

Greek News

November 17 Claims Raid On Athens Police Station

The urban guerrilla organization "November 17" yesterday claimed responsibility for last Sunday's raid on an Athens suburban police station, during which four policemen were disarmed and robbed of a quantity of automatic weapons and walkie talkies, among other items.

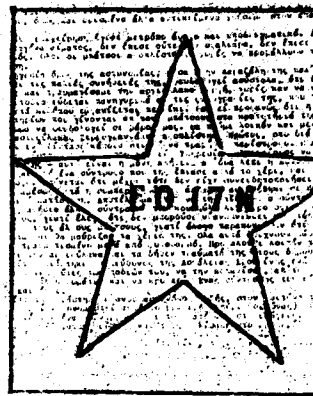
In a declaration sent to the afternoon daily "Ethnos" the group said that it needed the weapons for the organization's future activities. It also sent a picture of the weapons stole the raid.

November 17, named after the date of a 1973 student uprising against the military junta then governing Greece, has claimed responsibility for 12 assassinations since 1975. Its most recent attack was the June 28 killing of U.S. Naval Attaché Captain William Nordeen in a car bomb blast in an Athens suburb.

On Sunday afternoon, six

members of the organization, including one dressed as a police officer, stormed the Vironas police station. After locking up the four officers who were on duty, the men grabbed two machine guns, two submachine guns, several pistols, walkie talkies, police caps, police rubber stamps, and according to radio reports yesterday, an unknown quantity of files.

In its proclamation the organization states that "the revolutionary struggle of the popular forces against the rotten and corrupt regime of scandal and dependency demands greater quantities of weapons and materiel. This was the aim of the attack-occupation of the Vironas police station." November 17 then warns: "This struggle will continue until the final overthrow of the regime of exploitation and oppression, until the overthrow of the controlled parliamentarianism of the



two parties of the lumpen upper bourgeoisie and western imperialism — the (main opposition) New Democracy party and the (ruling) PASOK party."

The proclamation also describes in minute detail how the raid on the police station was carried out, and accuses the police hierarchy of lying "shamelessly" in claiming that the raiders had beaten the duty officer, policewoman Niki Vergi, in order to force her to tell them where the station's arsenal was hidden.

November 17 replies to these charges by stating that "not a single drop of blood was shed, not one slap was meted out, not a shot was fired. All the cops were dis-

armed without offering the slightest resistance."

The organization provides a possible indication of future activity when it states that "whichever policemen submits to our orders, raises his

hands and does not resist will have nothing to fear from November 17 ... Whoever tries to pull a gun, though, will be shot immediately, without further warning ... In future all simple policemen should have the above clearly in mind."

The November 17 statement ends by saying that the struggle will go on until "all the American bases in our country are closed down, until the last American soldier abandons Greek territory, and until the last Turkish soldier abandons Cypriot territory."

The statement was accompanied by a photograph of a flag forming a backdrop for the plundered weapons. The red flag with a yellow star and the letters 17N in the centre of the star is flanked by a poster of Karl Marx and Aris Velouhietis, a Greek Communist resistance leader during the Second World War.