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Author(s)	Gene Moskowitz
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Attila 74

(GREEK-COLOR-DOCU)

Variety 11-17-75
Paris, Nov. 18.

Cacoyannis release and production. Conceived, directed and commentary spoken by Michael Cacoyannis. Camera (Color), Sakis Maniatis; editor, Cacoyannis, Viven Sammut-Smith; music, Michel Christodoulides. Reviewed at RTL, Paris, Nov. 9, '75. Running time, 95 MINS.

Michael Cacoyannis, international Greek filmmaker from Cyprus, has made a moving docu about the tragedies of his native island. The profits will go to help Greek refugees there. Though showing only the Greek side, Cacoyannis has drawn a clear look at the history and tribulations of this island coveted by Greece but with a large Turkish minority.

After a brief history, it delves into the effects of the recent Greek Junta in overthrowing the head of the finally independent Cyprus, Archbishop Markarios, using men in the National Guard, which led to the intervention of Turkey and the demarcation of the island by the Attila 74 line.

Cacoyannis interviews Markarios who expresses a need for co-operation between the two sects. There is a dramatic episode of a man killed by a Greek terrorist org working for joining with Greece, during a demonstration for the return of Markarios. There are moving talks with refugees, and, overall, a coherent, penetrating look at this riven island with blames on the U.S. and the CIA and the British also in it.

Perhaps repetitive, it has a fine visual finesse, creative editing and transcends its subject in giving an implication of a land divided by lingo, ethnic and national difference. Greeks outnumber the Turks. Docus need careful handling and this has the well honed blend of info and visual drive for tv with school, institutional and archive usage indicated. Commercial chances are limited except for special situations and it should be a fine fund raiser on the plight of the refugees.

Atrocity tales, inherent in all invasions and upheavals, are done via moving tales as well as interviews with the terrorist chief after the ouster of Markarios, the UN resident and others, plus the reading of a declaration, on U.S. politics during the affair, of Senator Edward Kennedy. In sum, a revealing docu despite admitted one-sidedness in displaying only the Greek vantagepoint. —Mosk.