

The Elounda Bay chronicle: the satrap diplomacy of Papandreou

by Phocion

Amid intrigues and counter-intrigues of at least a half-dozen intelligence services, the Nov. 15 meeting of French President François Mitterrand, Libyan Col. Muammar Qaddafi and Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou is emerging as a pivotal turning point in the Socialist International's drive to break up NATO and decouple Europe from the United States on behalf of Russian strategic interests. This is the conclusion to be drawn from the behavior of French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson during his visit to Washington Nov. 19-21.

The Mitterrand-Qaddafi-Papandreou conference at Elounda Bay in the Greek island of Crete, once hatched as a top-secret confabulation, had the objective of putting the final touches of the operation to turn the Mediterranean into a "Russian lake" by year's end. Despite a major last-minute exposure of that conference and despite the Egyptian intelligence services' brilliant exposure of Qaddafi as a bloodthirsty assassin, neither Mitterrand, nor Papandreou, nor the Russian diplomacy behind them have slowed down the "Red Mediterranean" project, an integral part of Kissinger's "New Yalta" deal.

Certain secret agreements were made at the Elounda Bay, Crete meeting between France and Libya. Four days later, on Nov. 19, a further agreement was signed between Libya and Malta, a "Friendship Treaty" providing for extensive military cooperation and presence of Libyan troops in Malta. The occasion was celebrated with a thorough terror-bombing of the Italian Embassy at Valeta. Prior to the Malta-Libya treaty, the following additional "Friendship Treaties" were concluded in the Mediterranean during 1984, most of them secret and unannounced: Secret Libyan-Greek "Friendship Treaty" with a \$1 billion price tag in September; secret Greek-Syrian "Friendship Treaty" in early November, including clauses of possibly joint Greek-Syrian military action against Turkey; a series of secret and published treaties and agreements between Syria and Libya; a Libya-Morocco amalgamation treaty worked out by Kissinger's friends over this past summer; a secret Syria-Algeria-Malta "Friendship Treaty" is also rumored to be in force. All these treaties involve military and naval agreements, sharing of weapons and munitions, and special privileges and facilities for the Soviet Navy in the

Mediterranean. All military aspects of these treaties have been supervised by the Russian military at the highest level. Marshal Sokolov, Marshal Ogarkov, and Ogarkov's successor, Marshal Akhromeyev, deployed in the area more than once during 1984.

The Elounda Bay, Crete mini-summit appears to have been intended to bring France into the network of Russian-inspired treaties and thus provide them with an umbrella of legitimacy and "European" character. It should be noted that the meeting took place at a time when Henry Kissinger was in Paris, and after Kissinger had met with President Mitterrand. During that time other Kissinger operatives were present and active in both the Eastern Mediterranean and in France.

Additionally, in opposition to Kissinger's deployments and to the Elounda Bay caper, forces associated with numerous intelligence services led by a brilliant Egyptian national security entrapment of the Qaddafi terror organization, succeeded in exposing the Elounda Bay meeting at a time in which it was supposed to be secret. They misled Qaddafi into believing that he had succeeded in assassinating his arch-enemy, former Libyan Premier Bakoush, and caused Qaddafi to launch into a triumphant braggadocio within minutes of his parting with President Mitterrand. Two days later, while French Foreign Minister Cheysson was still in Washington, Mr. Bakoush, Qaddafi's presumed victim, gave a press conference in which he explained that the reason for which Qaddafi wants to kill him is that he, Bakoush, is in possession of extensive documentary evidence proving beyond doubt that Colonel Qaddafi's 1969 coup d'état was in fact a United States operation launched from the U.S. Air Base of Wheelus in Libya for the purpose of installing Qaddafi in power. In short, that Qaddafi was made Libya's tyrant because Henry Kissinger, the National Security Advisor of 1969, catapulted him to power.

Hence, for the record, we present below the chronology of events:

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Saturday, Nov. 10: French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson announces on French TV that the Libyan troop

withdrawal from Chad was completed as of Nov. 7, 1984.

Sunday, Nov. 11: the first part of 700 of Qaddafi's security force arrives in Crete and takes up positions.

Wednesday, Nov. 14: State Department announces that Libyan troop withdrawal from Chad was not completed.

French Intelligence "leaks" to the press its own evaluation that Libyan troop withdrawal from Chad was far from complete.

Chad President Hissene Habre states in a press conference that the Libyan forces had remained in Northern Chad and that France was aware of the fact.

Thursday, Nov. 15: Qaddafi-Mitterrand-Papandreou meeting at Elounda Bay, Crete:

9:20 a.m. Papandreou arrives at Heraklion Airport and, to his complete shock, he finds it filled with journalists. With him are D. Drossoyannis, Defense Minister; A. Tsochatzopoulos, new intelligence "super-czar"; Deputy Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias; Angela Cocola; and Michael Ziangas.

12:25 p.m. Mitterrand arrives at Heraklion Airport. Proceeds to Elounda Bay by helicopter, arriving at 13:10.

12:55 p.m. Qaddafi arrives at same airport and from there drives to Elounda Bay.

17:20 p.m. The conference ends and Papandreou and Qaddafi speak to the press. Mitterrand is silent.

Papandreou: I would like to first express my thanks to President Mitterrand and to Colonel Qaddafi for the great honor they bestowed on our country and the great joy they gave to our people in allowing them to contribute to the great cause of peace and of independence and self-determination of the Mediterranean peoples.

President Mitterrand, as you know, is obliged to return to Paris and will make his statement to the French press, radio and television.

For my part, I am authorized to present, in a few words, the results of this historic meeting. The following principles have been agreed:

First, a new chapter, a new page begins in the relations between France and the Jamahiriya [Libya]. Not only will there be high-level visits by Col. Qaddafi and President Mitterrand, but there will also be regular consultations at the ministerial level, for the purpose of shaping a long-term cooperation for the benefit of the region and of mankind.

In the matter of Chad—which of course was the central subject of discussion—I wish to emphasize that it is a pity that this issue has taken up so much of our time, because there are very many possibilities for cooperation in the region and, we would like to hope, that in a future meeting between the two men, my presence will not be necessary. They shall have the opportunity to discuss positive subjects rather than such a painful problem.

The basic principle which was agreed was that not one French nor one Libyan soldier will remain in Chad.

The people of Chad themselves must solve their prob-

lems as they can and as they desire. And if in future there is an intervention from a third country, Libya will have the right—a right which France recognizes officially—to take defensive measures in the vicinity of her own borders—not that permission was required but this is simply a declaration that France will not support any intervention by any third country in Chad.

Moreover, I would like to stress that in my entire political and academic career I never before participated in any other discussion or dialogue at as high a level as this one. I must say that my veneration, my respect, both for President Mitterrand and for Col. Qaddafi, is greater now than ever before. Despite the difficulty of the subjects discussed, the opportunity was given to both of them primarily, to exchange views on a planetary horizon (?!)—a discussion which Mr. Mitterrand proposed to Col. Qaddafi be continued in Paris in the near future.

Today is a truly historic day for our country, for France, for Libya and for the Mediterranean.

Perhaps I have said too much, but now let Col. Qaddafi, my friend Qaddafi, speak.

Qaddafi: I thank our great friend Andreas Papandreou, who summarized the results of this meeting and left nothing for me to add. If I wished to repeat a summary of what he said and what we agreed with President Mitterrand—with the help, and in the presence of our respected and great friend Andreas Papandreou, and regardless of political details—primarily in matters of principle and I believe that this is the cornerstone on which all mutual trust is based. I have no doubt that this trust was created with this meeting. I found in President Mitterrand all the understanding and predisposition for the solution of problems. And I assert that, as our friend Papandreou said, we are beginning a new page.

I am very happy that there are persons such as President Mitterrand and our friend Premier Andreas Papandreou in the Mediterranean region, because they are the guarantee of peace in our very sensitive region and I truly appreciate their efforts for the continuation of the North-South dialogue.

I truly value very much the efforts of dear Mr. Papandreou, and I thank the Greek government and the Greek people for their hospitality today. The friendship and trust which unites us with the people and government of Greece are no doubt the things which brought us here and made us participate in these talks. No doubt, the recent visit to Tripoli by our friend Andreas Papandreou influenced this present conference very much, and I hope that in future I too will visit Athens. Regarding France, there is an invitation for me to visit Paris and President Mitterrand will be visiting Tripoli. Thank you.

Papandreou: I would like to add that I have invited Colonel Qaddafi to visit Athens officially and he has accepted. What remains is to set a date for the visit.