

TITO HELD MOVING TO WIN MACEDONIA

Backing for Aegean Minority's Unity Regarded as Notice to Greece of Yugoslav Claim

By C. L. SULZBERGER

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Oct. 13—Marshal Tito has served indirect notice on Greece of future Yugoslav territorial claims by offering assurances to "the Macedonians in Aegean Macedonia" that "we are not indifferent to their future and we will stand by the principle that all Macedonians should be united in their own country."

"Aegean Macedonia" is a clear reference to the part of the former Ottoman province that extends to the sea on both sides of the Vardar River valley south of Djevdjelija [Guevgueli] and into the Gulf of Salonika. This territory is now Greek.

As far as can be learned, Marshal Tito's Government has not lodged a claim to this area in a formal *démarche* to either the Greek Government or an Allied body. It is evident, however, that eventually this may be expected, just as in the cases of Carinthia and Istria Yugoslavia official moves and claims were preceded by public warning.

When Josip Smodlaka was Marshal Tito's Foreign Minister in the spring of 1944 he told this correspondent that although Yugoslavia wished to unite the Macedonians in a federated province, this excluded Greek, or what Marshal Tito refers to as Aegean, Macedonia.

He explained that Yugoslavia recognized that the Djevdjelija-Salonika region was not only largely Greek by tradition, but that it was furthermore recognized that since the Greco-Turk population exchanges two decades ago the area had absorbed a great majority of Hellenes, reducing the Slavic minority's proportion.

Last April, however, Marshal Tito told this writer in an interview that he would do nothing to

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TITO FORESHADOWS A CLAIM UPON GREECE



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The Yugoslav Premier indicated an eventual demand for Greek Macedonia (cross) by assuring its inhabitants that his nation "will stand by the principle that all Macedonians should be united in their own country." Macedonians also dwell in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

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prevent the Macedonian people from "reuniting." It was obvious that he included the inhabitants of Greek Macedonia, although he would not commit himself further.

Edward Kardelj, Yugoslav Vice Premier, said here a fortnight ago that no claims had been made against Greek territory and implied that none would be made. In a speech in Skoplje, capital of Yugoslav Macedonia, however, Marshal Tito made it evident that international rivalry in that area might be expected.

He furthermore criticized the Bulgarian Social Democrats, who he said were championing the idea of a similar Greater Macedonia, but "under foreign sponsorship."

The idea of such a State under Bulgarian tutelage has been popular in Sofia ever since the First Balkan War and was the magnetic attraction of the famous internal Macedonia revolutionary organization [Imro] headed by Ivan Mihailoff.

It would seem that Marshal Tito had the inside track at the moment in any Slavic push to Salonika, which is what the grant of such a claim would amount to. Yugoslavia is allied to the Soviet Union and Marshal Tito stands favored in the Kremlin.

The Greeks would certainly not

give in to any such idea and the British, always eager to keep the Slavs from the Aegean, may be expected to support them.

When Marshal Tito decides to get his Aegean campaign of propaganda fully under way one may expect it to be paralleled by a Bulgarian blast for "rights." The Turks also are opposed to such a Slavic Drang Nach Süden [drive toward the south] because that would sever their land link with the Greeks. Those old enemies now want to stick together in a common front against the Slavs.