

Trips: Trips - 4

HS L 179:67



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Sec. Gen.'s trip to Greece 1956

Jan. 17-19

Some notes on Greece

SOME NOTES ON GREECE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Greece, since the cession of the Dodecanese by Italy under the 1947 Peace Treaty, has an area of 51,246 square miles. The estimated population (1953) is 7,819,000.

Greece is, racially, the most homogeneous country of the Balkans. Minorities consist primarily of some 150,000 Turks in Thrace, which was acquired after World War I; that minority was exempted from the exchange of populations which took place in 1923; so also was the Greek minority in Istanbul. There are also some 80,000 Slavophones in Macedonia, and some 8,000 Jews still remain in Salonika.

In religion, Greece is united in the faith of the established Greek Orthodox Church.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

Under the Constitution of 1 January 1952, Greece is a "Crowned Democracy".

The Greek Parliament (Vouli) has traditionally been split between small parties reflecting personal feuds. However, in August 1951 Field Marshal Alexander Papagos set up the National Rally, recruiting members primarily from the rightist Populists, but also attracting more progressive men. In November 1952, Papagos became Prime Minister. On his death, in October 1955, he was succeeded as Prime Minister by 48 year-old Constantine Caramanlis, a lawyer and Member of Parliament for Serres (Macedonia), whose record as Minister of Public Works under Papagos had been outstanding. Neither Stephan Stephanopoulos nor Panayotis Canellopoulos, who had been Deputy-Premiers under Papagos, participated in the new cabinet. Spyros Theotokis, a Rally member from a politically prominent Corfu family, succeeded Stephanopoulos as Foreign Minister.

The present Parliament (Vouli), elected in November 1952, will shortly be dissolved. A caretaker Government may be appointed before the general elections, which are due in late February or early Spring. They are to take place under a mixed majority and proportional representation system.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND PROBLEMS

The acute interest in politics typical of the Greek outlook is reflected in the fragmentation of Greek political parties. The National Rally is failing to remain united after the death of Field Marshal Papagos. A few days ago, Mr. Caramanlis announced the formation of his own party, the National Radical Union.

Opposition parties, each numerically small, include: The new Progressive Party, of conservative tendencies, under Spyros Markenzinis, an economist, who seceded from the National Rally. The Liberal Party of the late Eleftherios Venizelos, which favours social reforms but shuns Communist cooperation, headed by George Papandreou, a former Prime Minister. The Liberal Democratic Union, headed by Sophocles Venizelos, the son of Eleftherios, which might be prepared to cooperate with the left. The EPEK (National Progressive Union of the Center), the party of the late General Plastiras, Premier after the Civil War. Savvas Papapolitis, former Minister of National Economy under Plastiras, leads EPEK which advocates leniency toward civil war "andartes" (guerrillas). The Democratic Party of the Greek People of George Cartalis, Mayor of Volos and former Cabinet Minister, favours leftist cooperation in fighting the Rally. EDA (Union of Democrats of the Left), not represented in Parliament, comprises former EAM (National Front of Liberation) members, i.e. leftist resistance fighters, and includes Communists, whose party is outlawed.

In the immediate entourage of the King, two significant persons are: Dimitri Levidis, Grand Marshal of the Court, who held the same position in the reign of King George II; and Charalambos Potamiamos, Acting Political Adviser to the King.

In Athens, the old Populist (monarchist) newspaper, "Kathimerini" (Daily) has been the National Rally's main exponent. Other important Athens newspapers

are "To Vima" (The Tribune) and "Ta Nea" (The News). "Avghi" (The Dawn) is the newspaper of EDA. "Rizospastis" (Radical), a Communist newspaper, is banned, but until recently was issued clandestinely.

The internal political development of Greece hinges largely on the continuing economic problems of under-employment, scarcity of investment capital, lack of sufficient arable land and deficits in the balance of trade.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Greece belongs to two groups: (i) she became a member of NATO in February 1952; (ii) Greece has signed with Turkey and Yugoslavia the Balkan Treaties on "Friendship and Collaboration" (February 1953), "Alliance, Political Cooperation and Mutual Assistance" (August 1954) and the "Balkan Consultative Assembly" (March 1955).

In public opinion, the Cyprus question now dwarfs all other international issues, and all other problems are considered by the Greeks in relation to that problem and to the subsequent riots in Istanbul and Izmir of 6-7 September 1955.

In the view of the Greek Government, the problem of Cyprus is a question of the right of self-determination of the Cypriot people to be discussed between the representatives of the Cypriot people themselves and the U.K. Government. The position of the Greek Government is that it expresses its concern by following the negotiations between Makarios (Exarch of Cyprus) and the British, and by maintaining contacts with London, and Washington, with a view to assisting in the elaboration of a solution.

Characteristic of present popular feeling towards the U.K. are the many anti-British manifestations in the streets of Athens, so blatantly contrary to the previously traditional friendship between the two countries. The Anglo-Hellenic League - a cultural organization - has lost four-fifths of its members during the last year.

The tension between Greece and Turkey created by the riots in Istanbul and Izmir has by no means subsided. These riots were preceded by a bomb explosion in the Turkish Consulate in Salonika; in the course of grave rioting which followed in Istanbul and Izmir considerable damage was inflicted on Greek property. The Greek Government has been pressing the Turkish Government to compensate the victims of the riots. Greek-Turkish relations were somewhat eased following the formal raising of the Greek flag on the Greek Consulate at Izmir by a Turkish Minister on 24 October. On 25 December 1955, a Turkish Government spokesman revealed that agreement was far from reached on compensation to the victims of the riots; the differences mainly relate to compensation for Turkish citizens of Greek origin - as distinct from Greek nationals - which Turkey regards as an internal problem. Another related issue is that of the trial of a Turkish member of the Turkish Consulate staff in Salonika charged with having placed the bomb which exploded in the Consulate. This trial is to take place soon. Great dissatisfaction was provoked in Greece in September last by despatches by Mr. Dulles of almost identical communications to Greece and Turkey expressing concern over the deterioration of Greek-Turkish relations; it was felt in Greece that the communications placed on the same footing the victims of Istanbul and Izmir and the "directors of the Turkish mobs".

Two facts may be recalled to illustrate the spirit at present prevailing in Greece. The Greek Government decided on the day following the riots not to take part in the NATO aero-naval exercises of 22-30 September, in which Turkish and British forces were to be engaged; and the Council of the Balkan Alliance had to postpone its end of the year meeting, which was to take place in Athens.

With Bulgaria, Greece's relations are governed by the Peace Treaty of 10 February 1947. At the 1946 Paris Peace Conference, Bulgaria once more claimed an outlet to the Aegean Sea, although unsuccessfully. Greco-Bulgarian diplomatic relations were re-established on 24 May 1954.

As regards Albania, the position of Greece is that no peace treaty has been concluded to end the state of war, and she maintains her claim to Northern Epirus (Southern Albania). It was reported recently that Greece had approached the French and Italian Governments with a view to asking Albania to clear the mines from the Straits of Corfu, which since 1946 have been closed to navigation by the International Mines Commission.

Certain Greek political problems dealt with by the UN which are keenly remembered may be briefly summarized. Greek charges of aid by her northern neighbours to the "andartes" (guerrillas) led to the appointment of the Commission of Investigation concerning Greek frontier incidents in December 1946. It was succeeded by the Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB) established by the General Assembly in October 1947, and discontinued in 1951, when the Peace Observation Commission established a Balkan sub-commission. In 1954, at the suggestion of the Greek Government, the UN Military Observers were discontinued by the Balkan sub-commission, their duty of watching the Greek frontiers against foreign incursions having been fulfilled.

Another Greek issue dealt with under UN auspices had been that of the Greek children abducted at the time of the civil war. In 1948, the General Assembly recommended their return to Greece: for practical reasons the matter was entrusted to the International Red Cross, which was requested to organize liaison with the National Red Cross Organizations of the countries concerned. In 1950 the General Assembly noted that, except for Yugoslavia, no country harbouring Greek children had taken definite action, and established a Standing Committee (Peru, Philippines, Sweden). Both at the sixth and seventh sessions repatriations from Yugoslavia were noted, but the failure of other States to co-operate was regretted or condemned by the General Assembly, which discontinued the Standing Committee. Since then, in a communication dated 12 September 1955 (A/2993) the International Red Cross reported on its work in assisting Greek children repatriated from Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia and requested continuation of UN financial support. Provision was made accordingly in the 1956 budget.

GREECE

U-5	Stavropoulos, C.	(Legal)
P-5	Pintos, Jerome	(ESA)
P-5	Romanos, Jean	(PSCA)
P-5	Symeonides, George	(DPI)
P-5	VALAORAS, Vasilios	(TRI)
P-4	Messinesi, P.	(Personnel)
P-4	Zarras, John	(ESA)
P-3	Adossides, Andreas	(ECE)
* P-3	Carasso, Maurice	(Conf. Serv.)
* P-3	Ladas, Alexis	(Political Mission)
P-2	Ergas, Isaac	(ECE)
P-1	Sameh, Elieser	(Office of Controller)

* Not counted for purposes of geographical distribution.

BUREAU OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The subject of community development is receiving increasing attention from the governmental authorities and public leaders generally in the area to be visited. Headquarters is aware of this development which is reflected in United Nations programmes both in the field as well as in training courses, seminars and study tours. The economic aspects of community development are being studied through special projects being undertaken by ECAFE.

Greece

The national correspondents in the field of social welfare are: Mr. Jean Kyriakos, Secretary-General, Ministry of Social Welfare, Athens; and Mr. Andre Psaras, Director-General, Ministry of Social Welfare, Athens.

The national correspondents in the field of social defence^{1/} are: M. Constantin Gardikas, Professeur de Criminologie à l'Université, 6, rue Othon, Athènes; M. Ch. Triantaphyllidis, Directeur général près la Direction générale de la justice criminelle, Ministère de la Justice, Athènes; M. Dimitrios Caranicas, Professeur de Criminologie à l'Université de Thessalonique, Thessalonique.

Greece, Israel and Yugoslavia were visited during the summer of 1955 by a study tour on community development.

^{1/} Appointed under the terms of General Assembly resolution 415 (V), 1950, which provided for the integration of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission within the United Nations. Correspondents are appointed by their governments and maintain direct contact with the Secretariat, providing inter alia, current information on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. At present there are 86 correspondents in respect of 41 countries. This system has proved to work satisfactorily.

G R E E C E

Athens

UNHCR Branch Office for Greece

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ATHENS INFORMATION CENTRE

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United Nations Information Centre
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Athens, Greece

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 ATHENS (GREECE)

Telephone: 612-148

Area Covered: Greece, Israel
 and Turkey

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



BUREAU DE L'ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE

UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: PLAZA 4-1234

CABLE ADDRESS: TECABOARD • NEW YORK

REFERENCE:

ATHENS - GREECE

No TAB Field Office.

Level of Approved 1956 Category I Technical Assistance Programme:	<u>US\$160,672</u>
Number of Experts:	27
Number of Fellows:	3
Contribution: 1956 pledge:	US\$5,000 (same as 1955)
<u>Comment:</u>	

Although the Government has repeatedly requested the establishment of a TAB Resident Representative's Office in Athens, it has not been felt that the action is warranted up to this time.

GREECE

TAB RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There is no Resident Representative. The Technical Assistance Board has unofficially informed us that they are planning to appoint a TAA expert, Mr. I.H. Ergas (Greece) to serve as Liaison Officer with the Government; his address is:

Lycobut Street 11,
Athens.

TAA EXPERTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Contract Starting Date</u>
Chassagne, P.	French	Chemical Analysis and Dressing of Mineral Ores	13 Sept. 1955
Ergas, I.H.	Greek	Economic Research	5 Dec. 1955

IMPORTANT PROJECTS

Statistics - In May 1952, TAA sent an expert in general statistics, (U.S.) whose mission resulted in the enactment of the statistical law of 1953 and the establishment of the National Statistical Service. In January 1954 he was replaced by a staff member of the UN Statistical Office (Canada) seconded until December 1955, to assist with the organization and beginning operational phase of the National Statistical Service. A demographic statistician (Sweden) assisted also from March 1954 to March 1955. The Government has requested the further appointment, of a year's duration, of an expert in economic and social statistics.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

There is room for improvement, in the coordination by the Government, of requests for technical assistance. There appears to be need also for the appointment of a Resident Representative. There is a Government Co-ordination Committee for Technical Assistance, the Chairman of which, Mr. Elie Krimpas, seems to be a suitable person, but the Committee thus far appears not to have functioned effectively.

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TOTAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES IN 1956

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Expanded Programme</u>	<u>Regular Programme</u>
TAA	\$ 69,500	\$ 2,500
WMO		
ILO	31,000	
FAO	20,830	
ICAO	10,000	
WHO	22,842	
	<u>\$154,172</u>	

In addition, Greece is participating in the following regional projects of the UN:

1. Community Development, including the pilot project for the development of a model village, "Chrissoupolis" (Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia).
2. Economic Planning in Southeast Europe (Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia)

COUNTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO EXPANDED PROGRAMME

Pledge for 1955 - \$5,000
Pledge for 1956 - \$5,000

GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Greek Government has expressed interest in having a greatly increased programme, apparently in the light of the recent reductions in U.S. programmes.

U N I C E F

GREECE

Field Representative: None

Allocations: \$9,851,395

Projects Assisted: Child feeding and clothing (emergency).
B.C.G. Vaccination Campaign. Milk Con-
servation Projects. Maternal and Child
Welfare. Aid for Handicapped Children.
Environmental Sanitation. Long-range
feeding. Syphilis Control.

Government Contributions: \$115,022

In addition, 50 tons of raisins have been
pledged as the 1955 contribution.