U.S.-Turk-Greek Junta
Forced Cyprus Radio-TV
Into Iago-Style Lying

By Panos Ioannides

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On July the 15th 1974, at approximately 7:45 a.m. a bloody coup d'état overthrew the legitimate Government of Cyprus, headed by Archbishop Makarios. The Cyprus Broadcasting Company - TV and Radio stations (both stations are in the same building in Nicosia, neighbouring to the Police Headquarters of Cyprus) together with the Presidential Palace and the Police Headquarters, were the very first targets of the coup accomplices.

After a fierce battle against the guard of the Stations which lasted for about an hour during which mortars, bazookas and other heavy weapons were abundantly used, the invaders entered the premises with a nightmarish barrage. They violently gathered and restricted in studios all 550 employees and freelance artists working at that time. At gunpoint they ordered one of the staff-announcers to announce over CY.B.C.-Radio that the "Heroic National Guard has liberated Cyprus from Makarios's dictatorship" and that "Makarios himself is dead". Following that announcement Greek military marches replaced the regular programming of the Station and the iron shadow of the junta fell over Cyprus.
The coup was violently executed by carefully selected junior Greek Cypriot officers and commandos of the National Guard, brainwashed by their 700 Greek military officers and instructors. The junta had sent them to Cyprus to train the Cypriot recruits and to strengthen the defence of the island (!) These same officers had also been encouraging for years the terrorism which was the prelude to the coup; they had been inspiring and enhancing the schism in the Orthodox Church of Cyprus; and they finally headed the Cypriot commandos in the bloody battles against Makarios' personal garrison and the police force of Cyprus. Nevertheless both these officers, their Cypriot followers and Nicos Samson* who was appointed by the junta as the new President of the Cyprus Republic, were only the fingers that triggered the infernal machine. There is ample evidence** that they had been the instruments of an international conspiracy - originated by the American State Department and the C.I.A. - and aiming at: a) Makarios' fall; b) Turkish intervention and c) Partition of the island.

* Samson started his career as a reporter; in 1955 he joined EOKA and fought against the British occupation forces; following the independence he became the publisher of two newspapers, supporting the "Enosis"-Union with Greece-movement. During the Turkish insurrection of 1963-4 he fought against the Turkish rebels and he became the favorite target of Turkish hate propaganda. In 1970, after G. Grivas headed EOKA B and started a guerilla struggle against the legitimate Government Samson was one of his most fervent supporters.

** The Cyprus' Dossier has not been officially opened and those responsible for the tragedy were not brought before justice yet; consequently many aspects of the international conspiracy against Cyprus remain obscure. Nevertheless recent investigation and leaks lighted quite a few aspects of this enormous drama. Some of them are presented in this essay. Other facts are drawn from my personal experience.
This American plan originally proposed by Dean Acheson in the mid 60's and bluntly rejected by the then Prime Minister of Greece, G. Papandreou (Greek Politician, one of the founders of modern Greece. Father of Andreas Papandreou, the ex-York University Professor and now leader of a Socialistic Party in Greece) was fully endorsed by the Greek Colonels who regarded Makarios as a Communist and as an underminer of their regime. Thus in 1970, in close cooperation with General Grivas-Dhigenis, ex EOKA chief, they formed and financed EOKA B, a terrorist organization which started a guerilla war against the Government of Cyprus. Four years later, following the public and official denunciation of the Greek junta by Archbishop Makarios and his strong demand for the immediate withdrawal of all junta officers from Cyprus, the Greek dictators decided that the time was ripe for their coup.

The consequences of the coup proved extremely tragic for the people of Cyprus; during the fighting about 700 persons were killed; Archbishop Makarios was extremely lucky to escape death by fleeing in a private car a few minutes after the coup accomplices started bombing with mortars and missiles the Presidential Palace;* damages, estimated in the millions, were caused to public and private property; the political homogeneity of the Greek population and that of the Cyprus' Church** were severely and permanently wrecked; the politico-economic support all non-aligned, as well as many Western and Eastern European countries - USSR included - extended

* The building was totally destroyed by mortars and fire. There had been suggestions that it should not be rebuilt but remain forever as a symbol of brutal force and as a stigma for dictatorship.

** Through political pressures and by exploiting the ambitions of 3 of the 6 Cypriot Bishops the junta managed to undermine Makarios' ecclesiastical authority and succeeded in creating a deep schism in the Orthodox and Apostolic Church of Cyprus.
to Cyprus in order to enable her to remain neutral was immediately withdrawn;* thus the green light was given to Turkey to invade the island under the official pretext that in doing so she was protecting both Turkish and Greek Cypriots from the Greek junta and she was preventing "Enosis". Time proved that Turkey's ultimate goals were totally different. They were identical to those conceived by the American and British secret services, i.e. the partition of the island and its subsequent change into a huge and unsinkable aircraft-carrier for NATO.

Having briefly touched on the deeper causes and consequences of the July 15th coup I'll now attempt to give a somewhat detailed picture of its disastrous results on CY.B.C. and the detestable role imposed on it over the decisive fortnight: 15-30 July 1974, during which the Greek junta ruled Cyprus.

CY.B.C.-TV and Radio had always been two strongholds of democracy and two channels for the free expression of opinion for the people of Cyprus. They were even more so during the darkest period of the junta's dictatorship in the mainland. Neither Cyprus as a State nor its Broadcasting system had succumbed to the suffocating pressures exerted by Athens and aiming at forcing the people of Cyprus to abandon its non-aligned policy, its dedication to neutrality, its democratic principles and become a satellite of the Athenian Dictators and of their patrons in Washington. The majority of top Government officials and the overwhelming majority of the

* USSR which has always been encouraging Cyprus' independence and neutrality and has repeatedly opposed strongly the previous Turkish attempts to invade and partition the island, in this occasion did not interfere; the reason being her strong dissatisfaction with the junta's and Samson's regime which had as its cornerstone the elimination of communism and socialism in Cyprus and the subjection of Cyprus to NATO.
media* had shown an exemplary devotion to the principles of democracy. CY.B.C.-Radio and TV Stations in particular never failed to underline, through their general programming and especially through their news policies, their devotion to freedom of speech and opinion, to democratic institutions and to the non-aligned policy; they never failed to present the work of writers and composers banned by the Greek junta. Mikis Theodorakis'** resistance songs; George Seferis' and Yiannis Ritsos'*** poetry; Greek and foreign plays, essays, feature and documentary films etc., stressing all those principles which the junta labelled as miasma and anathema were presented to the Cyprus public. As for the constant protests of the junta's ambassadors and other Greek officials in Cyprus they were always politely and diplomatically turned down. CY.B.C. had also been censoring with consistency all propaganda contained in TV and Radio programmes which EIRT and YENED,**** the Greek Ministry of Information and other Greek Propaganda Agencies offered "free" to CY.B.C.

All these generated the deepest dissatisfaction of Greece's Colonels and of their organs in Cyprus against CY.B.C. Their blind and mute hatred was unleashed and took the form of an unprecedented mania for catastrophe when they finally and openly attacked the stations. I

* The only exceptions were two newspapers financed by junta and Samson's tabloids. I should add here that in Cyprus about 7 dailies and 6 weeklies are being published.

** World-famous Greek composer. He is a dedicated socialist. Imprisoned and exiled by the junta.

*** Greek poets. Seferis won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. Both were banned by the junta. Ritsos was repeatedly imprisoned for his socialistic beliefs.

**** TV & Radio Networks. EIRT is semi-governmental in the model of CBC. YENED is run by the Ministry of Defence but apart from its programming addressed to the Armed Forces it also carries a regular programming and commercials (!)
was one of the many witnesses of that damage and later on I was assigned by the Corporation to record the damages caused to the TV Department. I mention some of the findings included in my report:

1. The Film Unit building and many technical facilities: cine-cameras, processing and developing equipment, dark chambers, fully equipped editing benches, film and audio stock etc., were either destroyed during the exchange of fire, or looted and deliberately set to fire by the coup accomplices.

2. The Film Archives of the Corporation were also set afire. Rare historic films; CY.B.C.'s documentaries and their precious negatives; other library films: the still-pictures and slides archives as well as other optical material, all produced locally by CY.B.C.-TV during the last 17 years were turned into ashes.

3. The Central Film Store where thousands of films and videotaped programmes purchased from abroad was also consumed by fire.

4. The Wardrobe, the Scenery dock and the Scenery stores, as well as part of the big Production Studio were devastated by fire, mortars, etc.

If to the above, the damages caused to several TV-buildings, to furnishings and to stock stored in different areas, are added a general picture of the catastrophe emerges. (Damages, of different degrees, were also caused to CY.B.C.'s General Garage, to official and private cars, to workshops, Radio studios and offices, etc.) But all these I consider insignificant compared to the prostitution of principles, the deliberate distortion of vital information and the humiliation of the personnel which followed the occupation of CY.B.C. Stations by the junta. Before attempt-
ing to enumerate and comment on the most important of these complex issues I'll describe briefly some of the sufferings and humiliations imposed on innocent members of CY.B.C.'s staff. I would be more accurate if I said on the entire personnel.

After the nightmarish barrage I've already mentioned the invaders forced all employees to stand in the corridors facing the wall; at gunpoint they searched everybody: employees and contributors, male and female alike. During this search and the following hours, until they calmed down, they had been using obscene language, threats, slurs, etc. Later on they split us in groups and confined us in studios where we were ordered to sit on the floor with our hands up or touching the nape; this went on for about 5 hours; during this period we were not allowed to get any food or drink, or even go to the washroom; in the small studio where I was confined with my wife* and about 70 other employees, our guards had been torturing a young auxiliary policeman belonging to CY.B.C.'s garrison. They beat him savagely, they kicked him on the genitals and on the face; they then threatened to blow him up with a grenade. All men belonging to CY.B.C.'s garrison who were caught alive were subjected to the same or similar ordeal; some of the announcers of the Corporation were also brutally beaten by the commandos because they were heard yelling in their rage and those "rascals" were said to have voiced the pro-Makarios propaganda. Other employees, "blacklisted" as "dedicated supporters of the Government" were interrogated and/or arrested; others were fired right away without any explanation. I'll never forget the panic of a female senior TV producer who, when her name was called for interrogation, fainted in the corridor. In another occasion another female employee, a subtitles' translator employed by CY.B.C.-TV, when one of the Greek Officers

* My wife, who is also a CY.B.C. employee, is a Music Programme Producer and she shared this tragic experience with me.
triumphantly announced that Makarios was dead and rudely provoked the pro-Makarios "bastards" to say anything, started screaming at the top of her voice: "Long live Makarios".

The junta officer, enraged, pulled his pistol and pointed it at her forehead; he would have shot her if she hadn't been instantly surrounded by some colleagues who protected her with their bodies and who eventually calmed down the young lieutenant. One of the worst incidents occurred to a group of about 60 employees who were forced to go out of the main building and stand in a row along an alley leading to the station; this happened whilst a fierce battle was going on between the invaders and the police forces occupying the nearby buildings. The above-mentioned employees were in fact driven out and used as shields in order that the policemen would stop shooting at innocent people and some reinforcements would creep in. Luckily enough none of the employees was killed; but several were wounded in this and other similar incidents. To complete the picture I should add to the above the humiliation and the agony shared by all employees who were forced to work, day after day, for the Colonels and their unholy objectives.

Cyprus' press didn't face such a problem. It is true that certain newspapers supporting the Government suffered many damages caused by the commandos who occupied their premises; furniture was smashed, technical facilities were destroyed, the day's editions were confiscated and a number of journalists were arrested. But newspapers were lucky enough to be closed down by the junta. Thus, the detestable burden of "informing" the entire population on the junta's and Samson's activities were the exclusive responsibility of CY.B.C.-Radio and TV.
The paramount importance the junta attached to the broadcasting media was also underlined by another development: immediately after CY.B.C. was occupied, a Greek Colonel by the name of Liasconis took over as Controller of Radio and TV programming. Mr. A. Christofides, the Director-General of CY.B.C. who at that time was on an official visit in Athens, was fired; his Deputy, Mr. J. Hadjijoseph, was blackmailed by Samson to accept the "vacant" post. Having no option Mr. Hadjijoseph accepted it. But his appointment was only a cover-up; both Stations were run by Col. Liasconis just as was Cyprus itself run by Liasconis' colleagues, using Samson's puppet cabinet as their front.

Liasconis, surrounded by numerous armed officers and commandos moved his headquarters into CY.B.C.-Radio's continuity studio and imposed his rule on everything and anything broadcast and telecast. At that time I was acting for the Head of TV (who was also on an official trip abroad) and I attended a meeting chaired by Liasconis, the first and the last one ever held after he took over. Mr. Hadjijoseph and all Heads and Deputy Heads of Departments were present. The meeting started after a portrait of Pres. Makarios was smashed by Liasconis' men. Then in a very eloquent speech Col. Liasconis assured all present that it was his responsibility to censor, check, reject or authorize "every single word, every single lyric/song, every single breath going on the air"; that he expected everybody, "for our own good of course", to cooperate with him and carry out his instructions, otherwise "other" persuasive measures would be taken for safeguarding the general good (!) That ALL already scheduled programmes should be replaced by new ones; he specifically instructed that Greek military marches should replace all musical programmed until further notice and that news bulletins should be discontinued, special announcements and special news bulletins would be broadcast or telecast
whenever he felt that the National Guard had anything important to announce to the public. He then asked me to replace all shows in languages other than Greek by "patriotic" or "other appropriate" Greek musical programmes. "Theodorakis and the rest were of course banned; songs with lyrics containing words like "democracy", "freedom", "resistance", "struggle", or any other revolutionary insinuations and slogans were to be excluded and the records eliminated; the same applied to any song with a "revolutionary" rhythm or melody.

When I asked how could anybody be expected to differentiate "revolutionary" from "patriotic" rhythms, he flatly replied that this was our responsibility and that he was "a very intelligent, very observant man and that having worked for years for YENED (the Greek Army Broadcasting Network) he acquired a lot of experience in the field and nobody could cheat or in anyway trick him".

Following this meeting he moved into his studio again and from there he implemented to the full his bosses' policy. He checked and double-checked all announcements, scripts, lyrics of songs, subtitles of films, summaries of Greek Serials or even the texts of Classical Theatrical Plays played on TV. The only programmes he didn't check were the news bulletins which were manufactured at the Headquarters of the National Guard and delivered to him by a high-ranking navy officer.

For one thing we all "admired" Col. Liasconis. For almost fifteen days he didn't leave his seat for more than ten minutes twice a day, to rush to the washroom; he ate very little, a sandwich or a piece of cheese together with a glass of milk; he used to sleep sitting on his chair for two or three hours; he never phoned his wife; so dedicated he was to his "bigger families:
Greece and Cyprus" (!) as he once boasted to one of the announcers.

In five days' time, i.e. from Monday the 15th to Saturday the 19th, CY.B.C.'s reputation was undermined and the airways were contaminated with a tremendous bulk of lies and distortions and allegations that made all democratic people in Cyprus suffer from nausea. The following were among the most striking manufactured news and brainwashing techniques which junta-controlled CY.B.C. broadcast or employed during that period:

1. The alleged murder of Makarios and the systematic reference to him in all newscasts as the "late" President, even after BBC, Deutche-Welle, Voice of America, Moscow's Greek Programming and other stations, the signals of which are received in Cyprus, gave detailed descriptions of Makarios' movements and statements in Malta and England where he fled after the coup.

2. At a later stage, immediately after the Turkish invasion, all of a sudden these same newscasts resurrected without any explanation whatsoever Makarios and informed the public that in London the ex-Dictator dined with Turkey's Prime Minister B. Ecevit and that in fact it was Makarios himself who suggested to Prime Minister Ecevit that the "immediate invasion of Cyprus by Turkey would restore the Status Quo and the provisions of Zurich and London Agreements on Cyprus unilaterally abolished by the coup d'etat".

To these shameless lies a new one was added later on: in their desperate endeavour to transfer to Makarios the blame for the genocide of the enclaved Greek population by the Turkish army in the northern occupied zones, the junta's propaganda agents and agencies - among them CY.B.C. - deliberately distorted certain excerpts of Makarios' address to the U.N. (this speech was delivered
a few hours before the invasion started and it was a
dramatic appeal to all the members of U.N. to prevent
the catastrophe of the Republic of Cyprus) and presen-
ted other excerpts totally out of context in order
to establish the "fact" that he was the one and only
guilty for the catastrophe.

3. Samson's press conferences during his short
presidency - it lasted only for eight days - extensively
covered by CY.B.C.-TV and Radio were classic examples
of how truth can be prostituted and lies glorified.
Surrounded by unshaved and armed EOKA B terrorists,
Samson appeared as a defender of Democracy, a guaran-
tor of human rights, a sincere friend of the Turkish
Cypriot minority, (the Turkish Cypriot leadership
alleged at that time that Samson was planning a genocide
of their community and they urged Turkey to intervene
and save them. I do not believe that Samson had any
such plan in mind. What he wanted was U.S. consent
and recognition and in fact he was willing to give
Turks several super-privileges in order to secure
that support. This is also proved by the fact that
during his regime: 15-22 July, no Turkish Cypriot was
harmed or threatened in any way) a dedicated peace-
maker. He and his Public Information officer presented
to Cypriot and foreign journalists some of the victims
of Makarios' tyranny, persons supposedly tortured
because they "believed in Enosis and Democracy". He
showed to the press representatives victims bearing
wounds and deep scars caused in the dungeons and
"torture chambers" of the Nicosia Prison by Makarios'
supporters and with Makarios' approval. He presented
the various instruments used by the torturers whilst
the "victims" themselves described in detail what they
had gone through. One of these "victims" confessed a
few months later that his scars and wounds (which
impressed everybody present at that conference) were
caused in a car accident; being a member of EOKA B he
was asked by Samson's followers and he agreed to put
on the show...

4. Over the days which followed the coup, CY.B.C.'s bulletins were emphatically stressing that the National Guard was in full control of the entire island, that no victims were reported among civilians and that peace and satisfaction prevailed among law-abiding citizens. The truth known to all Cypriots and historically established after the coup collapsed, was that Paphos District never succumbed to the National Guard, that several hundred people were killed in the battles that went on for days, (even after the fall of the Presidential Palace) or in cold blood; that thousands were arrested, interrogated and tortured.

5. Another aspect of this organized campaign for distorting truth, to which CY.B.C. unwillingly contributed a lot, was the one having as its objective to provide popular support to the new "President" and to undermine the deep-rooted love and respect Makarios still enjoyed. 75% of all news items, Radio and TV, were given to telegrams of congratulations sent to Samson "upon the assumption of his duties" and to the "great relief" the senders of these telegrams felt after they were informed of the elimination of the "vicious priest". Most of these messages were signed by prominent chairmen of Societies, by Labour Union Leaders, by Athletic, Religious and other Clubs' presidents, or well-known and influential individuals. The confusion created among the general public was deep and serious, granted that many of these organizations and individuals were known for their pro-Government stand or for their moderation. It wasn't until months later that it was made known that the above-mentioned telegrams were drafted by the fanatic supporters of Samson and delivered to the prospective senders by armed commandos and EOKA B men.

6. Regarding the fervent Turkish preparations for the invasion of Cyprus, the majority of Cypriots knew nothing;
nothing was mentioned in Radio and TV newscasts. The entire North America and Europe had been watching on their TV sets for days the arrival of Turkish aircraft, warships, tanks, heavy armaments and troops to Alexandretta and Adana (Turkish cities on the Southern Coast; only 40-50 miles from the Cyprus shores. Turkey has some of its major military bases in that area) destined for the "peace-keeping operation" in Cyprus, but junta-controlled CY.B.C., though it had the information, chose to withhold it. When the invasion was well under way the overwhelming majority of Cypriots were caught in sleep, literally and metaphorically. The few who knew the truth, those who worked at CY.B.C. or listened to BBC and other European stations, couldn't make it widely known. Foreign correspondents in Cyprus had repeatedly raised this matter in press conferences held by Samson or his Foreign Minister Mr. Dimis Demetriou but the official answer - the one persistently presented by CY.B.C. too - was that no such a danger existed, that Turkish Cypriots were in no danger whatsoever and that Samson's Government was ready to resume negotiations with the Turkish Cypriot side for achieving a viable political settlement of the Cyprus question.

The criminal suppression of the media assumed its full dimensions when the Turkish invasion started on July the 19th at 4:45 in the morning. The BBC and its relay station in Cyprus BFBS announced in dramatic tones that the Turkish intervention was underway; Turkish planes were dumping thousands of paratroopers on northern Cyprus; Turkish marines were landing by the thousands; the bombing of Northern Cyprus by rockets and napalm bombs was at its zenith and at 6:00 a.m., when CY.B.C.-Radio commenced, as scheduled, its morning service, absolutely nothing was mentioned about the war which was devastating Cyprus. The programming opened with the morning prayer and it continued up to 6:25 with Greek music. Then an interruption occurred; and a speaker, with trembling voice, announced that
"Cyprus without any warning whatsoever has been invaded by the Turkish army". When the dramatic announcement was over Greek military marches filled the airways and they went on and on for eight more days.

Confused and humiliated, the Greek Colonels who ruled Cyprus and CY.B.C. deliberately distorted once more the truth and gave misleading information regarding the progress of war. Continuous and persistent announcements, worded in the Military Headquarters and phone-in, informed the public that the invaders were being defeated in all fronts; that all Turkish paratroopers who landed at Mia Milia village were eliminated by our heroic men; that the anti-aircraft guns in such and such areas shot down so many Turkish fighters; that in Caravas and Lapithos (small towns on the northern coast of Cyprus very close to the site where Turkish marines landed) the Turkish marines were thrown back into the sea and their bodies were scattered on the beach; that all civilians in war zones were advised to take shelter in their homes; that nobody should flee his town or village because the enemy was under the absolute control of the Greek National Guard.

What was the outcome of this emetic and idiotic announcement? I'll attempt to present it in brief:

People listening to CY.B.C. in war zones or a bit outside the perimeter of fighting felt secure and safe; they took shelter in their basement and under the most well-protected corners of their homes; and whilst expecting the joyful announcement of the final victory they were brutally killed, raped, captured and humiliated by the advancing Turkish Army. Thousands of civilians* and soldiers were killed because the Military Headquarters in Nicosia eliminated all communications with the

* The official number of casualties was never released; either because it is too big and it will create defeatism or because some vital information is missing. Unofficial estimates bring the number of casualties to 5,000.
front* and because CY.B.C., the only remaining source of information for civilians and military, was concealing the truth.

Some weeks after the occupation of northern Cyprus by the Turkish army was completed, a commentator of Bayrak** informed his listeners that the Turkish victory was partly due to CY.B.C.'s War Communiques which named specific areas where Greek forces were prevailing or where Turkish forces, like in Mia Milia village, were being defeated. This information was signalled to the Turkish fighters which in no time eliminated with napalm bombs and air-to-ground missiles the Greek strongholds. (This of course is a naive but very didactic allegation and portrays the great responsibilities of the media in periods of crisis).

In another occasion, CY.B.C.-Radio called by name a number of policemen serving in the Famagusta district to report for duty to a specific suburban police station. Those of the officers who happened to listen to this announcement but missed the BBC news bulletin, broadcast a bit earlier, and in which the occupation of Famagusta and the surrounding area by advancing Turkish forces was announced, rushed to report. They entered the Turkish controlled zone unsuspected and never returned.

I do not feel that any other examples are needed to underline the enormous mistakes deliberately or otherwise*** done by the dictators controlling CY.B.C. at that most critical hour of its history. Thousands of words will not exhaust this tragic chapter.

* The real reasons for this crime were not revealed as yet.
** Turkish Radio Station in Nicosia Turkish sector. It functions without any licence and it uses air-channels allocated to CY.B.C. and to some other stations in neighbouring countries.
***I personally believe that all these "mistakes" were pre-planned; they were acts of treason in the innocent disguise of stupidity.
What I would like to add at this point though is that whereas CY.B.C. concealed the truth about the advancement of the Turkish Army some European Stations which we had been monitoring at CY.B.C. were also giving some diametrically opposite but just the same misleading information. On one occasion one of the most prestigious European Stations announced that Kyrenia and Lapithos were occupied by Turkish forces. Listeners panicked;* many of them grabbed the phone and in despair dialed their friends' and relatives' numbers in those two towns. In joy they heard the familiar voices on the other end; and they were relieved when they learned that no Turk has entered their town... Nevertheless, Turks eventually occupied these cities; and the European Station was proved right, in retrospect. It is obvious that this particular station was receiving its information from the Turkish Headquarters and aired them without any cross-checking.

Another scandal revealed quite recently is also related to foreign correspondents in Cyprus. It has been made known that quite a few of these journalists were brought to Cyprus illegally through Turkey, either by military aircraft or warships; they were provided with cars, gasoline, money, female companions, etc. Even their hotel bills in the Nicosia Hilton or Ledra Palace, both in the Greek sector, were paid by the Turkish Government. Most of these journalists were deliberately distorting the truth, like CY.B.C., but for another and very obvious reason...; the pro-Turkish reports of these journalists offered no alternative to Cypriot listeners who were already fed up with the pro-junta and fabricated reports of CY.B.C. Truth suffered in both. And Cypriots, very rightly in this particular case, started identifying journalism with immorality.

* The reason being that CY.B.C. was assuring its listeners that Greeks were winning the war...
When after an ultimatum of the Greek Third Army* the junta collapsed both in Athens and in Cyprus and Constantin Karamanlis** returned to Athens where he was greeted as a Messish, a Liberator and as a Symbol of Democracy, all CY.B.C. employees, who listened to BBC, Deutche-Welle and Moscow newscasts, locked in washrooms and in TV-Dressing rooms;*** started to cry with joy, embracing and kissing each other. We then rushed to Studio A and with malevolence we broke the news to Col. Liasconis. He listened silently. We suggested to him that the "big news" should be included in our next bulletin coming up in a few minutes. He fixed his small eyes on us and he flatly answered: "No".

A few hours later Samson was replaced by Glafkos Clerides, the President of the Cyprus Parliament who is legally acting for the President of the Republic in his absence. Mr. Clerides came to the Station and taped both for Radio and TV an address to the people of Cyprus. When he left we asked Col. Liasconis, still controlling with his armed men the Station, to authorize its airing. He once more denied us the right. We phoned Mr. Clerides' Office and explained the situation.

Half an hour later Col. Liasconis received a telephone call. We never learned from whom or what the content of the call was. At any rate, after he hung the receiver up, pale and torn by fatigue and despair

* Regarded as the most powerful army in Greece. Its seat is Thessaloniki in Greek Macedonia. General Davos, the Commander of the 3rd Army, who never sympathized with the junta, demanded that the Athens Regime should immediately deliver Power to Karamanlis; if they failed to do it he would overthrow them by force.
**Veteran Politician. Prime Minister of Greece for three terms. During the Dictatorship he lived in France. He was re-elected with an overwhelming majority some months after the fall of the junta.
***Listening in CY.B.C. to foreign Stations opposed to the Greek junta was regarded by Liasconis as a treason.
he authorized the transmission of the Presidential Address. But not in a special news bulletin; it was put in the next regular news and current affairs programme. Whilst the address was being simultaneously broadcast and telecast Col. Liasconis stood in the Studio and listened silently; when it was over he broke into tears. I recall him gasping and crying and saying:

"Those American and Greek bastards". They betrayed us... We were holding the chicken and now we are left with a handful of feathers..." (Greek saying. Used whenever we want to point out that somebody missed a great chance or lost a great victory which seemed so sure).

I do not recall seeing him in the Station again. He disappeared, together with his men and a bulk of folders containing everything transmitted during his short dynasty, like a nightmare. But all of us at CY.B.C., when this first nightmare was over, were faced with an even bigger one; the tragedy which struck our country and the tragedy which struck our stations.

And we all knew that we had been facing a new task: to prove that CY.B.C., after those horrible fifteen days, was once more what it had always been: a national Institution and an Extension of the Collective Soul of Cyprus.

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