

CAREER OF MARKOS HAS BEEN VIOLENT

Greek Guerrilla Leader Has Had Stormy Life Since He Cast Lot With Reds

ATHENS, Dec. 27 (AP)—Markos Vafiades, guerrilla chieftain who has proclaimed a Communist state in northern Greece, is a convert to communism who has made a career of violent political agitation.

The mysterious, mustached guerrilla "general" is known to be an energetic and efficient administrator who has complete faith in ruthless discipline and in the Communist party.

The Greek Army has been hunting the elusive Vafiades for months. In the past two days the

Army announced an intensive search for his "capital."

The Greek Government has expected that Vafiades would proclaim his capital somewhere in the region of Florina, near the Yugoslav border.

Last July Demetrios Maximos, then Premier of the Royalist Greek Government, stated that the Communists had evolved a plan for a nation-wide insurrection called "Plan F." He said the plan had been ordered into effect by Vafiades, but that police intercepted the orders. The Government said the plot was crushed when police rounded up thousands of Leftists in mass arrests.

Vafiades is 41 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, lean and sinewy. He has steely blue eyes and wavy chestnut hair.

He was in Salonika in 1946, when the guerrilla bands in the north were beginning in earnest their attacks against Government forces. Vafiades slipped from his hideout and joined the guerrillas in September of that year. Within a month he became a commander-

in-chief of all the guerrilla forces.

There has been speculation that Vafiades, who uses the nom de guerre of "Gen. Markos," was appointed commander by some mysterious figure. But George Yannoulis, commander of guerrilla forces in the Mount Grammos area, said last spring that Vafiades was "elected" by all guerrilla captains after he had toured their camps.

Yannoulis since has been reported either to have killed himself or to have been executed at Vafiades' order because of differences over the announcement of the Communist "Government."

Vafiades headed Elas, the armed force of the EAM (National Liberation Front), in western Macedonia during the war. When Salonika was liberated, he became an important figure.

Vafiades, described as a dynamic organizer and improviser, controlled Salonika at the time of the liberation through his own secret police organization.

Vafiades was born in Kastamoni in Asia Minor in 1906. He came to

Greece by way of Istanbul with the wave of refugees after the unsuccessful Greek campaign against the Turks in 1923.

He became a street peddler, then a shipping clerk and a waiter in a coffee house. It was when he was a tobacco worker in Kavalla that he made his contacts with the Communists and joined the Communist Youth movement.

From that time on his life was a violent one. Greek police records show Vafiades has been jailed at least eight times since 1929 on charges of making seditious speeches, provoking riots, agitating strikes, robbery and carrying false identification papers.