in which one Israeli was killed** [See 1956 [World News: UN Secretary vs. Palestine Strife; Other Developments](#)]. UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld appealed twice August 16-17 for an end to border violence, deplored the killings and said they could not be condoned "as acts of self defense." Hammarskjöld reported to the Security Council August 6 that Israeli border complaints had totaled 130, Jordanian complaints 280 during April 26-July 21. [See 1956 [Middle East: Hammarskjöld Visits Israel; Other Developments](#)]...

Communist China visit by U.S. newsmen was barred with President Eisenhower's "full concurrence," the U.S. State Department said August 20. Although reports from Hong Kong August 19 said 4 newsmen had planned trips despite the ban, Washington sources said August 20 that the plans had been dropped by the correspondent's news agencies. [See 1956 [World News: Indonesia Renounces Debt; Other Developments](#)]