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TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO



From L to R.: Mr. Nicholas Harisiadis, Mr. Harold Peponis, Mr. Chris P. Tomaras, Metropolitan Iakovos, journalist Mr. John Kass, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutolu, Bishop Demetrios, Mr. Andrew A. Athens and Rev. David G. Bissias of Hammond, IN;

On Tuesday, May 22, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutolu and his wife paid a formal visit to Metropolitan Iakovos, spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, comprised of 59 parishes in six Midwestern states.

Also in attendance were Greek Orthodox clergy and lay leaders, as well as members of the Turkish Consulate in Chicago. He is the highest ranking Turkish official to make such a visit to the Metropolis.

The Metropolis of Chicago, as part of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, falls under the jurisdiction of the ancient Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, headquartered in modern Istanbul, Turkey. Many ethnic Greeks trace their ancestry to Anatolia (Asia Minor), now the modern Republic of Turkey.

The meeting is a sign of warming relations between the Turkish and Greek communities, both here and abroad, a relationship known more for its conflict than the cultural similarities of modern Greeks and Turks that both Mr. Davutolu and Metropolitan Iakovos fondly shared.

Mr. Davutolu reported on the status of concerns held by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and shared by Orthodox Christians throughout the world. Noting the significant return of a major property to the Patriarchate, a former orphanage, long contested, he also affirmed the will of the Turkish government to find the legal means to permit the reopening of the Greek Orthodox seminary of Halki, the only such school of the Orthodox Church in Turkey, forced to close in 1971.

Likewise, he has recently directed all Turkish ambassadors to formally welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch when he travels abroad, an acknowledgement of his importance as a world religious leader—which former governments of Turkey have downplayed or ignored. Such moves, Davutolu noted, are signs of Turkey's growing cultural confidence, domestic stability, and a progressive foreign policy that has been the hallmark of his tenure as Foreign Minister.

He also expressed Turkey's concern for Turkish and Muslim minorities in Greece and Europe, observing that churches and mosques that have been confiscated from religious minorities should be respected as houses of worship even if they cannot be returned for practical or political reasons.

Metropolitan Iakovos and attending Greek Orthodox community members expressed to the Minister their praise for the present and former Turkish Consuls General of Chicago and their staff, for the increasing goodwill and cooperative efforts in the Chicago area between the communities. This is the result of an initiative spearheaded with the blessings of the Metropolitan by the Metropolis Chancellor Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos and prominent Turkish-American Mr. Mehmet Celebi, president-elect of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador.

(Continued p. 2)

Hellenic American Leadership Council

A New and Promising Organization to Politically Organize the Hellenic Community

The Hellenic American Leadership Council is an organization established to "ensure the continuity of a distinct and distinguished Greek-American community, to pursue and attain a level of excellence for all Hellenes and Hellenic causes, to strengthen ties between the next generation of Greek-Americans and Greece and Cyprus, and to nurture Hellenic learning and culture." Hellenic American Leadership Council, will focus on grassroots outreach, citizen education, and extensive leadership training in order to build a national network of Greek American citizen advocates from coast to coast.

Endy D. Zemenides, from the government practice of Chicago law firm Johnston, Greene, who also served as Campaign Manager for Alexi Giannoulias, is HALC's Executive Director. "We're seeking to build upon the last forty years of Greek American advocacy, and we're blending that knowledge with tools our community has never used. We will engage more Greek Americans than ever before," he said. A New Definition of Citizenship.

America and our community face unprecedented challenges. Those challenges have become harder to address by the lack of confidence that presently exists in our government and corporate leaders. Civic leadership is needed more than ever.

HALC was founded with a commitment to such civic leadership. HALC will utilize a national network of Greek American community leaders who have distinguished themselves in American civic life to encourage an active form of citizenship.

Through its innovative leadership training curriculum, online advocacy tools, and national network, HALC will band together American citizens that are committed to the Hellenic and American ideals of democracy, rule of law, and philanthropy.

The organization will focus on two primary goals:

- * Cultivating the next generation of Greek American leaders by engaging in a national citizen education effort and leadership training curriculum;
- * Pursuing true progress on the issues that matter most to the Greek American community by implementing comprehensive advocacy programs using the latest digital technologies, creating a large, engaged and truly committed grassroots network that can be activated for all of the community's initiatives.



Republicans Gus Bilirakis and Eliot Engel have introduced a resolution to end Turkey's illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, to support Cyprus in its efforts to control all of its territory, and to allow Cyprus to explore its own energy resources without illegal interference by Turkey.

The bills were submitted to Congress the day before the start of the 28th Hellenic Leadership Conference (PSEKA) that focused on condemning the Turkish colonization of Cyprus:

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PUBLISHER
SOTIRIS REKOUMIS
EDITOR
DENISE REKOUMIS
LAYOUTS
JOHN REKOUMIS
CONTRIBUTORS

**DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS,
DENISE REKOUMIS, DR JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS,
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SUITE 1801
CHICAGO, IL. 60611
PHONE: (312)456-8005
FAX:456-8006**

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

(Continued from p.1)

Bishop Demetrios noted that the Metropolis' annual "Fall of Constantinople" program that was held on May 29 at the Chicago History Museum highlighted the common cultural inheritance of Greeks and Turks with both music and the premier of the documentary Hello Anatolia, a film by a Greek young adult who follows the footsteps of his ancestors in modern Izmir (ancient Smyrna), Turkey.

Both the Foreign Minister and the Metropolitan agreed that the hostilities of the past and the challenges of the present can be overcome with the spirit of goodwill and the appreciation of a common cultural legacy shared by Turks and Greeks, to the benefit of all but especially to the ethnic minorities of Greeks in Turkey and Turks in Greece.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Foreign Minister presented the Metropolitan with a commemorative plate of the visit, and the Metropolitan presented Mr. Davutolu and his wife with a pictorial album featuring all the Greek Orthodox churches of the Metropolis.

Welcoming the Foreign Minister with Metropolitan Iakovos and Bishop Demetrios were Rev. David G. Bissias of Hammond, IN; Mr. Harold Peponis, Regional Co-Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a lay group dedicated to the defense of the Church of Constantinople; Mr. Chris P. Tomaras, founder of the Pan-Hellenic Scholarship Foundation; Mr. Andrew A. Athens, President and Founder of Hellenicare; Mr. Nicholas Harisiadis, graduate of the Halki seminary; and well-known Greek-American journalist John Kass.



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad has denied his government's forces had any role in the Houla massacre. More than 100 people, many of them children, were killed in the attack overnight between 25 and 26 May, most knifed or shot at close range. Mr Assad described the killings as an "ugly crime" that even "monsters" would not carry out. Addressing parliament, he blamed "foreign meddling" for Syria's divisions.

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The Dining Out Enterprises Group

IBM supercomputer over-takes Fujitsu as world's fastest



IBM

IBM's Sequoia has taken the top spot on the list of the world's fastest supercomputers for the US. The newly installed system trumped Japan's K Computer made by Fujitsu which fell to second place. It is the first time the US can claim pole position since it was beaten by China two years ago.

Sequoia will be used to carry out simulations to help extend the life of aging nuclear weapons, avoiding the need for real-world underground tests. It is installed at the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. "While Sequoia may be the fastest, the underlying computing capabilities it provides give us increased confidence in the nation's nuclear deterrent," said National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) administrator Thomas D'Agostino.

"Sequoia also represents continued American leadership in high performance computing.

The computer is capable of calculating in one hour what otherwise would take 6.7 billion people using hand calculators 320 years to complete if they worked non-stop.

Although the US's efforts helped secure it the lead, its overall tally of three computers in the top 10 was worse than six months ago when it had five. China and Germany both have two supercomputers, while Japan, France and Italy have one. But IBM proved to be the leading manufacturer claiming five out of the top 10 spots.

David Turek, vice president of deep computing at the firm, told the BBC his company had been preparing to retake the top spot for two years. "Substantial planning went into this. We knew the day would come."

Sequoia is 1.55 times faster than the Fujitsu model, and uses over 1.5 million processors. In comparison the Japanese model has less than half the number of CPUs (central processing units). The IBM supercomputer is also more energy efficient than the Fujitsu model. Sequoia consumes 7.9 megawatts compared to the K computer which uses 12.6 megawatts. Mr Turek described Sequoia as the "pinnacle of energy efficiency" and said the reaction had been "very enthusiastic."

Nik Wallenda completes Niagara Falls tightrope walk



A man from a celebrated family of professional daredevils has completed a tight-rope walk across Niagara Falls in a televised stunt. Nik Wallenda braved wind and heavy spray to make the 1,800ft (550m) walk from the US to Canada on a 2-inch (51mm) wire. Thousands watched from Goat Island, where he began the crossing, suspended 150 feet (46 metres) above the falls.

It is the first such feat over Niagara Falls in over a century. Mr Wallenda is the seventh generation of the famed Flying Wallendas. The family has performed for more than 200 years, including the signature act that gave the group their name, where two pairs of performers walk the wire, each supporting another aerialist on a pole. Those two aerialists, in turn, carry a pole upon which the seventh member of the troupe balances in a chair.

The family has suffered two deaths from falls while performing, including Mr Wallenda's great-grandfather in 1978. Mr Wallenda wore a safety harness attaching him to the wire, a precaution insisted on by ABC, the US broadcaster which sponsored the live broadcast of his walk.

Prior to the walk, he said he had not performed with a harness before, but that it would not take away from the event.

After he arrived, Mr Wallenda was asked to produce his US passport to officially enter Canada.

The 33-year-old had estimated the total cost of the walk would be around \$1.3m (£830,000), including creating and installing the steel wire, as well as permits and security on both sides of the border. Newsgraphic showing Nik Wallenda's planned tightrope walk

Legal liability had prevented ABC from funding all of Mr Walenda's costs and materials, so he had taken to online site IndieGoGo to raise further funds.

As of Friday afternoon, he was 45% of the way towards his goal of \$50,000.

Pictures of the World



A thousand boats sail down the River Thames through central London as a highlight of celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth's 60-year reign.



AFP

The US has been, is, and will continue to be a Pacific power. That was the fundamental message the US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta brought to this year's Asian security summit in Singapore. Mr Panetta then headed off to Vietnam and India - two stops that highlight, in their different ways, two aspects of Washington's new security relationships in the Asia-Pacific region. The Obama Administration having announced the so-called "pivot" back to Asia at the start of the year, it was left to Mr Panetta to fill in some of the blanks and to try to convince Washington's friends and allies that at a time of severe financial austerity the US has the means to fund its Asia-Pacific ambitions.



The judge in the campaign finance trial of former US presidential candidate John Edwards has declared a mistrial amid jury deadlock on most charges. The panel in North Carolina found him not guilty on one of six charges of misuse of campaign funds, but could not agree on the other five. It is not clear if prosecutors will retry Mr Edwards on the other counts. Mr Edwards, 58, denied using donor funds to hide his mistress's pregnancy during his 2008 run for the presidency. While the cover-up of the affair was going on, Mr Edwards's wife was fighting breast cancer. Speaking outside the court, Mr Edwards said he had not done anything illegal but had done an "awful, awful lot that was wrong". "If I want to find the person who should be held accountable for my sins, honestly I don't have to go any further than a mirror. It's me. It is me and me alone," he said. He described his four-year-old daughter with his mistress as "precious". The former North Carolina senator could have faced up to 30 years in jail and \$1.5m (£945,000) in fines if convicted of all charges.



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Dr. Peter J. Pantan, a graduate of the Brown University School of Medicine, is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and former president of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society.

Dr. Peter Pantan Discusses ALL LASER LASIK

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Next minister of finance has work cut out

By Vassilis Ziras



The new minister of finance, expected to be appointed very soon, will find a study by the Center of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE) waiting on his desk with proposals for possible spending cuts totaling 11.5 billion euros for the 2013-14 period, as demanded by the country's creditors.

KEPE estimates that 1 billion euros can be saved by setting a ceiling of 2,400 euros per month on the total pension payments (main and auxiliary) that each pensioner receives. Another 1.1 billion euros could come from cuts in the public sector's operating and other expenses, and a further 1.2 billion from the central administration.

Further savings could be made through the more extensive use of generic drugs, while abolishing the positions of advisers to elected officials would reduce state spending by 130 million euros. Postponing the payment of a retrospective tranche to justice officials is seen saving some 280 million euros. A horizontal 10 percent cut to main pensions that exceed 1,500 euros per month would result in a benefit of 600 million euros for the budget.

The previous government headed by Lucas Papademos had asked KEPE to examine proposals for spending cuts for the next finance minister's consideration. This will form part of the minister's mammoth task for his or her first few days in the job, which will also include the drafting of the updated midterm program and a meeting with the representatives of Greece's official creditors, known collectively as the troika.

The new midterm plan was supposed to be ready by the end of June, but this is clearly unfeasible after the back-to-back elections in the space of just a few weeks. It is therefore certain that the new government will ask for a deadline extension.

Ministry officials are optimistic that the troika will permit the new government to table the new midterm plan in October along with the 2013 budget, as besides the time required for a reliable fiscal plan to be drafted for the next three years, by October Athens will have probably learned whether it will get an extension to its deadline for reducing its deficit. The existing bailout agreement dictates that the deficit will have to go down to 3 percent of gross domestic product by end-2014

Obama won't use Russian WTO hopes as leverage on Syria, says White House



President Barack Obama will not use Russia's hopes to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) as leverage to get Moscow to end its support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. "We support Russia's accession to the WTO and we support measures that need to be taken to help bring that about," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters. Asked whether Obama, who meets early next week with Russian President Vladimir Putin, would deliver an ultimatum demanding more help on Syria in return for WTO membership, Carney replied: "You're creating a connection here that I am not suggesting exists." "I think that we have very frank discussions with the Russians and will continue to have them about Syria and other issues," Carney said. "And I know that other countries have those same discussions." One day earlier, the spokesman had bluntly told Russia to stop arming Assad's forces, which have been carrying out a 15-month crackdown on Syria's opposition. Some observers have put the death toll at 14,000 people.

Greece's purgatory

Georgia Logothetis



Two elections in as many months have failed to provide a path forward for the survival of the Greek state and the salvation of the suffering Greek people. Sunday's election provided essentially the same result as that held weeks earlier. The conservative New Democracy party, led by Antonis Samaras, edged out the surging Syriza, led by Greece's rebel of the moment, Alexis Tsipras. The socialist PASOK again limped across the finish line, securing a third place seat in what was a not unexpected but still humiliating finish for a party that had dominated Greece for decades.

Apart from significantly lower numbers for the communist KKE, the rest of the field saw little real movement. The neo-Nazi Golden Dawn, fresh off of assaulting female politicians on live television, beating up journalists, inciting riots and threatening to drag immigrant children from hospitals, fared just as well this time around, its disgraceful tactics doing little to erode its support base.

The world held its breath for a cataclysm in the Aegean. Instead, it appears that as the Greeks would say, the world instead saw a sea of ???? (oil)...a stillness without major waves or currents of change.

It's anticipated that New Democracy will form a "national salvation government" by cobbling together support from PASOK and other parties. It will be a messy process but with there are enough puzzle pieces on the table for Samaras to assemble a functioning government. However SYRIZA's leader politely but firmly stressed that the leftist coalition — a group that saw its support nearly double in five weeks — would play the role of respectful opposition rather than hand-holder in any new government.

Where does that leave the people of Greece? The two major parties that mismanaged Greece will still hold primary power, while a third party that relished rhetoric over specifics steps a bit on the sidelines, with a pin still in the proverbial grenade. How Syriza will express its opposition to the memorandum in the weeks and months to come remains to be seen, as does the behavior of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn whose swatzika flag will fly for the first time in Greek Parliament.

The election results prompted the standard responses from Europe. The Eurogroup released a stoic statement taking "notice" of the election results and reiterating Greece's commitments. European leaders, heading to the G20 summit, will in turn each issue statements praising the result, heralding Greece's "choice" to remain in the eurozone, and, naturally, reiterating Greece's commitments.

Prior to the election, and in direct response to the surging anti-memorandum position of SYRIZA, New Democracy and PASOK emphasized the need to renegotiate the bailout memorandum that has imposed strict austerity measures on Greek society. Both German chancellor Angela Merkel and Eurogroup head Jean-Claude Juncker ruled out such a renegotiation yesterday. The back-and-forth tug and jockeying of bargaining positions is likely to continue, but at the end of the day, despite today's exercise in Greek democracy, Europe still controls Greece's fate.

In both elections, the abstention rate was around 40% — a historic high and a remarkable figure given that so much is on the line for the Greek people. Out of all the numbers bandied about, from exit polls to vote shares to parliament seat projections, that number is perhaps most reflective of the true state of Greece. It's indicative of just how little faith there is in the power of a vote and it tragically highlights how bleak life is in the cradle of democracy. Gone is hope of salvation, either from European partners or leaders at home. If the threat of worldwide calamity wasn't enough to prompt a vision and plan for Greece's survival the first time — and the second — then it's unlikely one is horizon.

So Greece waits in national purgatory, the air thick with the stench of the status quo and filled with the sounds of flames licking at the bottom of its feet. Meanwhile, the world looks on, tsk-asking past mistakes and wondering why this broken nation can't muster up the strength to bring itself back to life. How long Greece can or should remain in such a painful state of existence is the question the world must answer.



Katsouranis: We'll beat Germany in shoot-out

Defensive midfielder Costas Katsouranis, who had predicted that Greece would beat Russia 1-0, dared to forecast on Sunday that the Blues will beat Germany in a penalty shootout

NEWS FROM GREECE

Merkel insists Greece must stick to commitments

German Chancellor Angela Merkel insists that Greece must implement the reforms it agreed to in exchange for receiving more loans.

“No departures can be made from the reform measures,” Merkel reportedly said at the G20 meeting in Mexico. She added that “we have to count on Greece sticking to its commitments.”

US President Barack Obama, also at the G20 meeting, said Greece’s election result was a “positive” sign for agreement between Greece and its lenders. “I think the election in Greece yesterday [Sunday] indicates a positive prospect for not only them forming a government, but also them working constructively with their international partners in order that they can continue on the path of reform.”

European Central Bank board member Joerg Asmussen said giving Greece more time to meet fiscal targets, as German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle suggested on Sunday, would require its partners to provide more money. “As long as a country is running a primary deficit, extending the fiscal targets will automatically mean that there will be an additional external financing need.”

Speaking on Monday, Westerwelle said the bailout’s substance was “not negotiable”

the time lost in campaigning. “We’re ready to talk about the time frame as we can’t ignore the lost weeks, and we don’t want people to suffer because of that.”

ND wins but faces challenge to govern

Conservatives edge out SYRIZA but must find coalition partners with PASOK seemingly reluctant

Greece’s second national elections in as many months produced a victory for conservative New Democracy over leftist SYRIZA but the result still left doubts about if and how a coalition government could be formed.

With 60 percent of the votes counted, support for New Democracy stood at 30.14 percent, compared to 26.46 for SYRIZA. PASOK was third with 12.57 percent, followed by Independent Greeks on 7.43, Golden Dawn on 6.95, Democratic Left on 6.06 and the Communist Party on 4.5 percent.

Popular Orthodox Rally (LAOS),

the Ecologist Greens and the liberal alliance between Dimiourgia Xana (Recreate Greece) and Drasi all fell well short of the 3 percent threshold needed for them to enter Parliament.

In terms of seats in the House, this



share of the votes translates into 130 for New Democracy, 70 for SYRIZA, 33 for PASOK, 20 for Independent Greeks, 19 for Golden Dawn, 16 for Democratic Left and 12 for the Communist Party.

New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras said Greece had secured its position in the eurozone, saying that the outcome of the vote was a “significant moment for Greece and the rest of Europe.”

“Greece’s position in Europe will not be put in doubt. Fear will not prevail,” he

said in a speech from Zappeio Hall that he repeated immediately afterward in English.

Describing the outcome as “a stable foundation for national unity with a European direction,” he appealed to political forces “to join a government of national salvation.”

“There is no time for political games, the country must be governed,” he stated.

“We will respect the country’s signatures,” he said, adding that New Democracy would work with European leaders to boost growth and “tackle the torturous problem of unemployment.”

“The Greek people voted for policies that will create jobs, growth, justice and security,” he said.

Despite gaining the 50-seat bonus that goes to the leading party, last night’s result still leaves Samaras with plenty of work to do in order to form a government. The conservatives are far short of the 151 seats they need to govern on their own. The possibility of turning to SYRIZA to form a grand coalition was immediately rejected by leftist leader Alexis Tsipras, who insisted that his party should remain in opposition, from where it can combat the austerity measures Greece’s lenders are demanding from Athens. SYRIZA also said that if Samaras fails to form a government, the leftists would not take up the mandate to try to form one on their own.

“We will be present in developments from the position of the main opposition party,” said Tsipras, adding, “We have opposite us an unholy alliance of yesterday’s powers, from inside and outside the country.”

“Our proposals for rejection of the memorandum are the only viable solution not only for Greece but also for all Europe,” the SYRIZA leader stated.

PASOK could be another coalition partner for ND but Socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos spoke of his preference for a government of “shared responsibility.” This suggested he would like SYRIZA to join a unity administration as well. Speaking on local television last night, PASOK’s former Education Minister Anna Diamantopoulou suggested that the Socialists would not enter a government if SYRIZA did not join as well. Venizelos went as far as suggesting that no party leader should attempt to form a government and that they should all proceed directly to talks chaired by President Karolos Papoulias with the aim of forming as broad a coalition as possible.

“There’s not a day to lose, there’s no time for political games,” said Venizelos. He added that PASOK had survived despite the pressure, which he attributed to “an election campaign that was artificially polarized between ND and SYRIZA.”

“We survived, both in terms of numbers, and politically,” he said.

Other options open to Samaras are to approach Independent Greeks or Democratic Left. Given that the former has a staunch anti-bailout stance, some kind of agreement seems a remote possibility.

Democratic Left leader Fotis Kouvelis, on the other hand, interpreted Sunday’s result as one that calls for the formation of a coalition government. While his party opposes some elements of the bailout, it is fiercely pro-euro and there is potential for it to be part of a coalition with ND and PASOK.

Following the inconclusive elections on May 6, Kouvelis rejected the opportunity to join the conservatives and Socialists. He insisted that SYRIZA would also have to be part of the government. It is not clear if Kouvelis will make this a precondition this time as well.



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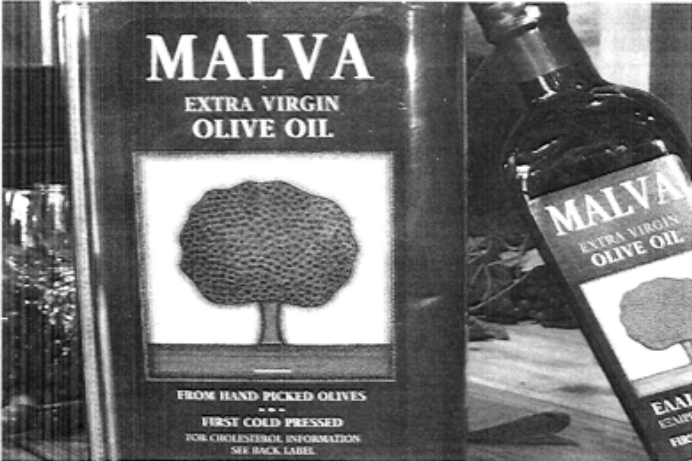
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Hellenic American Academy Commencement



On June 2nd, 2012 the Hellenic American Academy joyfully celebrated its commencement of their class of 2012. The 35 graduates include students from Day School's 8th grade, Greek Language Program's Saturday and Evening Schools 6th grade and Saturday's 12th grade Lyceum. His Eminence Metropolitan IAKOVOS of Chicago was in attendance and addressed the graduates. The Hellenic American Academy is affiliated with Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church of Chicago. For more information regarding its educational and cultural programs call 847-317-1063 or www.hellenic-americanacademy.org.



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Never Forget Kalavryta!

Neo-Nazis cross national borders as they manipulate Balkan aspirations

By Charles J. Mouratides Executive Director

CHI – Circle for Hellas & Israel www.chicircle.org

It was the 1943 Kalavryta massacre – civilians slaughtered by the Wehrmacht – that I thought about when I learned that the neo-Nazi party gained 7% of the popular vote in Greece's recent national elections.

The neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party (Chrysi Avgi) actually won votes in the small, mountainous Kalavryta village, too. Had the larger political parties been able to form a Greek government this month, the neo-Nazis would have occupied 21 seats in the 300-member Parliament. That's up from zero.

The lame response of European governments against neo-Nazism has contributed to the rise of extreme fascist groups in Europe. Amazing things are happening in the EU: A German publisher is preparing to issue an annotated (!) edition of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* which is no more than Hitler's personal philosophy and a boring, hate-filled diatribe.

Long-term government indifference has contributed to a worse development: Neo-Nazi groups on the continent are now co-operating with each other and coordinate activities across national borders. They evade legal or social pressure in one country by moving certain of their activities to another.

It is a Pan-European problem that demands an EU-wide response, but nothing is happening.

1. The basic problem is that neo-Nazi groups have grown in sophistication and are establishing EU-wide organizations across national borders. They employ a two-prong approach: One, they coordinate activities for special occasions. Two, they adopt ultranationalist agendas tailored to specific countries with issues important to broad population segments. Middle East immigrants is one issue that plays well on peoples fears.

Here is an example of coordination: Annually on November 11, Poland's Independence Day, extremist Serbian group 1389 organizes a march through Warsaw carrying such slogans as "All of Poland will be White," and "Enough of Jewish Occupation."

In 2011, Serbian extremists in Warsaw also carried the slogan "Kosovo is Serbian," a message of high patriotic value throughout Serbia. During the same period, march organizers scheduled a special meeting to advertise support for Serbia's bid to regain Kosovo which became independent in 2008.

Organizer Misa Vacic stated, "No action (of the organization) has been carried out without the support of Czechs, Slovaks and Poles."

Another occasion of cross-border planning are the so-called "doner kebab mur-

ders," committed in German towns between 2000 and 2007. Police discovered in 2011 that the three neo-Nazis who killed 10 immigrants and committed other crimes, had received military-style training in Bulgaria.

2. A second EU problem is the systematic revision of history in the Balkans. WWII antifascist Partisan fighters – heralded under communism – are now downgraded by ultranationalists. In the place of partisans, the public has begun honoring Nazi collaborators.

In Croatia, primary examples are the Ustashe, WWII pro-Nazis. In Serbia, the Chetnik paramilitary group leader Draza Mihajlovic, a collaborator executed in 1946 by partisans, has been rehabilitated. It is also reported that some government buildings display photos of Milan Nedic, a collaborator whom Hitler had appointed prime minister in Serbia.

In 2009, delegates from 46 countries gathered in the Czech concentration camp Terezin, and declared their commitment to return property seized from Jewish families in WWII. Serbia refused to sign the pledge.

3. A third trend, helping Pan-European neo-Nazi formations, is the creation of new Nazi symbols. Wearing the keffiyeh scarf is one. The use of cryptic numerals is another symbol. Numeral 88, for instance, refers to the eighth letter of the Latin alphabet to indicate HH (Heil Hitler.)

Disturbing as this Balkan-wide organized formation of neo-Nazis is, it is equally disturbing that the EU remains lethargic.

What to do? The EU can require that children be appropriately educated in Balkan countries seeking EU membership, and government buildings should take down proudly displayed photographs of killers.

EU can demystify both original and new Nazi symbols. It can educate the public on Nazi history and its tremendous cost in human life and treasure. EU can also create an immigration policy that is just to nationals, humane to immigrants, and relates to specific regions; one that enforces restrictions or provides relief where excesses are detected.

In the meantime, as Greeks go to voting stations in the June 17 election, they must never forget the men, women, and children slaughtered by the Nazis at Kalavryta. The bayoneting of pregnant women and of babies in their cribs at Distomo. And Kommeno. And Kefalonia. And, and... And never forget the nearly 50,000 victims from Thessaloniki whose only "crime" was their religion.



Unemployment rises to record 22.6 pct, says ELSTAT
Greece's jobless rate rose to 22.6 percent in the first quarter of 2012 from 20.7 percent in the previous three-month period, the Hellenic Statistical Authority reported.