

U.S. Officials Harassed Greek Exile

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Now that the Greek dictatorship has collapsed, the story can be told how the White House and Justice Department connived to send a Greek exile home to certain torture and possible death.

The exile was newspaper editor Elias Demetracopoulos, who was driven from his homeland by the military junta in 1967. But the Greek colonels couldn't silence his typewriter.

He obtained resident status in the United States and took up battle station in Washington, pounding away at the junta and its Greek-American supporters.

The Nixon crowd in Washington zeroed in on him when he began firing volleys at Thomas Pappas, a millionaire with vast oil, soft-drink and chemical interests in Greece. Pappas also happened to be a close friend and financial backer of President Nixon.

So close was the Nixon-Pappas tie that the Watergate conspirators instinctively turned to the Greek tycoon for hush money, although he insists he never provided a penny for such purposes.

On July 12, 1971, Demetracopoulos appeared before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee and accused Pappas of helping to manipulate U.S. foreign policy in favor of the Greek dictatorship.

Before the testimony could be printed, a Justice Department lawyer showed up at the subcommittee and asked for Demetracopoulos' statement. Those were the days, of course, when Attorney General John Mitchell was riding high at the Justice Department.

Demetracopoulos found out Mitchell's motive from Louise Gore, a friend with strong Republican credentials, who had encountered the Attorney General at a Perle Mesta party. Miss Gore had been appointed by Nixon to be ambassador to UNESCO and expected she would need his support for a subsequent bid for the Maryland governorship. She had the courage, nevertheless, to alert Demetracopoulos.

"I went to Perle's luncheon for Martha Mitchell yesterday," wrote Miss Gore, "and sat next to John (Mitchell). He is furious at you—and your testimony

against Pappas. He kept threatening to have you deported!! . . .

"He (kept) asking me what I knew about you and why we were friends. It really got out of hand. It was all he'd talk about during lunch, and everyone at the table was listening."

The editor-in-exile received a more direct warning from President Nixon's personal trouble-shooter, the late Murray Chotiner. As Demetracopoulos remembers it, Chotiner advised him to ease up on Pappas. "You can be in trouble. You can be deported. It's not smart politics. You know Tom Pappas is a friend of the President."

Ten days after the warning, the editor, undeterred, blasted Pappas again in a memo to the House subcommittee. The memo detailed Pappas' relations with both the junta and the Nixon administration, accusing Pappas of profiting from both.

Later Demetracopoulos encountered Pappas at the Sans Souci restaurant, a favorite hangout for White House gourmets. Demetracopoulos alleges that Pappas fumed at him, suggesting he could get in trouble with the Wall Street investment firm that provided Demetracopoulos with a livelihood.

Not long afterward, the FBI visited his Wall Street employer and made inquiries about the

Greek exile. The FBI declined comment but Justice sources insist that, despite appearances, the FBI visit to Wall Street was not triggered by Mitchell and was unrelated to Pappas.

The Greek secret police, the KYP, meanwhile began questioning Demetracopoulos' former friends. The purpose, according to sources now able to speak about the junta days, was to get information to help the United States deport Demetracopoulos.

The Greek secret police allegedly told those they interviewed that they were "just helping out the CIA," which gave them financial support. By an interesting coincidence, Mitchell was on the CIA's governing committee of 40 at the time of the KYP inquiries.

Before the embattled exile could be deported and turned over to the mercy of the junta, the Watergate scandal forced Mitchell out of government and, in time, the Greek dictatorship fell. Now for the first time in eight years, Demetracopoulos is returning to Greece, not as a deportee facing torture but as a patriot.

Footnote: We were unable to reach Mitchell or Pappas for comment. Miss Gore told us that, despite the risk to her political career, she would warn Deme-

tracopoulos again if she had it to do over.

Washington Whirl—Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) has told friends he expected to be put out of action by cancer of the bladder. Instead, the cancer has been eliminated and he is in vigorous health. He has never been too religious, he has told friends, but he believes God may have spared him for a purpose. Therefore, he intends to be a champion for the common people during the economic crisis he sees ahead . . . Dr. Morris Chafetz, the contentious head of the federal anti-alcoholism effort, has stopped a promising treatment program for government employees with drinking problems. By an interesting coincidence, the program was run by Dr. George Retholtz, who had once testified against Chafetz in a discrimination case . . . In a fierce private letter to James Gregory, the federal auto safety chief, Senate Transportation Chairman Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) has said it is "completely unjustifiable" for Gregory to back down on rules requiring sturdier auto bumpers. Hartke demanded a report from Gregory within 30 days on what he has done to get Detroit to justify lighter, more dangerous bumpers.

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