

Attic Chronicle by Phocion

The Scythian

Andropov gives a list of marching orders to the Papandreou delegation as it departed for the Soviet Union.

Igor Andropov, the Soviet ambassador to Athens, inadvertently has revived the ancient Athenian tradition of the Scythian policeman, but with a modern twist. When, 25 centuries ago, Athens was a great republic, launching in fact history's most brilliant and most unforgettable experiment in republican self-government, the job of policeman or law-enforcement officer was considered too demeaning and menial for self-respecting citizens. It was therefore handled by specially trained slaves, the celebrated club-bearing Scythians, imported from the Russian shores of the Black Sea.

Mr. Andropov, in his capacity as Greece's chief policeman, gave a major interview to the Athenian press on Feb. 10, the day on which Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and nine of his cabinet ministers departed to pay homage to Moscow. Andropov's interview demonstrated that the ancient institution of the Scythian slavecop had undergone a modern twist: The Scythian has apparently carried off a coup d'état and has instituted a veritable police state over the erstwhile free citizens whose laws he was supposed to uphold. Andropov's interview was essentially a list of marching orders to the departing Papandreou delegation.

As it turned out, Papandreou and company did carry out the ambassador's instructions down to a tee: Apart from the numerous agreements on so-called economic cooperation, the principal agreement signed was a "Protocol of Political Consultations" on the basis of which the pathetic Papandreou government, acting as a mere colonial administration, is supposed

to report its foreign policy actions and initiatives to the Kremlin for prior approval. It is also supposed to receive suggestions as to what to emphasize in its foreign policy.

Ambassador Andropov's precedent-breaking interview provided the first such "suggestion" to Papandreou: The Greek government must mobilize internationally against President Reagan's "Star Wars."

Following are the relevant excerpts from Igor Andropov's interview: "The Soviet-Greek summit discussions in Moscow and the protocols and agreements which are about to be signed constitute, in our opinion, an augmentation of the spheres of cooperation between the two countries. . . ."

"The Soviet Union views positively the peaceloving position of the Greek government on a number of important international issues relevant, above all, to averting the threat of nuclear war and to the reduction of arms competition, especially of nuclear arms. . . ."

"In the recent period, mankind is more and more concerned with the danger of seeing outer space become another arena of the arms race as a result of the United States' plans for 'Star Wars.' . . . Most important in the Americans' plans for a 'Star War' occupies the so-called comprehensive system of defense against ICBMs which the American President announced in March of 1983. The American side pretends that it is trying to construct a 'screen' designed to destroy missiles aimed at the United States. However, there is nothing 'defensive' about this plan. It is a 'sword,'

an offensive weapon. According to the Pentagon, under this 'screen' in case of an emergency situation, the United States must launch nuclear missiles against the other side, against the Soviet Union. Let us assume that the United States creates such a system but does not exploit its ability to launch against the U.S.S.R., does not deliver a nuclear strike. They would, however, be in possession of the capability to do so, as a result of the existence of this 'screen.' Would they not use this capability to exercise pressures and vetoes in order to dominate the world? . . .

"If there exist persons in the U.S.A. who assume that America will dominate the world by either realizing all the way this plan or even without realizing it, and that the Soviet Union will be placed in a position of inferiority, they are making a mistake, a great mistake. No such possibility will be allowed. . . . [Chernenko] personally informed President Reagan: 'We rule out such an eventuality. We shall not allow it' . . ."

The Papandreou government has followed these instructions and admonitions with great care. It has been reduced to a pathetic clown show of self-importance: mustachioed and bearded fools traveling around the world making loud voices and posturing heroically against "American imperialism" and against "Star Wars," not mindful at all of their nation's great and serious problems, ruining their country for the sake of international poseur politics. While they righteously denounce "American imperialism" in the style of a 1968 teenager who flunked his college courses, all they do, as governments and as individuals, is to merely repeat in international forums what their colonial master, the Imperial Proconsul Igor Andropov, orders them to say.