

March 17, 1963
**Bulgarian Embassy, Athens (Minchev), Cable to
Foreign Ministry**

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Summary:

Bulgarian Ambassador to Greece Nikolai Minchev relays recent newspaper reports to the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minchev summarizes a recent NATO meeting in Athens where NATO staff and Turkish and Greek military personnel discussed security in the two nations and the Balkan region as a whole.

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INCOMING CABLE Nr. 2996

17 March 1963

To: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

From: Athens

Written on 16 March 1963 at 5.00 pm

Today's newspapers present brief information on the NATO meeting that was held in Athens yesterday. In his introductory remarks, the Chief of the Greek General Staff General Pipilis stated that the purpose of the meeting was to further strengthen the relations and cooperation between the Greek and Turkish armed forces. The Chief of the Turkish General Staff, General [Cevdet] Sunay, the Commander of NATO Staff in Izmir, General Brown, and the Chief of Staff of South European forces, General Seyds, also expressed their positions on the same issue.

All the speakers demonstrated their solidarity on the topics discussed: further strengthening of defense in the sensitive region around Greece and Turkey; new NATO common goals regarding defense in the Balkan region, which needs special attention and support since the two Balkan countries were poor and were not in a position to meet the requirements of a wide allied defense; conducting summer military exercises.

[Ambassador] MINCHEV[1]

Deciphered on 17 March 1963

Notes

[1] Nikolai Minchev - Ambassador to Greece (1962-1967) and Yugoslavia (1972-1974), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1974-1979).