

Of Journalism, Intelligence and a Greek's Record

To the Editor:

The Dec. 6 news story about me and my having been sentenced to death by the Germans. Binder was by David Binder is so shot through with inaccuracies that I feel constrained to comment, within your space limitations, although plentiful official documentation is available to support my following points:

Binder opens by describing me as a "self-styled journalist." This is untrue. He not only ignores my 20 years of reporting for U.S. and Greek publications but overlooks even your own editorial of Dec. 30, 1970, about the dictatorship then in power in Greece. In that editorial, The Times referred to me as "a respected, self-exiled [not self-styled] Greek journalist."

Binder has consistently ignored or distorted my words in a two-hour interview he had with me on Sept. 30. This is shoddy journalism because, with his permission, I taped the interview and sent him a copy of the transcript.

Binder casts doubt on my record as a Greek resistance fighter against the Germans in World War II. He ignores the record:

- Official letters and reports from U.S. Air Force General Leigh Wade, then U.S. air attaché in Athens, in 1950 and 1951, saying that my "war record is most outstanding through my assistance to the Allied cause," and from General William Quinn, chief of the U.S. Army mission in Greece.

- My receipt in 1951 of the Cross of St. Mark at a ceremony attended by Defense Minister (now Premier) Karamanlis, along with the ministers of the navy and air force, and the military, air and naval attachés of the American Embassy, and seven other senior U.S. officials. I was cited for having "saved the lives of seven Americans during the occupation."

- The award to me by the Greek Government of the Golden Cross of the Order of King George I in 1955 for "exceptional services" to the Resistance and the Medal of National Resistance reciting my experience of torture

and my having been sentenced to death by the Germans. Binder was given copies of these and other documents on Oct. 3. He ignored them.

Even the C.I.A. acknowledged in 1952 documents I received under the Privacy Act that I was imprisoned and sentenced to death by the Germans for sabotage activities.

Binder cites alleged C.I.A. records that I "was associated with both Yugoslav and Israeli intelligence services." The allegation is refuted by a Feb. 19, 1975, C.I.A. study. This study was furnished to me and, referring to me, admits that "there are no hard facts in the record to show that he has worked for any foreign government against the interests of Greece (or for that matter, the United States), that he is in the pay of any national government, that he has ever been a member of a foreign intelligence service."

Binder cites other alleged C.I.A. records to the effect that in 1951 I offered my services to the C.I.A. but was turned down. The facts are the reverse. ELIAS P. DEMETRAKOPOULOS
Washington, Dec. 13, 1977