

Anti-Americanism Reaches

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ATHENS—The anti-Americanism of the Greek press has become so strident in recent months that it seems likely to damage relations between the two countries for some time to come. U.S. diplomats are distressed by the editors' seemingly deliberate use of innuendo and outright falsification.

The U.S. government is referred to as "the empty-headed men in Washington"; President Ford is called an untrustworthy man who, moreover, "has already admitted he knows nothing about foreign policy"; and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is described as "this German-American-Jewish apprentice sorcerer" who "lies constantly."

Much of the anti-U.S. sentiment is focused on the CIA. The Athens News' publication of a list of alleged agents, including station chief Richard Welch—who was subsequently assassinated—was one story among many.

Not long after the collapse of military rule here in July 1974 and the restoration of press freedom, Greek editors began to reflect anti-American sentiments sweeping the country. Articles sought to demonstrate "satanic" past

support of the military dictatorship by U.S. agencies.

A year ago, it was thought only natural that the Greeks would vent these frustrations. Anti-Americanism in the press was viewed by political and diplomatic observers as a temporary phenomenon that would subside once steps were taken to eliminate the irritants.

However, despite, measures by both governments to reduce friction, the anti-American tone has sharply increased during the past seven months.

The depth of this sentiment is reflected in the publicity given last month to a parish priest, Father Pyrounakis, who was quoted as saying: "I recommended to my parishioners that they should not rent their houses to the Americans, nor should they greet them. No Greek should make friends with Americans. I am addressing myself to the Cretans in particular. The Americans must come to know the Greek people's feelings after their behavior here and in Cyprus."

The reference to Cretans was in connection with the presence of U.S. military personnel at the Souda Bay airbase on the island of Crete.

Ironically, the least abusive of the 13 Athens dailies is Rizospoastis, the newspaper of the pro-Moscow branch of the Communist Party, which

nevertheless argues anti-U.S. positions on issues.

Responsible Greek officials acknowledge the influx of Communist funds into the non-Communist Greek press, a fact that may suggest economic motives for the press attacks on America.

Senior Greek officials and foreign diplomats here say that the U.S. congressional investigation of the CIA and a steady flow of revelations about the agency's abuses of power have contributed significantly to the growing anti-U.S. tone in the Athens press.

A comparison of the Greek newspapers over the past three months to those earlier this year suggest that the congressional inquiry did in fact contribute to the intensity of the press attacks.

Previously, the press had been suggesting or flatly stating connections among the junta, CIA, NATO and Turkey, the Greeks' four favorite villains in the Cyprus debacle. Now another dimension has been added: concentrated attacks on U.S. institutions and personnel in Greece.

A senior U.S. banker visiting Athens on business was branded a CIA agent (Avghi, Oct. 31); U.S. military personnel here were described as "an occupation army" (Athenaiki, Dec. 17); American diplomats attending a Greek — party



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...U.S. ambassador and late CIA

were described as preparing a "fascist" plot against the government and one paper (Ta Nea, Dec. 2) said it possesses firm evidence of contacts among the "Greek police, European neo-Nazi circles and the CIA" to subvert constitutional order in Greece.

In early 1975, U.S. ambassador Jack Kubisch was repeatedly described as having served in Chile, although American diplomats had visited senior Greek editors to point out that Kubisch had not served there. Such accounts clearly seemed designed to link the ambassador to the CIA's role in the downfall of Chilean President Salvador Allende and by implication to cast doubts on Washington's policy

a Peak in Greek Press



RICHARD WELCH

agent, targets of Athens press, toward Greece.

More recently, however, Kubisch is described in headlines as "the CIA station chief in Athens" (Eleftherotypia, Dec. 2) while CIA connections are attributed to military personnel, businessmen and journalists.

Following the News' publication of the list of seven alleged CIA agents, Nov. 25, the newspaper Athenaki said:

"Those whose names have been published are not the only agents. There are more, including well-known people who live among us. After all, President Ford has officially declared that everything is permitted provided U.S. interests are served . . ."

Another paper had carried the picture of an American club in the suburb of Kefissia

Kefissia Club a CIA Nest." under the headline "The Columnist P. Trogadis commented on the recent arrival of U.S. businessmen from war-torn Beirut by saying, "The CIA's team in Greece is being reorganized to regain the eroding pillars of control over life in Greece."

Again, it was charged that the Americans had installed machine guns on the embassy roof. A picture of two Marines "manning" the weapons was published following a mass demonstration in front of the building.

When a close look revealed that the Marines were standing next to pipe fittings on the roof, some papers refused to run a correction. Instead, "pipe fitting" was translated as "plumbing" and the Marines were described as a type of Watergate plumbers assigned to Greece for "dirty" jobs. One paper, Ta Nea, carried after the embassy's denial a statement that "The machine guns were seen by readers of this paper."

The demonstration itself was designed to link the United States with the junta's bloody suppression of a student rebellion in November 1973. The march started at the Athens Polytechnic School, the site of the rebellion and ended at the U.S. embassy. Only the respected daily Kathimerini pointed out that the route was "tantamount to

determining the target" of the protest.

But Kathimerini said: "It is questionable whether a foreign embassy—any embassy—should be the final target of popular opposition to crimes committed by domestic reactionary forces, even if the latter execute foreign orders"—an implication that the act was instigated by the United States.

With the exception of Premier Constantine Karamanlis, few Greeks in public life have denounced the press campaign. Information Minister Panayotis Lambrias, who has described the Greek Press "in its entirety today as the most yellow" in Europe, can do little.

The government has had trouble with the national television network, which it is supposed to control. The network inexplicably failed to show a rousing demonstration for Karanalis during his visit to Salonica with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

According to diplomats, most Greek newsmen are left of center and nearly all have come to resent the United States for its chummy relationship with the military junta. Hence, any anonymous detrimental information seems to find its way into print.

The publication of the list of

alleged CIA agents illustrates how one Greek editor treated such information.

Yiannis Horn, publisher and editor of the Athens News, is known for his fearless fight against press censorship during the junta years. He was jailed by the junta and harassed by its police. He does not hide his resentment of U.S. policy during that period.

After he published the list, Horn explained that he had done so because he received it from a reliable Greek-American acquaintance. Subsequently, Horn refused to publish a list of alleged Soviet KGB agents in Athens on the grounds that he had received it anonymously.

Following the assassination of Welch, Horn told police that he could not recall the name of the Greek-American involved.

Interviewed in his office last week, Horn acknowledged that his previous statements were not true and that there was "no Greek-American" but that he received the list of alleged agents anonymously.

But, he said, he checked the list prior to publication and discovered that all seven names had been published in the American magazine CounterSpy. Only Welch's name, however, had been published in CounterSpy—a year ago, when he served in Peru.