

Attic Chronicle by Phocion

Papandreou and the Soviet navy

Athens signs secret treaties with Tripoli on orders from the U.S.S.R., and opposition leaders are up in arms.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou flew to Libya on Sept. 23 for two days of meetings with Colonel Qaddafi and Major Jalloud. At the official reception ceremony, Jalloud proclaimed:

"Brother Papandreou! We have examined you, we have tried you, and we have found you trustworthy. We are determined to do everything required to strengthen you further, because it is in Libya's interests that you remain in power, so we may continue our cooperation in the future. No one can impose any limitations on this cooperation between us. There exist obligations which were incurred in previous circumstances. We believe that you will act honestly and carry out now what you have promised us before the 1981 election."

At the conclusion of the meetings, a less than informative press release announced a \$1 billion three-year economic agreement and "identity of foreign policy objectives of the two governments, namely the creation of a Mediterranean which will be free of the presence of alien military bases and alien fleets." Beyond this, no information was given by either government, except that a series of secret treaties was signed. Their content remains classified.

However, in the chaotic political atmosphere in Athens, certain leaks emerged, leading to the conclusion that the meeting was managed by the Soviet Navy's command.

The major aspect of the secret treaties is the close cooperation between the Greek and Libyan navies involving: 1) joint annual naval man-

auvers, 2) construction of Libyan ships in Greek shipyards, 3) training of whole classes of Libyan cadets in Greek military and naval academies, and 4) sale of Greek-manufactured materiel to Libya.

This naval arrangement should be viewed in the context of Soviet naval activities in Greece. The Soviet Mediterranean fleet maintains no fewer than five floating naval facilities just outside the three-mile limit of Greek territorial waters. Two of these five are situated right outside the NATO naval base at Suda Bay.

The Soviet Mediterranean fleet has secured docking, resupply, and repair rights at Greek ports. Soviet intelligence has secured the opening of offices, in the northern Greek port city of Thessalonica, of an openly insurgent organization dedicated to "the liberation of Macedonia down to the Aegean coasts," with the quiet toleration of the Papandreou government and of President Caramanlis.

Following Mr. Papandreou's return from Libya on Sept. 25, the situation became more intriguing. An emergency meeting took place between the President of the Republic of Greece, Constantine Caramanlis, and the head of the "New Democracy" conservative opposition party, Constantine Mitsotakis. Mitsotakis 1) characterized Major Jalloud's statements as "gross interference in the internal affairs of Greece"; 2) gave an extensive report on the wave of political terror and persecution against conservatives and nationalists which has been unleashed by the Papandreou government; and 3) in his capacity as

head of the parliamentary opposition, requested to exercise his constitutional right to be informed of the secret treaties signed with Libya.

Papandreou's response was rather strong. As soon as he received assurances from his foreign minister, who had just met with George Shultz in New York, that Washington would raise no objections to the new Greek-Libyan relations other than certain pro-forma verbal complaints, Papandreou on Sept. 27 called an emergency cabinet meeting.

That cabinet meeting issued a series of blackmail threats against President Caramanlis and also took a decision, later carried out by the Papandreou-allied supreme court, to remove parliamentary immunity from Mitsotakis in order to bring him to trial for "lèse majesté"!

It is likely that Mr. Mitsotakis will be deprived of his parliamentary immunity. He claims that he has nothing to fear from any trial. But Papandreou is not playing by the rules of the game; his main weapons are blackmail and murder. He is blackmailing President Caramanlis with the threat of revealing the "Cyprus dossier" in which Caramanlis will be shown to have been compromised in 1973-74 in an alliance with Turkish generals against his country.

But with the aid of some witnesses, Mr. Mitsotakis himself could blackmail Papandreou with compromising revelations from an earlier period, 1963-65. His blackmail material is said to be "dynamite."

However, a personality who might have been Mitsotakis's star witness, former Defense Minister Peter Garoufalias, was found dead under mysterious circumstances just a few days before the supreme court made the motion to remove Mitsotakis's parliamentary immunity.