

## **Disarmament and the Deniz Incident**

This paper will analyse the - largely failed - attempt to disarm the Greek and Turkish Cypriot militias after the agreements in Zurich and London during the Transitional Period preceding independence. Given the tense situation after the communal strife of 1958 and the signing of the Zurich-London agreements, the issue of disarmament would become a major concern for the British. But the Zurich-London agreement was only acceptable as an interim solution for the bulk of the Greek Cypriots leaders and the EOKA fighters despite statements to the contrary by Makarios and other Greek Cypriot leaders in the first months after the settlement. Moreover, although the Zurich-London agreements were more favourable to the Turkish side, also their militias and some of their leaders did not trust the arrangement or were still aiming at the partition of the island as the Deniz incident showed. In the end both sides continued to mistrust each other and consequently - as this paper will show - remained armed and ready to fight again.