

Attic Chronicle by Phocion

State-run terrorism unravels

Charges and counter-charges could mean that, unless certain individuals are silenced, Papandreou will be in trouble.

On Sept. 12, the Greek government was informed by the United States of the identity of three Greeks, including a Navy captain, who were espionage agents of the Soviet Union. The source was Mr. Sergei Bokhan, the first secretary of the Soviet embassy in Athens, who defected on May 28.

The information was given to the Greeks in the context of discussions with Greek Chief of Staff Gen. Nicholas Kouris, then in the United States, on the subject of a Greek purchase of F-16 aircraft from the United States.

On the following day, two events shattered the placid self-assurance of the Papandreou government. First, Navy Capt. Basil Serepisios and his two civilian accomplices were arrested for espionage. Second, a commentator on Greek government television, Daniel Krystalis, was arrested for attempted terrorist bombings.

The subsequent political explosion, still in process of detonation, ensued from these two episodes in that day's police log:

The terrorist suspect, Daniel Krystalis, testified that not only had he not placed any terrorist bombs, but he had been framed to appear to have placed the bombs by the Greek Central Intelligence Service, the KYP. Krystalis was an informant of the KYP and four other police agencies in the last eight years. He was reporting directly and in person to the chief of the Internal/Security Section of the KYP, Lt.-Col. John Alexakis. Alexakis, in separate testimony, admitted that Krystalis had been his agent for a long time,

and that he handled him personally.

Subsequently, the defendant, Krystalis, testified that Colonel Alexakis, the KYP's chief of internal security, was also the chief of Greece's anti-terrorism agency. In an astounding further revelation, Krystalis said that most of the terrorist activities in Greece in the last few years had been planned and executed by Colonel Alexakis's "anti-terrorism" outfit, down to the details of drafting, typing, and circulating the leaflets, press releases, etc. of fictitious revolutionary organizations which would then claim responsibility for the terrorist acts.

Krystalis further testified that he was in personal contact with Mr. Michael Ziogas, Prime Minister Papandreou's personal secretary and liaison to all security agencies. Mr. Papandreou is also, personally, the head of the KYP and thus, by law, responsible for its activities.

Both the KYP and Papandreou's immediate entourage had, according to the Krystalis testimony, planted certain documents in his apartment which, when found by the police raid, were supposed to prove that most of the unsolved past terrorist incidents in Greece had been perpetrated by yet another terrorist organization, the "Revolutionary Group Nov. 17." The planted documents were supposed to prove that one George Votsis, together with his friend Karabelias, had been the leaders of "Nov. 17" since the assassination of CIA Athens station chief R. Welch in 1975.

Votsis, Karabelias, and their

friends, held press conferences denying all allegations, and countercharging that all terrorism of the past few years was carried out by KYP and the government. They named Andreas Papandreou and Michael Ziogas, Colonel Alexakis, Public Order Minister Tsouras, and Interior Minister Koutsogiorgas as responsible for all terrorism.

The Papandreou government responded that it considers the documents implicating Votsis and company, those planted in Krystalis's apartment, to be authentic and is asking the judiciary to prosecute on that basis.

This column has exposed, over the past year and a half, all the names involved in this breaking scandal, both those of the Votsis group and those inside the government around Papandreou and Ziogas. So, ironically, we happen to know that both groups' charges of terrorism against the other, happen to be true.

The Papandreou-Tsiangas group can prove beyond doubt the guilt of the Votsis group, without having to rely on what Krystalis calls fake evidence. The Votsis terrorist group, with its own resources within the KYP, can also prove beyond doubt the guilt of the Papandreou-Tsiangas-Alexakis terrorists.

Both groups, however, to so prove their claims, must resort to documentation more authentic than the fakes dumped on poor, pathetic Krystalis. No doubt, Papandreou-Tsiangas, with the power of the state behind them, can really corner Votsis. But I, for one, have no doubt that Votsis, when pushed against the wall, will bring down the whole temple. Papandreou is in trouble unless he finds a way of silencing both Votsis and Krystalis—by extra-legal methods.

Votsis and Krystalis's life insurance is to talk as much as they can.