

America's Decision On Greece Is Of World-Wide Importance



GREECE may be the key to many things, U. S. officials believe. The map shows the little country and her neighbors which officials say are involved in a contest between democracy and Communism.

By SIGRID ARNE

WASHINGTON (AP)—The American agreement to pick up the British chips in Greece, if confirmed, would put the United States on a diplomatic course stretching down the years. It could cost many more than the initial millions for the little Mediterranean country.

State department officials, at work on the problem, say baldly that this is the major turning point toward which the international irritations of the past two years have been pushing the United States.

The decision if taken on Greece, would lay down a major policy which would have to be applied in other parts of the world, as occasion arises. That the United States will pour money and help into any country where it looks like Communists are about to grab the government of a people the majority of whom don't want Communism.

Political Reason

That is about the political reason the British have been in Greece, and the reason they asked the United States to carry on because the depleted British treasury can't do the job.

But Greece is important far beyond its local needs. It is regarded as a global key in an Anglo-American attempt to stem the spread of totalitarianism.

If Greece slips into the Communist basket, British and American officials see a much quicker spread of Communism to both East and West.

To the East, if Greece falls, as they see it, Turkey goes Turkey gone, the Middle East Arabian states would collapse, and with the Middle East gone, the next would be India and China.

To the West, if Greek Communists get the upper hand, officials here see an upsurge of Communists in both Italy and France, and a blow to the democratic parties of the middle.

The result, say officials, would be an isolated Western hemisphere clinging to free elections and free trade, greatly outnumbered by the populations under the hammer and sickle.

Expensive Job

To prevent this would be expensive.

Since the war ended the British have poured \$200 millions into Greece, exclusive of the costs of keeping their troops there. The United States has given the Greeks another \$125 millions in loans and credits. Much more is needed. The British think about \$350 millions spread over the next five years.

would stabilize the Greek government.

Whatever it costs, the State Department closed-door councils have decided that the job will be done properly or not at all. They are not prettifying the problem up for the Congressmen who will have to vote the funds.

Europe Watched
They are pointing out that, if the United States decides to hold the line in Greece, it must prepare to hold the line in Europe. At that point State Department men refuse to name further nations.

But European diplomats here think France is the key to Europe and France would be a much more expensive nation to bolster than Greece.

In the Far East the key, for all its home-made confusion, is still China. For the time being that nation is getting the hands-off treatment from the United States, but there is reluctant admission here, that once having picked up the gauntlet, the United States must eventually listen to China's troubles again.

But American help to Greece, or to any other country in similar plight, will get no British treatment, but made-in-America treatment.

British Disagreement
British and American officials differed widely, when Winston Churchill was prime minister, over individual Greeks who were to be helped back to power. The Americans never approved the British aid to the Greek king, because of beliefs that the majority of Greeks didn't want him back. But at that time the British were the main Ally of Greece, and under their policies, Greece still has unrest.

American officials think that further U. S. loans to Greece will have to be tied with some very tough ropes, ropes which, they hope will cut off both Leftists and Rightists and permit the majority, middle parties top power.

And that policy would be applied in other countries.

State Department policy stems from the American belief that majority rule is best, and from the fear that the spread of totalitarianism could shackle the world's struggle toward democracy for decades to come. Officials say it has nothing to do with "preserving the British Empire" as so many comments would make it.

Similar Ideals
There is this tie: The British have stood for about the same legal system, the same government and the same trade rules as the Americans.

To preserve that type of world

now step in. Weakened British finances are leaving vacuums around the world. Those vacuums must be filled. With what? Democracy or Totalitarianism? The decision on the Greek question will be the answer.

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When There's A Will There Might Be A Poem

RICHMOND, Va.—(AP)—Humor, sentiment, hatred and even poetry are buried in the wonderous covers of will books gathering dust in the record room of chancery court here. If your arms are strong and you don't mind the dust, you

can read almost anything you want. One testator began his will by saying he had a fresh shave and a clean shirt, "uncommon for the middle of the week, being Wednesday." He explained that he had attended the funeral of a friend who died unexpectedly, and apparently mindful that he might also pass with short notice, he penned

his will. Another's will was in the form of a diatribe against two members of his family. He left them \$2.50 each and asserted that if they got what they deserved they would be serving time in the penitentiary. Still another left his estate to his wife in fee simple in this imaic pentameter: "Of all my worldly good I have

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