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An Authority on the History of the C.I.A.

Anne Karalekas

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WASHINGTON, June 6— Until last summer, Anne Karalekas's only acquaintance with the nether world of foreign intelligence services was her study, for her doctoral thesis, of records of British and American espionage efforts in Greece in World War II. Since then, by dint of what she describes as "80-hour weeks," and a special entree into the dead files and living memories of American spies and agents, she has become an authority on the history of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Miss Karalekas's assignment was to write the 30-year institutional history of postwar American intelligence operations for the Senate's Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities.

The tall, slender Boston native was chosen from a field of 15 candidates partly on the recommendation of her associates at Harvard and partly on the basis of her doctoral dissertation on American and British activities in wartime Greece.

"Anne was always interested in history," said her mother, Helen Karalekas, who works for the State Street Bank and Trust Company in Boston. "She always seemed to know what she wanted to do."

Lillian Lapidus, who taught Miss Karalekas ancient histo-

ry at the Girls' Latin School in Boston, recalled her as "one of the brightest, well-qualified students I ever had — she always wanted to know 'why.'"

Miss Karalekas was born Nov. 6, 1946, about 10 months before the Central Intelligence Group, the predecessor of the C.I.A., was founded. Her father, Chris, a second-generation Greek-American, was in the bakery business. She attended elementary schools in Boston and Florida.

No Greek was spoken in the Karalekas home, "which made it harder," she said, for her to absorb the language at a Greek school she attended three times a week for five years. But she can converse in Greek, can cook Greek dishes and occasionally wears Greek costume jewelry.

Thankful for 'Standards'

At Girls' Latin, she was an honor student all four years, and she remains grateful to teachers such as Mrs. Lapidus, Elizabeth Condon and Edith Campbell, all retired, "for their demanding standards."

On a Merit scholarship, she attended Wheaton College "when it was still called a 'girls' school' rather than a 'women's college,' as today." After briefly considering a career in art history, Miss Karalekas concentrated on straight history and wrote her senior thesis on "the termination of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in 1921" for Prof. Paul Helmreich.

She worked summer vacations from school as a clerical assistant at the Boston Symphony, a receptionist at a law firm and a research assistant at a university.

Professor Helmreich encouraged her to go to graduate school and introduced her to Ernest R. May, a Harvard history professor who had been his teacher.

While working toward a master's degree, Miss Karalekas "took a year off" to work at Massachusetts General Hospital in administrative and supervisory capacities.

Her doctoral thesis stemmed from her being "interested in Greece and wanting to incorporate something from the war." During one summer, she researched recently released British diplomatic files at the Public Record Office in London. The thesis, "Britain, the United States and Greece—1942 to 1945," was completed in August 1974, and her degree was granted three months later.

In the meantime Graham T. Allison, Professor of Politics at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, asked Miss Karalekas to work on a series of projects on defense and arms-control policy.

He said that she had proven to be "bright and industrious" in managing a project on military operations in the Indochina conflict and in writing a report on foreign policy for an independent commission headed by former Ambassador Robert D. Murphy.

When William B. Bader of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities began looking for academically trained candidates to write the C.I.A. history, he turned to Professor May. "She was the first one who came to my mind," Mr. May recalled in a telephone conversation about Miss Karalekas. "She's very quick, writes well and has a clear mind." He added that Miss Karalekas was particularly qualified because she had studied "bureaucratic politics" at Harvard.

Studied Secret Volumes

She arrived in Washington one year ago on an assignment that carried an annual salary of \$18,000. She said she had been "completely free" to decide how to approach the subject and had spent the first two months browsing through a secret 75-volume compendium of C.I.A. history.

Then she began a series of 60 interviews with working and retired agency employees. Miss Karalekas completed the history in early spring, but it had to pass through agonizing bargaining sessions with top C.I.A. personnel over what could and could not be published.

Miss Karalekas is not sure whether she wants to continue delving into the intelligence field, now that her assignment is over. "I might write a few articles on intelligence," she said. "I guess that's it, sad to say. I'm not really set on a career ladder. I might like to work in Europe."