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Anti-Americanism in Greece



Marshall Arisman

By Taki Theodoracopulos

ATHENS—The murder of the Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Athens, Richard S. Welch, in December, is an indirect result of the poisonous anti-Americanism advocated by the Greek press. Listening today to the extreme protestations against the United States and all its institutions—including multinationals and charitable foundations—one would not guess that tens of thousands died at the hands of the Communists thirty years ago, and that a ruined country and shattered economy were rebuilt from scratch mostly through American aid.

Needless to say, the seven-year dictatorship and ensuing Cyprus debacle have also helped in providing the press and extremist elements a platform from which they can silence moderate and pro-American voices by linking them with an unhappy past.

Moreover, the wave of anti-Americanism sweeping the country at present is made easier by something the Greeks call *filotimo*. The closest English word to *filotimo* is "pride," but the word can also be used when one is lying in order to save face. In ancient times, face was saved by blaming the gods; now Uncle Sam and the Central

Intelligence Agency have replaced Zeus's whims.

American involvement in the 1967 colonels' coup has never been established. In Greece, however, it is taken for granted that the C.I.A. masterminded and ordered the putsch. The Greek Socialist leader Andreas Papandreou has repeatedly blamed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the C.I.A. and the Pentagon for the coup.

The Communists and the press have echoed Mr. Papandreou's allegations, quoting extensively from Philip Agee's book "Inside the Company: C.I.A. Diary" that "millions of people all over the world have been killed or their lives destroyed by the C.I.A."

But the virulent anti-Americanism so prevalent here can also be attributed to outside forces. There is strong evidence that an unprecedented encroachment by the Soviet Union is taking place. Through subtle infiltration of the press and trade unions, the Soviet machine has succeeded in moving Greece still further away from NATO and the United States.

It is widely believed that through the Greek Communist Party the Russians have managed to subvert Greek life and just about sever the strings that have always united Greece and the United States by an insidious

but brilliant propaganda ploy that has associated antifascism with anti-Americanism.

It is the Soviet machine that would appear to be behind the high-pitched campaign of speeches, labor unrest and street agitation now being waged against the Government of Constantine Caramanlis—a Government that was voted into office in one of the greatest landslides of modern Greek history.

The Soviet Embassy most certainly maintains regular daily contact with representatives of the Communist Party in Greece, and clearly the Embassy issues orders, dictates the themes in the party press, the speeches to be made in Parliament and the party's role in the street demonstrations.

There are approximately 25 K.G.B., or intelligence, officers under diplomatic cover in Greece. The new station chief is Serge Grigorevich Trokhin, a man reputed to be part of the K.G.B. section created for sabotage, assassination and subversion.

The K.G.B.'s apparent infiltration of the press is a factor in creating the anti-American climate. Although the Greek Communists are split into a hard-core pro-Moscow faction, and a second, more independent group, both cliques are believed financed from outside. Three out of twelve Athenian dailies are said to get money from the Soviet or European Communist Parties. The publisher of the paper that printed the list of the C.I.A. personnel in Greece, Yannis Horn, refused to publish an offered list of K.G.B. people.

The rest of the newspapers here illustrate the Greek propensity for blaming others for their own self-induced disasters. It is overlooked that Greeks carried out the coup in 1967 and Greek actions triggered the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The publishers and most of the newsmen who reaped great profits and loans from the colonels thus relieve their guilt—and that of the populace—over the lack of overt resistance to the dictatorship. The Americans are responsible for everything.

Indeed, the murder of Mr. Welch should serve to remind Americans yet again of an international fact of life: The unprecedented spectacle of a major power setting its house in order is not regarded elsewhere with those emotions that they engender at home. Elsewhere, the house-cleaning of America is seldom understood. It is, in fact, used against it. The United States, the country that prevented Greece from becoming a Soviet satellite like its neighbors, is a dim memory. Uncle Sam is the C.I.A. Philip Agee and Senator Frank Church have said so.

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