

Η ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΕΞΕΓΕΡΣΗ ΤΟΥ 1931

ΑΝΘΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΚΕΙΜΕΝΩΝ

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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΙΚΟΣ ΟΜΙΛΟΣ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
(ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟΝ ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑΣ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ)

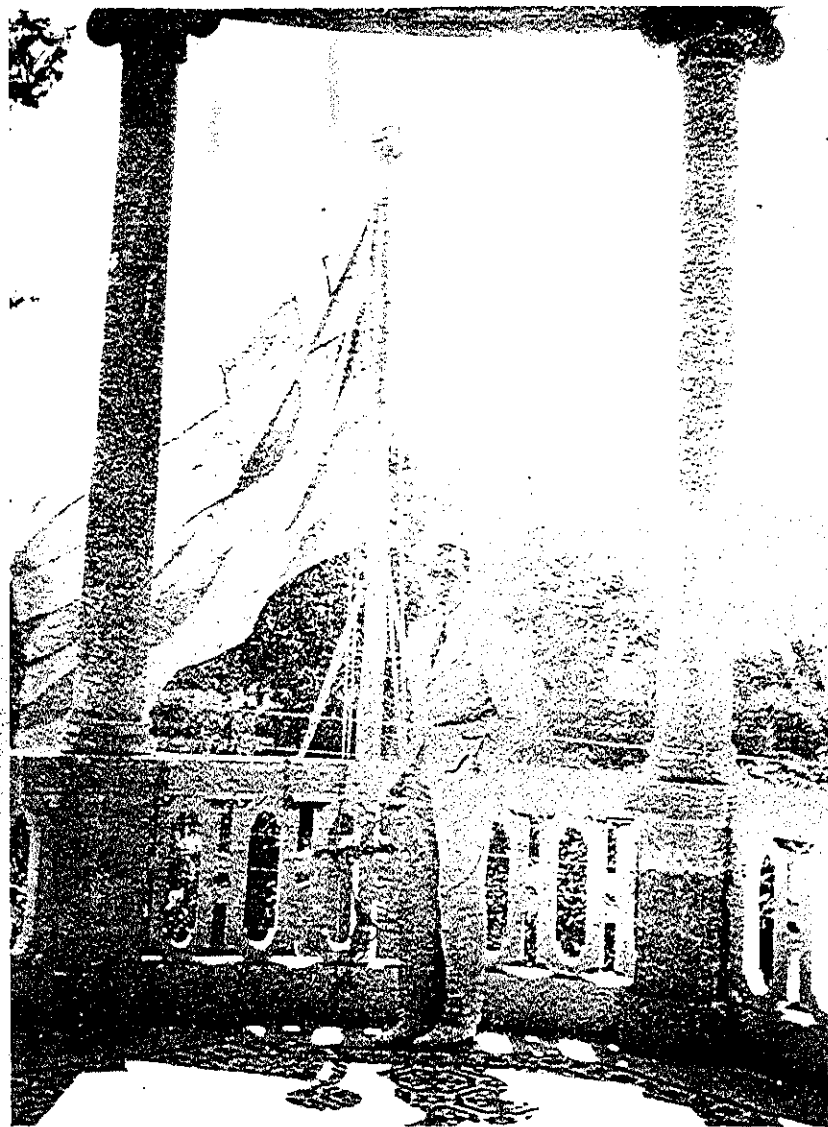
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Ο Άλέξης Κύρου στον έξώστη του Έλληνικού Προξενείου στη Λακωνία.

Disturbances in Cyprus in October, 1931.

[Ἀποσπάσματα ἀπὸ τὴν Ἐκθεση ποὺ ἔστειλε στὴ Βρετανικὴ Κυβέρνηση ὁ Κυβερνήτης τῆς Κύπρου Ronald Storrs, στίς 11 Φεβρουαρίου 1932. Ἡ Ἐκθεση ὑποβλήθηκε στὴν Ἀγγλικὴ Βουλὴ ἀπὸ τὸν Ὑπουργὸ Ἀποικιῶν, τὸν Μάρτη τοῦ 1932.]

*Despatch from the Governor of Cyprus to the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.*

(Received 20th February, 1932.)

Government House,

Nicosia.

11th February, 1932.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the disturbances which occurred in Cyprus in October last.

2. The immediate occasion of the outbreak was the resignation of the Bishop of Kitium and other Greek-Orthodox members from the Legislative Council of the Colony. The Bishop resigned on the 17th October. One other member, Mr. N. K. Lanitis, resigned on the 19th October. The resignations of the Nicosia members, or their intentions to resign, were announced or known to the populace at Nicosia in the evening of the 21st October, just before the first and capital act of violence, the assault on Government House, was perpetrated. Copies of the letters of resignation, which are significant of the state of mind of the writers at the time, have been forwarded to you.

3. The secret deliberations of the Orthodox elected members of the Council which led to their resignation opened on the 12th September, 1931. After several postponements, due to the absence of certain members in Europe, they had been summoned by the Bishop of Kitium to meet that day at Saitta, a summer resort near Troodos partly owned by the see of Kitium, to decide what attitude they should adopt and what course of action they should follow in consequence of a statement made in Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 8th July to the effect that the accumulated surplus from the payments made from Cyprus revenue as tribute to Turkey under the Convention of 1878 had been disposed of for the sinking fund of the Turkish loan guaranteed by Great Britain in 1855. It was assumed, correctly, that they would also discuss and attempt to

define their attitude towards the Imperial Order in Council introducing a new Customs tariff which had been published in the Colony three days previously

6. There is no reason to deny sincerity to the Orthodox members in their reaction to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement, and no suggestion need be made that they were not genuinely reluctant to accept responsibility for additional taxes in the trade depression or, when the responsibility had been accepted by the Government for them, genuinely conscious of lost prestige. Consideration of their attitude to individual questions borders indeed upon irrelevance, and is totally misleading, unless the extreme degree in which they were bound by the theory that in politics unique value belonged to the cause of union with Greece is first appreciated.

7. No announcement was issued after the Saitta meeting, but it was generally known, and mentioned in the Press, that the members had formally resolved to address a manifesto to the people calling upon them to refuse to pay taxes and to boycott British goods by way of protest. The resolution was, it was stated, subject to the approval of the National Organization, and, until this had been obtained, no action was to be taken. Meanwhile, certain of the Orthodox members proceeded to include in their public speeches some indirect but non-actionable exhortation or reference to refusal to pay taxes

14. When the Orthodox members met on the 17th October, the Bishop of Kitium had read out to them and sought their approval of a manifesto he had drafted, of which I here enclose a translation. To this the members agreed generally but stipulated that the draft should be considered at a further meeting in a week's time. The next day they learnt with astonishment that a manifesto in precisely the same terms had been published by the Bishop independently under the previous day's date and had been widely circulated together with a letter tendering his resignation from the Legislative Council.

16. From the 18th October the situation centred in the Bishop of Kitium. His advocacy of illegal measures was hailed with satisfaction by the extremist elements. His manifesto and resignation were followed the same day by a speech at Larnaca in which he was reported to have used the following words: "For the benefit of this country we must not obey their laws. Do not be afraid because England has a fleet. We must all try for union and if necessary let our blood flow." I was subsequently advised that it was doubtful whether this speech would support a prosecution for sedition under the criminal code, but the Bishop, as I was informed at the time, hourly awaited apprehension by the police. Arrest, martyrdom, and widespread demonstrations at the scene of his trial or for his release from prison were it appears to be the phases of his scheme. As it was, no consequences ensued of any sort. I made my preparations for a flying visit to England on urgent business somewhat eased in mind by the turn political events had taken. I was due to sail on the 22nd October.

17. On the 20th October the Bishop arrived in Limassol. He had come, it seems, at the request of Mr. N. K. Lanitis, who announced that the Bishop



Ο Άγγλος Κυβερνήτης της Κύπρου στα 1931 Sir Ronald Storrs.

would explain his reasons for resigning from the Council. Church bells were rung to summon the people, and a cortege headed by a slowly moving motor car draped with a large Greek flag went out between 4 and 5 p.m. to meet him. He was thus escorted to the Stadium, where a crowd of about 3,000 people, including schoolboys, had assembled. I enclose a translation of the speech he made. After a few more speeches the crowd moved off singing and cheering to a club in the town where, from a balcony, the Bishop again addressed them briefly in inflammatory terms. He was followed by Lanitis and Zenon Rossides, recently the representative in London of the National Organization, who reminded the people that the struggle should now be pursued not with words but deeds. At 7 p.m. the crowd quietly dispersed, and there were no signs whatever of impending trouble. On the 21st the Bishop attended a church ceremony in a neighbouring village and again urged his audience to disobey the laws.

18. The Bishop's words appeared to have fallen on deaf ears in Limassol, and his call to revolt was destined to be answered by those who had not heard them. In the afternoon of the 21st Mr. N. K. Lanitis telegraphed the following exaggerated account of the meeting in the Stadium the day before to Nicosia: "An unprecedented huge meeting of the town and suburbs. Bishop of Kitium spoke to the crowd which filled the Stadium. Mayor addressed the Bishop, a demonstration followed without precedent and under leadership of Bishop of Kitium, mayor, and ourselves followed by many thousands of people from town and villages, students and ex-service men. The crowd assembled below the club where the Bishop of Kitium, Lanitis, and Rossides spoke. Never before has there been a more panegyric approval by town and district." The effects of this telegram were instantaneous

20. The sequence of events on the 21st October in Nicosia after the telegram from Lanitis had been delivered was as follows. Manuscript copies of the telegram were made and posted in the clubs. The news spread. At 5.30 p.m. it was generally known that the Orthodox members of the Legislative Council in Nicosia had decided to resign. Members of the new National Union collected at the Commercial Club and sent emissaries to cause the church bells to be rung to summon the people. Others went round the town telling the shopkeepers to shut their shops and assemble at the Club. Speeches began and the crowd swelled from 300 to about 3,000 persons who swarmed inside and around the Club's extensive premises. The resigning members arrived and spoke in turn. The keynote of the speeches was that all differences of opinion and party must be set aside. The members had lost ground to recover and rose to the occasion. Hajipavlou raised one discordant note of criticism of the Bishop and was shouted down. Both he and Theodotou referred to my impending departure for England the next day, and the cry arose "To Government House. To Government House." Dionysios Kykkotis, chief priest of the most important church in Nicosia, then stepped forward and "declared revolution." A Greek flag was handed to him and he swore the people to defend it. One more speech was made, the speaker kissed the flag and the cry "To Government House" was renewed with frenzy. The leaders seized the flag, and about 6.45 p.m. began to

lead the crowd in procession through the town. It is about a mile and a-half from the Club to Government House. A straggling advance guard, which greatly increased en route, impeded the main body. The main procession moved in dense formation and very slowly. There was not much noise apart from occasional outbursts of cheering, mostly from spectators. Passing the Government timber yard, at about one-third of the distance to Government House, the crowd helped themselves to sticks of various sizes, and they tore up the wooden tree-guards along the roadside. At this point some of the crowd or stragglers diverged from the main road and moved in a parallel procession of almost equal density through the suburban village of Ayii Omoloyitades. A spectator from a house on the main road recalls that there passed for ten minutes a broken stream of men and students and for ten further minutes a thickly massed column. Ten minutes later the final stragglers were clear. Sticks, bicycles, lanterns, electric torches, and huge banners are remembered and, among the stragglers, priests holding their skirts up as they hurried forward. The advance portions of the crowd began to reach the first gate of Government House about 7.45, and the main body after 8 p.m.

21. Police headquarters had learnt immediately and were kept continuously informed by telephone of these occurrences. Eight mounted police and a baton party of twelve foot police had been despatched before 7 p.m. with instructions to prevent the crowd from entering Government House grounds. A patrol of five foot police was sent to watch and report by telephone the movements and action of the crowd on its way to Government House. Five mounted police were in line across the first gate of Government House drive and eight foot police with batons in the road in front of them. Here the advance parties of the crowd stopped and thickened gradually from the rear. The police who tried to push the crowd back were assailed with sticks and stones and eventually the horses stampeded and the crowd poured into the drive. I had learnt before 7.30 p.m. that a crowd was on its way to Government House and some ten minutes later the acting Colonial Secretary and the Commissioner arrived and reported to me. I arranged that the Commissioner should go down to the first gate and consent to speak to three representatives. When he and the acting Colonial Secretary went to the gate the main procession had not arrived and eventually, when the police broke, they were driven back at the head of the crowd to the top of the drive some 30 yards from the house. Here for about 20 minutes the crowd waited for the main procession and the Commissioner spoke to some of them. They were mostly students with a few irresponsible spectators. The police re-formed and kept the people from pressing forward into the large circular terrace in front of the house. The crowd thickened suddenly and was pressed from behind. It surged forward right across the terrace up to the front door of the house. The Commissioner, acting Colonial Secretary, and the Inspector and police that had not been dispersed in the crowd took up their position at the porch facing the people. Theodotou, Hajipavlou, Pheidias Kyriakides of Limassol, the priest Kykkotis and a few others who appeared to have been leading the main procession struggled through the mass, which now enveloped

the whole terrace and surrounding garden, to the porch. With them was a man carrying a trumpet and a large Greek standard. A noisy demonstration ensued with cheering and clapping and continuous shouts of "Enosis" (union). At this stage I informed the Commissioner that if the crowd withdrew to a respectful distance I would see one or two of their leaders. He and the leaders from the step of the porch attempted to tell the crowd to withdraw, but without avail. Their words were drowned in cheering and only those nearest the porch could have heard them at all. In the uproar Theodotou was heard to exclaim "The Governor justly (*δικαιῶς*) refuses to see us." A few stones were thrown and some windows broken and, as I learnt afterwards, a Greek flag was hoisted on the roof of the house. It became increasingly clear that words would not move the crowd to go and that its enthusiasm and determination would not easily be exhausted. About an hour after their arrival, *i.e.*, about 9.30 p.m., the leaders, realizing that they had no control, and fearing the consequences, sent messages of apology to me and decamped. It seems that quite a number of the crowd followed them and thereafter the crowd tended steadily to diminish though the movement was difficult to follow and there was much coming and going, and shifting of position. Along the road between Government House and the town parties came and went. Large groups of people stood about and jeered and threw stones at any police that passed.

22. About 9 p.m., police headquarters had learnt by telephone that stone throwing was going on and that windows had been broken, and the Local Commandant, with the Chief Commandant's concurrence, despatched the armed party of 40 men that had been held in reserve at the barracks under the senior police inspector. The inspector by a devious route avoided the crowd and brought his men into Government House from the rear without opposition. He reported to the Commissioner at the porch. The Commissioner and leaders were then attempting to parley with the crowd. Not long afterwards violent stone throwing began and the Commissioner and police were driven from the porch into the house. Further police reinforcements and a copy of the Riot Act were sent for. The bombardment of stones increased and soon all the windows in the front of the house had been smashed, a number of police were injured, many of the electric lights were broken, and the telephone room, near the porch, had been wrecked and rendered untenable. The police reinforcements of an inspector and 22 men arrived in four cars in front of the house. They were heavily stoned and entered the house, as best they could, through the broken windows, at about 10.15 p.m. Before this the Commissioner had ordered the police to make a baton charge. Only the small original police party of twelve had batons and there was a long delay in collecting them. Eventually the party attempted to debouch from the front of the house, but they were quickly driven in by the fusillade of stones. Many of the stones or rocks thrown that night were larger than coconuts and some, propelled with slings, arrived with sufficient force to shatter the masonry of the porch and to break in the front door. The door was propped up with heavy furniture but was again smashed in by timber used as a battering ram. The senior police inspector had asked for permission to

fire, but the Commissioner refused because the crowd appeared to him to be composed largely of young students and because he considered that further effort should be made to disperse the rioters with unarmed police. The chief difficulty was that the now greatly diminished crowd was disposed in groups on and around the terrace and many had withdrawn into the shadow of the trees facing the house, across the terrace, whence they directed the cannonade of stones with increasing volume and accuracy. To the occupants of the house the only clearly visible target was the parties of youths in front. The roughs behind made occasional sallies to support them in destructive acts.

23. Soon after the arrival of the 22 police reinforcements the acting Colonial Secretary's car just in front of the porch was seen to be on fire. It had been wrecked and overturned earlier in the evening. A little later the crowd set fire to 3 of the 4 cars in which police reinforcements had arrived in front of the house. The crowd then threw burning sticks and blazing material through the windows of the house. Where possible police were posted under cover along the front of the house inside the windows, but the torrent of stones and havoc wrought made it difficult to maintain an effective guard. When he was satisfied that definite attempts to set the house on fire had been made the Commissioner decided that rifle fire must be employed, but first ordered the baton party again to charge, this time from the west side of the house. The charge was launched under a hail of stones and failed to reach any of the groups of the crowd. The Commissioner had previously succeeded in reaching some of the students in front of the house. They were too excited to take any notice of what he said. Having ordered the firing party to get ready he again went out to satisfy himself that no other method but rifle fire would stop the riot. He then led the firing party round by the back of the house to the east side. Here further attempts at incendiarism were seen. The Commissioner read the Riot Act, the sense of which was also shouted in Greek by a policeman. The bugle sounded and further warning was shouted. About 100 of the crowd were visible and these at first withdrew but came back quickly shouting insults at the police. The bugle sounded again and the order to fire was given. The party, composed of twelve men, was told to fire one round per man and to aim at the legs of the crowd. The volley was fired, followed by a few scattered shots. The crowd dispersed and was pursued by the police, who were ordered to clear the grounds by charging. Two wounded rioters were left on the ground; seven in all were wounded, of whom one died later. Almost simultaneously the flames from the curtains at the west corner of the frontage of the house spread to the roof and took hold of the whole building, which five minutes later was completely burnt out. The police reported that the grounds were clear. It was then just after 11 p.m. Medical assistance was sent for the wounded and with a guard of two policemen I left in a motor car for Secretary's Lodge with the acting Colonial Secretary. We passed small groups of spectators along the roadside. In the town demonstrations continued until 1 a.m.

24. On arrival at Secretary's Lodge I sent immediately for the troops from Troodos and decided that further military reinforcements would be required.

The permanent garrison consisted of three officers and a hundred and twenty-three men. Allowing for guards, transport, and men in hospital, less than a hundred would be available for parade. The police were trained and employed almost exclusively in the prevention and detection of crime and were in no sense of the term a military force. The siege of Government House had shown that they could not be expected to cope with serious disorder adequately except by rifle fire. The outrage at Nicosia appeared to have been partly prompted by a sense of rivalry with Limassol. Further rivalry and disturbance were sure to arise and should be dealt with firmly at the outset before more damage could be done without, if possible, recourse to firing. The political agitators had roused the mob but could not, even if they wished, control it. In Nicosia, it seemed, the mob had taken charge. If similar situations were to arise in the other towns and to villages, or if there was to be any concerted outbreak, widespread anarchy was likely to follow. The swiftest precautions were necessary to ensure that any such consequence could be forestalled. I therefore telegraphed to the General Officer Commanding British Troops in Egypt for additional troops to be sent by air as soon as possible and to the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet for an aircraft carrier or cruiser. I cabled an account of the situation to your predecessor and cancelled the leave granted to me. I also caused all commissioners to be advised by wire to take precautions in their districts and to report the situation by wire twice daily until further notice. They were informed that grave disturbances had occurred at Nicosia.

25. During the night the Chief Commandant of Police ordered the various posts around the town envisaged in the Internal Security Scheme to be manned. An office for the Officer commanding the troops was prepared at the depot (police headquarters) and the acting Colonial Secretary arranged for certain members of his staff to be there in rotation on continuous duty. He himself remained with me at Secretary's Lodge, which was soon connected to the depot with a direct, and additional, telephone line. The Telegraph Company was asked to submit all private cables for abroad to the Secretariat for censorship and all inland telegrams were to be censored by the Commissioners. The necessary warrants were duly issued. The Commissioner issued large printed notices, stocks of which were kept available at all district headquarters, warning the public to remain within doors from sunset to sunrise, prohibiting assemblies of more than five persons, the carrying of firearms, and provocative conduct. These were posted in the town by daylight on the 22nd....

28. At Larnaca the Commissioner had mustered the police in the barracks and sent for the political leaders to warn them of their responsibilities. He informed them that the police had orders to shoot if any burning or looting occurred. A mass meeting had been arranged for the afternoon and, as he had not sufficient force with which to prevent it, the Commissioner decided to allow it on the understanding that the organizers and speakers would be held responsible. The meeting took the form of a heated protest, led by the mayor,

against the action of the Government in shooting unarmed people in Nicosia. The meeting broke up just as the two platoons arrived on their way to Famagusta: the officer-in-charge detained one platoon to assist in the preservation of order and there was no disturbance.

29. At Famagusta an ugly crowd had gathered and persistent rumours reached the acting Commissioner that Government property was to be attacked. The leaders were sent for and warned. They promised to use their influence to prevent rioting, but said they could not guarantee to keep the mob in check. One of them stated his policy would be to urge the people to passive resistance and to diminish the Government revenue by ceasing to smoke tobacco and refrain from using imported goods. Urging an excited mob to passive resistance to Government and to refrain from smoking was, of course, tantamount to provocation; and this absurd contradictory assurance was typical of the irresponsibility and dangerous equivocation of even the more serious-minded of the leaders throughout the disturbances. The need for sacrifice and bloodshed was freely mentioned in their speeches and at Famagusta on this occasion the "meanness of the English in fighting unarmed people." From noon onwards an attack was expected. All British women and children were evacuated on board a Khedivial steamship in the harbour and, thanks to the example and energy of the General Manager, Railway, a volunteer force of 20 British officials and others was organized and armed in support of the police. The platoon of military arrived at 5 p.m. and a protected area was established and certain key position guarded. Notices were issued closing all licensed premises.

30. The Commissioner Limassol had telegraphed in the morning that all was quiet and that he did not anticipate trouble. His view was shared by the local Commandant of Police. The police were kept in barracks in readiness for an emergency and reserves were called for from the district. Quiet continued until 6.30 p.m. when two motor lorries arrived with a few soldiers from Nicosia to procure provisions. The market was opened but while supplies were being brought out to the lorry from the market a crowd collected. The crowd soon showed signs of resentment at the market being opened for British soldiers and eventually they rushed at the lorry and threw the sacks of supplies to the ground. Soon afterwards the church bells began ringing and the people were urged to assemble at the Bishopric. A police officer and a zaptieh were present there when the Bishop addressed the crowd from a balcony. They made no notes at the time but reported immediately that he had spoken as follows: Since the Nicosia people refused to supply rations to the troops it is a shame for the Limassol people to give them. We must prevent by every means the taking out of rations from Limassol. Please allow us five minutes time to consider what action

should be taken. A patrol of police was soon afterwards sent to the Army supply depot whither the crowd was reported to be proceeding.

31. At 8.15 p.m. the Commissioner telegraphed the situation as follows: Town quiet but excitement prevails. Bishop still here and if more propaganda is made we shall probably have trouble. The mob has just prevented lorries loading food for troops. When warships arrive consider it advisable to send one here. Having despatched his telegram the Commissioner proceeded by bicycle to his house a mile and a half distant. About half way he overtook a crowd heading in the same direction and getting thicker as he progressed towards its front. The people were shouting Union and were carrying sticks. Some of them manifested hostility to him, and his bicycle, from which he had dismounted, was struck. He arrived at his house simultaneously with the head of the crowd and entered his house through the back yard. The crowd entered the yard also and began stoning the house and smashing the windows and wooden shutters. They set fire to a pile of prunings and cut the electric wires. A car arrived with tins of petrol and the crowd set fire to the back door of the house. Inside the house the Commissioner, alone with his wife, twelve-year-old daughter and two servants, was powerless. He had attempted to go out to speak to the crowd but was driven in by a hail of stones. One of the servants whom he sent to warn the police was turned back by the crowd but eventually succeeded in getting through. Seeing that the house was well alight, the Commissioner and his family made their escape from the front door. They were led by two well-disposed persons down to the sea and rowed to the Customs shed where they landed and went to the police station. When the police arrived at the scene of the fire they were too late to extinguish it and the bulk of the crowd has departed leaving a residue of spectators. The police had had no warning of any intention to burn the Commissioner's house; their attention had been diverted by lack of motor transport. One private car which they used stuck in a bank of sand at the side of the road and had to be abandoned. It was burnt by the crowd.

32. I received the Commissioner's telegram reporting that his house had been burnt and that the police were unable to cope with the situation at 10.45 p.m. and the Officer commanding the troops agreed to send him the platoon from Larnaka, which since the dispersal of the meeting at 6 p.m. had been quiet. Had there been any warning of serious disturbance from Limassol military assistance might have been sent much earlier, but the lorry incident was quite unexpected and it is not unreasonably contended that but for that incident the further outbreak might not have occurred. The platoon reached Limassol at 3 a.m. the next morning. From Paphos excitement and demonstrations had been reported, and the telegraph wire had been cut. It had not been possible to send reinforcements, but as will be seen later the situation was still in course of development. At Nicosia the church bells had been rung in the afternoon and

the crowd had collected and refused to move. Six thousand people were said to be massed in Lydra Street, heading towards the New Entrance, where they opened a bombardment of stone-throwing and threatened to rush the piquet. The New Entrance is on the direct approach to the town from the Government offices and Secretary's Lodge. A barricade of barbed wire "knife rests" was erected, the piquet withdrawn and a Lewis gun posted. Warnings were shouted that anyone approaching the barricade and attempting to move it would be fired at. Great credit is due to the troops and police for the skill and patience exercised on this and similar occasions under great provocation. Before midnight the crowd had dispersed.....

35. At Famagusta and Paphos the situation was complicated by the incursion of villagers into the towns. Agitators were busy in the district urging them to come in. At Paphos the Commissioner was the only British official, and he and his wife the only British residents. The force of police was limited to 38, and on the morning of the 23rd he wired for military support. Throughout the 22nd mass demonstrations had continued, and the leading citizens, when warned of their responsibilities had confessed that the situation was beyond their control. The populace awaited in tense excitement the promised arrival of the Bishop of Kitium. The Commissioner placed a small guard on his house, and with the bulk of the police awaited developments at the police barracks. At 10 p.m. the crowd dispersed and the Commissioner learnt that a deputation was proceeding to Limassol to urge the Bishop to come to Paphos on the 24th to address a meeting to which all villagers were to be summoned. On the 23rd at 10 a.m. two officers and a naval party landed from the destroyer and went straight to the police barracks. The Commissioner's wife was received on board. Demonstrations had recommenced early in the morning, the telegraph wires were again cut, and attempts were made to block the road to the harbour. A platoon of the Royal Welch Fusiliers that had been relieved by the Navy at Limassol arrived at 6 p.m. They turned back a procession which was moving in the direction of the Commissioner's house intent on destruction. The officer commanding the platoon was anxious to take immediate steps to break up the disturbance, but the Commissioner had decided that the deputation of ringleaders would return, perhaps with the Bishop, from Limassol. Meanwhile the situation was closely watched, and guards were posted on Government property. The Commissioner prudently matured his plans....

38. In the course of the day the Commissioner of Paphos had telegraphed that it was essential that the Bishop of Kitium should be prevented from going to Paphos, and the Commissioner of Limassol had been told by wire to prevent him. Meanwhile a large crowd supplemented by villagers was on guard outside the Bishop's house as his arrest was anticipated. To consider the situation I summoned a conference at which among others were present: the acting

colonial Secretary, Officer commanding the troops, Chief Commandant of Police, and Commissioner, Nicosia. All were agreed that the Bishop should be arrested that night and that if possible the most prominent ringleaders in Nicosia should be arrested simultaneously. However important it might be to suppress the Bishop, the situation, it was strongly held, centred in Nicosia, and until order and obedience had been restored in the capital it would not be possible to deal effectively with disturbances elsewhere....

40. It was thereupon decided to arrest and deport the following Nicosia ringleaders:-

George Hajipavlou.
Dionysios Kykkotis
Theofanis Tsangarides.
Theofanis Theodotou
Theodoros Kolokassides

41. By 5 a.m. on the 24th the six prisoners were on board warships. In Nicosia private cars from the Volunteer Force with soldiers and police had collected the prisoners, within half an hour, just outside the town on the road to Larnaca whither they were conveyed under escort by lorry. No resistance was met with except from Hajipavlou who locked his front door, attempted to escape, and when apprehended refused to move. The Volunteer Force was also employed that night in distributing to all district headquarters supplies of the Defence Order in Council and large printed posters containing translations of the Defence Regulations.

42. The arrest of the Bishop at Limassol was successfully effected. A small crowd on guard at his house was found asleep and no resistance was offered. A rocket let off as an alarm from the roof of the house appeared to be unanswered. Half an hour later the church bells rang and a crowd collected and approached the building, while police and sailors were still inside searching the villagers for dangerous weapons and taking their names. The police officer sent for reinforcements and brought out eleven police to stop the crowd. His party was stoned and driven back to a position guarded by a naval party facing the house. The crowd increased and began to force in the door of the house and the police opened fire. Twenty-one rounds were fired, six casualties inflicted, and the crowd dispersed, one of the wounded subsequently died. No further rioting occurred in Limassol...

47. The situation at Kyrenia in both town and district had so far been quiet. Savvas Loizides and two other agitators were known to have gone on the 20th to Dikomo, a village in the southern foothills of the Kyrenia range, to consult the Bishop who was touring his diocese and thereafter Loizides was heard of, now in Kyrenia now in Nicosia. The police expected trouble but none resulted. On the

23rd the Commissioner had suggested that as there were 54 Europeans in the town naval or military protection should be sent there. He added that he did not contemplate any disturbance and that there was no hint of rioting and he was informed on the 24th that assistance could be sent only if he reported a serious emergency. Kyrenia is only 16 miles by road from Nicosia. He was advised to organize the male British residents and visitors as a defence corps. The same evening intelligence was received that the Bishop of Kyrenia intended to visit Nicosia next day and the Commissioner confirmed by wire that this was so. It was most undesirable that the Bishop should be allowed to fulfil his intention at that moment, and it was decided to refuse him admission to Nicosia. The Commissioner was advised by wire of this decision.

48. The Bishop arrived at the outskirts of Nicosia at 7 a.m., was stopped by a piquet, and, after a scene of violent protest, obeyed the order to return to Kyrenia. He proceeded straight to the church where a service was concluding. He was seen to be pale with anger and suppressed emotion, and when the service ended he addressed the congregation on what had happened. "I went to Nicosia", he said, "and was stopped by bayonets". He raised his voice to a shout and words and phrases followed in a tumult. "This is a Greek place and must be given to Greece. Englishmen are tyrants and malefactors" are reported phrases and, finally, "I shall hoist the Greek flag where it should be". He led the people - about 300 followed him - straight to the Government offices and, at his direction, the Union Jack was hauled down and torn in pieces. The Bishop's personal servant hoisted the Greek flag in its place. Warned of the event the Commissioner came running to the scene, mounted the stairs to the balcony and called on the crowd to disperse immediately. "Speak to us in Greek" the Bishop shouted, and, after further warnings, led the procession back to the town. The Greek flag was hauled down and a new Union Jack at once hoisted.....

52. The Commissioner, Kyrenia, had been warned that the Bishop would be arrested that night and that reinforcements would be sent. When, therefore, the platoon arrived there, after 1 a.m. on the 26th, they were immediately escorted to the Bishopric and they surrounded and entered the building. Fifty men armed with sticks were found inside but offered no resistance. The Bishop attempted to shake off his escort but was overpowered, placed in a lorry and brought straight to the central prison at Nicosia. In view of the serious developments at Kyrenia the arrest of Savvas Loizides had also been ordered. He was found to have escaped to Nicosia, where he was apprehended later. I decided that he, the Bishop of Kyrenia, Vatiliotis, the communist, and his colleague Costas Skeleas should all be deported with the other ringleaders. Skeleas was seized later in the day at Limassol, where he had arrived from

Nicosia with pamphlets announcing the communist party's decision to join the nationalists.....

60. There were in all some 200 villages in which excitement prevailed and demonstrations were made, but without breach of the law. Less than 70 villages were guilty of destruction of property. Many outrages were the work of small gangs of malefactors or individuals, but no satisfactory distinction can be drawn between communal and individual responsibility for incitement. There are 598 Greek-Orthodox villages and mixed Orthodox and Turkish villages in the island. Three hundred and eighty-nine of these took no part at all in the disturbances.....

63. On the 30th October I had been able to publish widely throughout the Colony your predecessor's telegram of the 28th. The unqualified approval there expressed of my action in arresting the ringleaders and the statement that sedition and disorder would not be tolerated by His Majesty's Government were of vital assistance. On the 3rd November six of the deported ringleaders sailed for England and Gibraltar, and the remaining four followed them on the 6th. The fact of the ringleaders' departure and that they were deported for life was announced through the local Press. This helped to clear the air of the rumours which were fabricated that the extraordinary powers and measures taken by Government would soon be cancelled. These rumours still persist, but their power of conviction continues to diminish. On the 3rd November a notice was published announcing that the cost of reparation of Government property destroyed would fall on Greek-Orthodox communities in relation to responsibility, and that a law to give effect to this decision would be promulgated shortly. Notice of the issue of Letters Patent abolishing the Legislative Council was published on the 16th November, and on the 1st December three new laws passed by me under the new Letters Patent were promulgated. Respectively they prohibited the unauthorized flying or exhibition of flags, restricted the ringing of church and other bells to prevent recurrence of their abuse as tocsins, and vested in me, as Governor, the power of appointment of village authorities. The Reparation Impost Law, implementing decision that destroyed property should be replaced and repaired at the cost of the responsible towns and villages, was passed on the 21st December. The imposts amounted in all to £34,315 and over 80 per cent. of the total has since been paid. More than 2,000 persons have now been convicted by the assize and magisterial courts for specific offences connected with the disturbances and have received adequate sentences.....

[Ἀπόσπασμα ἀπὸ τηλεγράφημα τοῦ Ὑπουργοῦ Ἀποικιῶν πρὸς τὸν Κυβερνήτη τῆς Κύπρου, ἡμερομ. 9 Μαρτίου 1932.]

Extract from a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of Cyprus. (Sent 8.45 p.m., 9th March, 1932).

Immediate. No. 28.

My telegram 8th March, No. 26. As every Member of Parliament has received copy of Coundouriotis' circular I think it is right telegraph a summary of allegations in enclosure "Information regarding recent uprising of the Cypriots and by its suppression".

Following is summary main allegations:—

Ten Cypriots killed, about hundred wounded; two Archbishops, one priest, two late members Legislative Council, four other citizens banished for life, their property seized and relatives forbidden to send money for their subsistence. Number of other political leaders deported to villages far from their homes.

Large number of men and women maltreated and homes destroyed; thousands of arrests made, mostly on absurd or even imaginary grounds, e.g., arrest of all inhabitants of Limassol owning Underwood typewriters.

Following are cited as well-authenticated facts giving concrete idea of methods employed in suppressing revolt:

21st October. After burning of Government House when bulk of crowd had dispersed police wounded stragglers, eight by gunshots, fifteen by bayonet thrusts, three of whom died next day.

23rd October. Kyriakos Mathaios, of Limassol, bayoneted by British soldier while entering Nicosia, died same night in hospital; at celebration of Mass at Varosha police attacked congregation, killed two men, Christou and Papaioissif, wounded eight others, of whom one, Phylis, died two days later.

24th October. On occasion arrest Metropolitan of Kition, British troops fired on crowd "by way of intimidation" wounded eight persons, of whom two, Dimitriou and Constantinidis, subsequently died; same night fifty sailors entered residence of Archbishop of Kyrenia and demanded delivery Archbishopric flag; on receiving no answer they struck him in the face.

25th October. British officer with sixty soldiers entered village Akaki and ordered George Ioannou take down Greek flag flying from church; on his refusal officer ordered soldier to fire killing Ioannou.

26th October. Same officer and detachment proceeded Kato Zodia; in panic

following arrival two women, Helen Polycarpos and Maria Zodiatis (latter pregnant), wounded; Zodiatis died soon after; hundred sailors commanded by Army captain and Unwin proceeded to Arsos, ordered priest sign bond £60 for fellow villagers for sticks gathered without permit; on his refusal they dragged him half naked to village square and maltreated him in presence assembled parishioners; eight villagers then caned till blood ran; detachment then departed after forcibly taking £134 from inhabitants.

27th October. Sixty British soldiers under Police Sergeant Pinkerton entered Pissouri, assembled men of village; tied them up, flogged them, to make them denounce the person who had set fire to neighbouring customs station. Christodoulou, youth of twelve, tortured by twisting rope into flesh of head in order to force father to give desired information. Detailed report of this filed in office of Archbishop of Limassol; also report of rape two women, Maria Prokopi and another of tender age, name not stated; same detachment proceeded Trimiklini, broke into church and destroyed Bishop's chair and carried off sacred vessels, etc.

28th October. Detachment thirty sailors sent Mandria to force villagers repair burnt bridge, dragged from bed old man named Saloumis where lying with high fever, loaded him with heavy beam and ordered him carry it to bridge. On the way as old man slow, stumbling, one of force bayoneted him in back; victim died few minutes later.

29th October. Detachment British troops led by Armenian police officer proceeded Angastina, assembled villagers and selected four younger men beat them with butts of rifles until dropped unconscious. Summary ends.

On 12th November I gave official casualty figures in Parliament as Cypriots six killed thirty wounded (one wounded died later). Police casualties thirty-nine. Are these figures correct?

Am publishing your despatch of 11th February but please telegraph any further information which will enable me to reply to charges summarized in this telegram.

[Τηλεγράφημα τοῦ Κυβερνήτη τῆς Κύπρου πρὸς τὸν Ὑπουργὸ Ἀποικίων, ἡμερομ. 14 Μαρτίου 1932, ἀπαντητικὸ σε τηλεγράφημα τοῦ Ὑπουργοῦ ἡμερομ. 9 Μαρτίου.]

*Telegram from the Governor of Cyprus to the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.*

*(Dated 14th March, 1932.—Received in the Colonial Office at
7.10 p.m. on 14th March, 1932)*

Immediate. No. 29.

Your telegram No. 28 of the 9th March. Allegations in Coundouriotis circular utterly false, malicious, and baseless in almost every particular. Cypriot civilians 6 killed 30 wounded (1 dead later). police casualties, 15 Greek Orthodox, 23 Moslem, Cypriots. No property deported persons confiscated except the correspondence mostly in censorship. No interference even in transmission of available funds to them. Thirteen ringleaders of outbreak still required reside outside their districts. No women touched, but a few men guilty of sabotage may have been handled roughly. Two houses burnt and compensation paid. Seven inhabitants of Nicosia detained police station during examination of their typewriters and correspondence owing to large numbers of threatening letters: no incident of this kind at Limmasol. 21st October. All civilians, sufferers from riots Government House, attended private Greek Cypriot doctor; full list published in local newspapers at the time and medical certificates given. Two only certified wounded by bayonets, both recovered rapidly. 23rd October. No one shot or bayoneted in Nicosia. Story of congregation at Mass being attacked at Varosha unfounded lie. 24th October. No sailors at Kyrenia. No episode there on this date. On the occasion of arrest of Bishop of Kitium, police heavily stoned, fired, killed one man wounded five, no military present. 25th October. No troops at Akaki this date. At Varosha large crowds stormed police station, five police casualties, Royal Marines fired killing one civilian, wounding one. Bishop Kyrenia arrested by officer and men of the King's Regiment, made violent attempt to escape coming out of the palace, hat knocked off, no evidence of his being struck. 26th October. Major of the King's Regiment seven men visited Akaki; no shot fired. Greek flags removed from buildings. Same date same troops with Captain of Royal Welch Fusiliers and fifteen men visiting Kato Zodia were attacked by mob, three rounds fired, one man killed and one wounded and one woman, Polycarpou, wounded from ricochet, completely recovered, no ill effect. Village authorities certified Maria Zodiatis quite unknown and no other casualties. Unwin with seven soldiers and three volunteers visited Arsos, levied £60 for serious damage to forest; Committee of Executive Council visited village recently and took evidence from village priests and nineteen villagers. Priests complained only of having been prodded once by rifle without bayonet, no allegations whatever of caning any

villagers. 27th October. Captain Royal Welch Fusiliers and fifteen men visited Pissouri, warned inhabitants who had destroyed Custom House. Village authorities have made affidavit characterizing story of any flogging, torturing or rape as untrue and preposterous. Youth, Christodoulou, and woman, Procopi, entirely unknown. Affidavit saying that soldiers behaved very well. Trimiklini village visited; Church searched for rifles. Bishop's Chair slightly damaged. Priests consider this due to soldiers standing on it in search. No allegation of any sacred vessels being carried off. Affidavit from village authorities discrediting this entirely. 28th October. Fifteen men the King's Regiment under Sergeant-Major compelled Mandria rebuild bridge. Salloumis, in road near café, before being required to work said nothing of being ill but walked back after first trip to bridge and complained of being ill; was released from work, sat in café and was taken home where he unfortunately died from heart-failure as certified by Greek Cypriot doctor there at the time. This may have been partly due to some exertion but brutality quite impossible. 29th October. Patrol of the Royal Welch Fusiliers sent to Angastina to arrest villagers for sabotage. Village authorities have made affidavits that it is quite untrue that four or any men were beaten unconscious. It is a matter of no less regret than surprise that so distinguished a name should have lent itself to utterances of such calumnies against officers and men of Civil and Military Services of a friendly Government.