

national hellenic FREE PRESS

VOL. 32

NO. 354

CHICAGO, IL.

NOVEMBER, 2014

Immigration reform battle is about to get ugly



House Speaker John Boehner and President Barack Obama meet after the mid-term election. House Speaker John Boehner and President Barack Obama are headed for a showdown over immigration. The post-mid-term era of good feelings is officially over. Its life span was measured in days, if not hours.

Pledges by both Republicans and Democrats to work together to tackle the nation's problems were never really taken seriously by anyone in Washington, but even that veneer of comity has been stripped bare, as battle lines quickly form over immigration reform. The proximate cause of the impending "total war" between the parties, as Bloomberg's David Weigel puts it, is word President Barack Obama plans to take unilateral executive action on immigration policy

The key aspect of the proposed plan that has leaked - or, more likely, was strategically floated by the White House - is expanding the current suspension of deportation to more children of illegal immigrants who were born in the US, as well as to the parents of legal US residents.

Depending on the length of time on US soil required to qualify, this "deferred action" could apply to as many as 5 million undocumented immigrants. Other proposed components of the plan include an increase in the number of work visas in key industries and a boost in efforts to patrol the US-Mexico border.

Mr Obama said that his actions were necessary because Congress has failed to reform a broken immigration system, one that has created an underground economy of undocumented workers.

Republicans in Congress counter that any action he takes without Congress's approval will be an abuse of presidential power. Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions, writing in Politico magazine, says Mr Obama "must be stopped".

"On Election Day, Americans roared in protest against the president's open-borders extremism," he says. "But President Obama made clear that he would attempt to void the election results - and our laws - by moving forward with his executive amnesty decree... The president will arrogate to himself the sole and absolute power to decide who can work in the US, who can live in the US, and who can claim benefits in the US - by the millions."

Any attempt by Republicans to block executive action on immigration by tying it to must-pass government funding measures would risk a Democratic filibuster in the Senate or presidential veto. If such a standoff ensues, the result could be a replay of the government shutdown that occurred last fall, when Republicans tried similar tactics to repeal the president's healthcare reform law.

Senator Mitch McConnell, soon to be Senate majority leader, has pledged to avoid another such shutdown - which came at a high, albeit temporary, political cost to Republicans - raising the question of exactly how far Republicans will go to confront the president.

Global economy warning lights are flashing, says PM Mr Cameron'



"Red warning lights" are once again flashing over the state of the global economy, the prime minister has said. Speaking after the G20 meeting of world leaders, David Cameron said a "dangerous backdrop of instability" threatened Britain's recovery, and "we should stick to our long-term plan".

In a Guardian article, he warned of the impact from conflicts, low growth and a eurozone "on the brink" of recession. Labour said Britain's economic recovery was still not being felt at home. But writing in the newspaper, Mr Cameron said "red warning lights are once again flashing on the dashboard of the global economy" - six years on from the crash that "brought the world to its knees".

He said: "The eurozone is teetering on the brink of a possible third recession, with high unemployment, falling growth and the real risk of falling prices too." Emerging markets, which were the driver of growth in the early stages of the recovery, are now slowing down."

And he said the Ebola epidemic, conflict in the Middle East and Russia's illegal actions in Ukraine were all adding to a "dangerous backdrop of instability and uncertainty". The warning comes after Mr Cameron pushed for a free trade deal between the European Union and the US at the G20. He said leaders had agreed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) "is a deal we want", urging the European Commission to put the deal "at the top of its do-do list".

Official figures released on Friday showed that Italy returned to recession after its economy contracted 0.1% in the third quarter - the 13th quarter in a row that it has failed to grow. Traders working on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Any global downturn would affect such financial institutions as the New York Stock Exchange. And the German economy narrowly avoided falling into recession with growth of 0.1% in the third quarter. Mr Cameron stressed that while the British economy was the fastest-growing in the G7, the reality of an interconnected world meant it would not be possible to "insulate ourselves completely". "We must do all we can to protect ourselves from a global downturn," he added. Looking ahead to the 2015 general election, he argued it was more important than ever for the UK to stick to the government's austerity plan, which he said had seen the nation "prosper". His comments come three weeks before Chancellor George Osborne delivers his Autumn Statement - the last before the election. Labour responded by referring to comments made by former Prime Minister John Major, who told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show on Sunday that people were "concerned and worried" that the economic recovery had not resulted in higher wages.

NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

PUBLISHER
SOTIRIS REKOUMIS
EDITOR
DENISE REKOUMIS
LAYOUTS
JOHN REKOUMIS
CONTRIBUTORS

DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS,
DENISE REKOUMIS, DR JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS,
CHRIS MERENTITIS, CHARLES MOURATIDES

THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

LAW OFFICE OF MARIYANNA SPYROPOULOS



180 N. LASALLE ST.
SUITE 1801
CHICAGO, IL. 60611
PHONE: (312)456-8005
FAX:456-8006

DEMOCRACY: A Priceless Hellenic Gift to the World

by: Paul A Maroulis, Palm Harbor, Florida

Just as gravity is the sustaining force of the universe and life on earth, so is democracy the "glue" that holds civilized societies in a perpetual sociopolitical balance by immunizing them against the catastrophic consequences of systemic inequalities and racism that often lead to social unrest, upheaval and outright anarchy.

Democracy first started to develop as a sense of community. The ancient Hellenes recognized it as an indispensable foundation upon which they engaged in meticulous, exhaustible analysis and dialogue about the fundamental issues of "how we should treat others" and "how we want to be treated by others".

Democracy was defined by our ancient forefathers as a state or country government by the people through elected representatives free from the influence of private and particular interests and from the corruptions of public weal, which would surely result if these interests prevailed. Democracy - they emphatically pointed out - implies social equality and that the will of all people represents what is best for all people.

By conceiving the idea of democracy (Themokratia) and using it as the indestructible foundation of their political, economic, and sociocultural life, our indisputably genius-thinkers hellenic ancestors gave the world an inestimable gift: THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. Indeed, so immensely efficacious and beneficial this contribution to the world has been since its inception, that, along with our ancestors' plethora of others (our incomparable language included), it has meritoriously and axiomatically obligated all contemporary democratic societies to assume a debt of limitless gratitude to Hellas as well as highest cultural esteem and admiration. Is it not, after all, that being proud to be of hellenic heritage is not simply a matter of ethnicity but a privilege of belonging to the world's most exceptional culture?

Appropriately then, in recognition of our precious democratic heritage bestowed upon us by our venerable and visionary ancestral forefathers, let us all enthusiastically and most deservedly exclaim: Forever shall shine proudly the Democratic Hellenic Beacon of western civilization which for thousands of years continues to glow and radiate endless inspiring and sustaining cultural energy to the nations of our planet.

Let us also exclaim, as Hellenic Americans, that forever shall stand in glory and world-wide admiration the United States of America for its magnificent, admirable achievements motivated and augmented by its unshakable commitment to the democratic system and its guiding principles at large.

Paul A Maroulis

US President Barack Obama has condemned the killing of US aid worker Abdul-Rahman Kassig as "an act of pure evil".



The Islamic State (IS) militant group released a video showing a masked man standing over a severed head, which the White House confirmed was Mr Kassig.

His parents said he died "as a result of his love for the Syrian people". Mr Kassig, 26, was taken while working for a refugee group. He is the fifth Western hostage to be killed by IS, which controls parts of Syria and Iraq.

This is perhaps the most elaborate and graphic of all the murder videos posted online by IS. Much of it is taken up with a recent history lesson on Iraq and Syria as seen through the eyes of the jihadists. But the latter part shows the beheading of 18 Syrian prisoners in revolting, lingering detail.

Unlike earlier videos, this one revels in gore. Amongst the boiler-suited captives murdered in cold blood is a man IS says is the former US soldier Peter Kassig, who converted to Islam and changed his name to Abdul-Rahman. Neither his conversion, nor the fact that he was helping refugees when he was captured a year ago, appear to have saved him. Mr Kassig's murder is a sign of frustration that IS militants are unable to hit back at the coalition air strikes that have driven them off key sites like the Mosul and Haditha dams, and prevented them from seizing the town of Kobane. The president praised Mr Kassig as a humanitarian and said he was "taken from us in an act of pure evil by a terrorist group that the world rightly associates with inhumanity". "Today we grieve together, yet we also recall that the indomitable spirit of goodness and perseverance that burned so brightly in Abdul-Rahman Kassig," he said.

Relationship troubles

By Alexis Papachelas

Greece is in the middle of very tough negotiations with the troika. The truth is that at some point the government’s relationship with its creditors somehow went off course. It’s as if the trust which had been built over the past two years is just not there anymore. The same European officials who had hailed Greece’s primary surplus refused to do the same when the recession-ravaged economy expanded for the first time in six years. The difference in tone is hard to explain.



Perhaps the government did not weigh its strength carefully. Perhaps it over-estimated the country’s ability to borrow from the markets without a safety net – and with clear political risk in sight. Or maybe its unilateral moves in revenue policy or its selective reading of the various provisions caused more reactions than it had anticipated.

According to a different interpretation, European officials are seeking any excuse to avoid making any announcements on the Greek debt, for that would incur considerable political cost.

There’s also an utterly cynical point of view which says that no bank would ever lend hard cash to a company if it felt the latter’s entire management might change at the next board meeting and that the new administration would have no idea what to do when it assumes power. In other words, Greece’s lenders might not wish to conclude the negotiations until they find out whether a new president will be elected by the current Parliament or whether an election will be held and, if so, who will win.

Where all this will lead to will become evident in the next few days. What is certain is that we’re playing with fire. Let’s hope that the government will keep its cool and the country will avoid sliding into a period of instability that could last for months and which would further stall the cautious growth everyone is hoping for. In the last few months the government has been operating in a defensive and often knee-jerk manner. Nobody talks to the people, nobody is explaining how much of what needs to be done is “monstrous” and how much is “sensible” stuff that any Greek government ought to carry out on its own initiative. Up until last June there was clearly a plan which officials fiercely supported in public. Then came fatigue, fear and a sense of introversion. It’s a difficult point in time which demands cool heads and determination.

No one’s asking the troika to make Greece’s domestic political problems its own. It would be constructive, however, if it realized that putting too much pressure on the government will lead the country into a new crisis which will not aid the economy’s stabilization and recovery, which, after all, remains its main target.

ND, SYRIZA play down possibility of PM and opposition chief meeting

The government and main opposition party on Wednesday played down the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and SYRIZA leader Alexis Tsipras amid the strained negotiations between Greece and the troika.

Kathimerini revealed on Wednesday that the idea of Samaras and Deputy Prime Minister Evangelos Venizelos calling in Tsipras to inform him of the difficulties Greece is facing in its dealings with the troika had been discussed. Reacting to the report, New Democracy and SYRIZA suggested such a meeting would be difficult as a result of the other side’s stance.

“There is no point in discussing anything with people who want division,” said New Democracy secretary Andreas Papamimikos, who did not rule out the possibility of Samaras and Tsipras meeting further on down the line.

In a weekly press briefing, SYRIZA spokesman Panos Skourletis also expressed doubt about whether such talks could materialize, although he did not dismiss the possibility altogether. “There is no scope for meaningful understanding on the issues of debt and exiting the crisis,” said Skourletis. “If the prime minister feels the need to invite Mr Tsipras to talks, we will examine the request. However, we feel Mr Venizelos would be unnecessary to requirements.”

The PASOK leader’s immediate focus is on different meetings as he is due to hold talks on Thursday with his predecessor George Papandreou. On Friday he will be meeting ex-Prime Minister Costas Simitis. The meetings were arranged after Venizelos placed calls to both men on Tuesday night. Relations between Venizelos and Papandreou have been fraught over the last few months and Thursday’s meeting is seen as an attempt to restore some harmony within PASOK. The talks with Simitis have a similar goal.

Samaras met with To Potami leader Stavros Theodorakis on Wednesday. After the talks, Theodorakis said he would like Parliament to elect a new president in February but for parties to agree on national elections being held in November next year.

Budget to be tabled without troika approval

Finance minister expected to submit the final draft in Parliament tomorrow with negotiations still ongoing

Finance Minister Gikas Hardouvelis is set to table the final draft of the 2015 budget in Parliament on Friday without having secured the approval of the country’s creditors. It will be based on the midterm fiscal plan agreed by Athens and the troika.



The representatives of the country’s three creditors – the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund – are for now sticking to their estimate for a fiscal gap next year that could reach up to 3.6 billion euros as things stand, while the government continues to reject this forecast, poignantly recalling that the troika had

also anticipated fiscal gaps for last year that never materialized.

In this context the 2015 budget, with no new austerity measures, provides for a primary surplus of 3 percent of gross domestic product. Sources also said that this year’s primary surplus will amount to 1.8 percent of GDP, against a target for 1.5 percent.

Officials familiar with the government’s negotiations with Greece’s creditors say that the troika does not intend to budge on its estimates, insisting on last-minute changes to the budget so as to guarantee that the target of a 3 percent primary surplus is attained. Such changes would entail new measures, which the government clearly rejects, considering some methods it has resorted to in the past to overcome such deadlocks, the same officials note.

The most likely strategy would be to let the first few months pass so as to see which side was right in its estimates, and if the troika is the one to be proven correct then there would be two options: to revise the estimates through the next midterm fiscal plan, set for February or March 2015, or to table a supplementary budget that would bridge any gaps created.

The troika believes some changes might be introduced to the budget even after the debate in Parliament has started, but the government is aware of the negotiation process’s tight timetable and realizes such a possibility is quite unlikely.

EUROPEAN BEST CARE, INC.

401 S. MILWAUKEE AVE. # 220

WHEELING , IL.60089

MILA EPSHTEYN

PHONE: 847-912-0197

WWW.europeanbestcare.com

HOME SERVICES AGENCY EUROPEAN CAREGIVER’S FOR LOVED ONES

- *Companionship*
- *Transportation*
- *Shopping, errands*
- *Light Housekeeping*
- *Protective Supervision*
- *Dementia/Alzheimer Care*
- *Meals & Med Reminders*
- *Post Hospitalization Care*



Αν ψάχνετε για άτομα για να φροντίζουν τα αγαπημένα σας πρόσωπα, η εταιρία European Best Care Services που έχει άδεια από την Πολιτεία, έχει τα κατάλληλα πρόσωπα που ομιλούν Αγγλικά και Ελληνικά και που είτε θα μένουν μαζί στο σπίτι οικότροφοι ή θα εργάζονται ωρισμένες ώρες. Τηλεφωνείστε σήμερα για να σας βρούμε το κατάλληλο άτομο για τους αγαπημένους σας στο (847) 912-0197.

Car Wash Always Open to Castle Honda Customers.



Honda Savings

0.9% apr for 60 mo on New Civics*



NEW 2013 Honda CIVIC LX

Auto. 4DR. *36 mo. lease. \$1,159 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fees. 12k mi/yr. 15¢/mi after. Residual \$11,063. #FB2F5DEW

\$159 /MO*

\$0
DOWN PAYMENT*
on select new models

\$0
SECURITY DEPOSIT*

\$0
1ST MONTH PAYMENT*

\$0
DUE AT LEASE SIGNING*
on select new models



NEW 2014 Honda ACCORD LX

Auto. 4DR. *36 mo. lease. \$1,159 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fees. 12k mi/yr. 15¢/mi after. Residual \$11,063. #FB2F5DEW

\$199 /MO*



NEW 2014 Honda CR-V LX

Auto. *36 mo. lease. \$1,159 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fees. 12k mi/yr. 15¢/mi after. Residual \$11,063. #FB2F5DEW

\$219 /MO*



NEW 2014 Honda ODYSSEY LX

*36 mo. lease. \$1,159 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fees. 12k mi/yr. 15¢/mi after. Residual \$11,063. #FB2F5DEW

\$289 /MO*



NEW 2014 Honda PILOT LX

*36 mo. lease. \$1,159 down with 1st mo. payment, plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fees. 12k mi/yr. 15¢/mi after. Residual \$11,063. #FB2F5DEW

\$299 /MO*

NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? SHORT TIME IN THE COUNTRY?
ASK TO SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR CREDIT SPECIALISTS!

We Speak Greek
847.965.7070

Ask for
Tony Chammas

I Can Help With
New & Used Cars!



Castle Honda

6900 W. DEMPSTER, MORTON GROVE
847.965.7070 • CastleHonda.COM

SERVICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 7AM-7PM, SATURDAY 8AM-4PM

All offers to qualified buyers. 3) You must qualify. Not available on advertised vehicles. See dealer for details. 1) 0.9% APR for 60 mo; \$17.05 per \$1000 financed on select new Honda cars. You must qualify. See dealer for details.

Japanese as a first found out the healing properties of ionized water. Filled with hydrogen, they made a machine that produces this kind of water through the process of ionization. It is known throughout the world as Kangen, and it produces (depending on the model) 3 to 7 liters of antioxidant water per minute. The newest model, the k8, features 8 platinum-dipped titanium plates for improved water ionization and increased antioxidant production potential. Thanks to its worldwide multi-voltage power supply and interchangeable plug capability, you can enjoy this machine in virtually any country.

Contact a distributor: Josephine Koutsostamatis, # 224-425-0101



Founded by Peter Parthenis Sr. in 1974 and still family-owned today, Grecian Delight Foods is proud of its rich Greek heritage. We manufacture and market top quality authentic Greek and specialty Mediterranean foods for the foodservice and retail industries. From the best gyro meats to Greek yogurt, hummus and fine pastries, people rely on Grecian Delight Foods’ commitment to provide superior products made from the finest ingredients.

Grecian Delight Foods is always looking for candidates who strengthen our ability to grow and maintain the high standards of our customers. Our success is base on superior performance, competitive strategies, professional integrity, quality products and our people. We remain steeped in Greek tradition and encourage you to inquire about career opportunities. Please email your resume to jadelman@greciandelight.com

Ask for Grecian Delight Foods at your favorite Chicago restaurants and grocery stores!



**GYROS • HUMMUS • SPREADS • GREEK YOGURT • PITA • FLATBREADS
SHAWARMA • FALAFEL • MOUSAKA • PASTICHIO • BAKLAVA • AND MORE
847-364-1010 • www.greciandelight.com**

Mediterranean diet is best way to tackle obesity, say doctors



A Mediterranean diet may be a better way of tackling obesity than calorie counting, leading doctors have said. Writing in the Postgraduate Medical Journal (PMJ), the doctors said a Mediterranean diet quickly reduced the risk of heart attacks and strokes. And they said it may be better than low-fat diets for sustained weight loss.

Official NHS advice is to monitor calorie intake to maintain a healthy weight.

Last month NHS leaders stressed the need for urgent action to tackle obesity and the health problems that often go with it. The PMJ editorial argues a focus on food intake is the best approach, but it warns crash dieting is harmful.

They criticise the weight-loss industry for focusing on calorie restriction

rather than "good nutrition". And they make the case for a Mediterranean diet, including fruit and vegetables, nuts and olive oil, citing research suggesting it quickly reduces the risk of heart attacks and strokes, and may be better than low-fat diets for sustained weight loss.

The lead author, cardiologist Dr Aseem Malhotra, says the scientific evidence is overwhelming. "What's more responsible is that we tell people to concentrate on eating nutritious foods." "It's going to have an impact on their health very quickly. We know the traditional Mediterranean diet, which is higher in fat, proven from randomised controlled trials, reduces the risk of heart attack and stroke even within months of implementation."

The article also says adopting a Mediterranean diet after a heart attack is almost three times as effective at reducing deaths as taking cholesterol-lowering statin medication.

The authors argue the NHS is in a "key position" to set a national example by providing healthy food in hospitals and by ensuring doctors and nurses understand the evidence. Prof Stephenson says the service can exert a powerful influence, for good or ill.

"We wouldn't dream of letting people drink alcohol or smoke in any healthcare environment, so I find it incomprehensible that we facilitate and sometimes actively promote food and drink that in some ways cause as many problems. And although some positive steps have been taken on the food given to patients in hospital, their visitors and staff also deserve better."

"Government advice is to eat plenty of bread, rice, potatoes, pasta and other starchy foods, plenty of fruit and vegetables; and some milk and dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, beans and other sources of non-dairy protein." "Foods high in salt, fat and sugar should be eaten less often and in small amounts. If you are currently overweight you will need to eat less to achieve a healthy weight and be active as part of a healthy lifestyle."

Ifantis Dental Care

John Ifantis, DDS, PC

9251 Waukegan Rd. Morton Grove, IL 60053
(847)663-0003

All that is good begins with a SMILE.

At Ifantis Dental Care, **your smile is our top priority!** Dr. Ifantis and his entire team of dental professionals is dedicated to providing you with the personalized, quality care that you deserve. When you visit Ifantis Dental Care you will experience all that modern dentistry has to offer , in one location. The dental care we provide includes a comprehensive list of general, restorative, cosmetic, orthodontic and periodontal services to meet the needs of the whole family, at an affordable price. Our goal is to assist each patient in achieving and maintaining long term dental health and a beautiful smile. Some of the services we provide include:

- Exams & Cleanings
- Extractions
- Fillings
- Root Canal Therapy
- Dental Implants
- Crowns & Bridges
- Braces
- Invisalign “clear braces”
- Veneers
- Teeth whitening
- Partials & Full Dentures
- Neuromuscular (jaw joint) treatment
- Snoring & Sleep Apnea treatment



Flexible financing options and easy pay plans are available.
We cordially invite you to call for more information- (847) 663-0003 or send an email to whitenyourteethom@gmail.com

Visit us to find out why are patients refer us to their friends and family!

NEWS FROM GREECE

PM eyes stability, says opposition proposals could undermine debt effort.



As the government presses on with efforts to relaunch a stalled economic review with the troika and clinch a post-bailout agreement with the country’s international creditors, Prime Minister Antonis Samaras has insisted on the need for both political and economic stability in an article in Sunday’s Kathimerini, claiming that opposition proposals could push Greece back to the brink of bankruptcy or a eurozone exit.

In his article, Samaras noted that, in order to safeguard political stability, the current Parliament must appoint a new president in elections early next year. Another challenge is to certify the sustainability of Greece’s debt, Samaras said, noting that his government has already taken steps toward reducing the country’s debt and would “seek new relief.”

Without naming SYRIZA, Samaras made it clear that opposition pressure to

obstruct presidential elections in a bid to force snap polls and its insistence on a debt write-off were risky tactics that could sabotage progress in fiscal adjustment. “He who returns the country to the time of deficits does not thus strike at austerity,” Samaras said. The premier added that the absence of an agreement with creditors certifying the sustainability of Greek debt would essentially block Greece from capital markets. In a clear dig at SYRIZA, he added that “those who have such things in mind are leading Greece backward – either to bankruptcy, which we narrowly avoided, or to a euro exit, which we narrowly averted.”

The government wants to conclude the current troika review and reach an agreement with creditors on debt relief. The government responded at the end of last week to a to-do list of reforms sent by the troika and is awaiting the latter’s reply. Once the review has resumed, the aim is for Greece to secure an agreement at a summit of eurozone finance ministers on December 8 that ensures the country can rely on a precautionary credit line next year, after the European arm of its international bailout ends. Once this credit line is in place, Samaras wrote in his article, “the prospects for the future of the Greek economy will skyrocket”

while interest rates will fall.

Defense kickbacks probe gathering pace

Prosecutors getting close to key officials who signed off on deals a decade ago



Searches over the past few days at the Athens home of businessman Thomas Liakounakos and the Munich offices of Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) have turned up documents, computer hard drives and other evidence in an investigation by prosecutors into the alleged payment of millions of euros in bribes to Greek officials for the sale of tanks, helicopters and other defense supplies, Kathimerini understands.

Prosecutors appear to have made progress in their probe into the key players who sealed deals, particularly as regards the purchase of Leopard tanks and Apache helicopters.

Liakounakos is alleged to have been instrumental in clinching many deals.

On the political level, the probe is focusing on associates close to Yiannos Papantoniou, who was defense minister from 2001 to 2004. Prosecutors have asked for access to several bank accounts and are awaiting the outcome of checks on that of Papantoniou’s brother-in-law, Giorgos Kandalepas. The latter is being probed for allegedly depositing 1.5 million euros into the account of Stavroula Kourakou, Papantoniou’s wife.

Meanwhile, Antonis Kantas, an ex general secretary for procurements who has admitted to receiving bribes from foreign arms firms, was given conditional release from custody late on Friday after posting 200,000 euros in bail. He is said to have identified recipients of kickbacks. Kantas himself has returned 15 million euros in kickbacks.

Cosco eyeing Thriasio Plain as site for Chinese mall




A Dragon Mart-style shopping center featuring Chinese products could be constructed close to Athens at the Thriasio Freight Center plot that Chinese company Cosco has bid for.

These huge wholesale malls filled with Chinese wares can be found in a number of cities around the world. Perhaps the best known is the 50,000-square meter Dragon Mart in Dubai, which has cost over \$500 million in two development stages. The same group has also developed similar projects in Qatar and Bahrain, and is planning an investment of \$180 million in Cancun, Mexico. Panama’s Dragon Mart is still at an early stage, while there is also a presence in the Netherlands.

The entity behind these developments is China Machinery & Electronic Products Exhibition Center, better known as Chinamex, which often implements its investments in co-operation with local groups and construction companies. It is also supported by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce as a platform promoting the Asian country’s exports.

The business plan for the development focuses on the creation of permanent regional trade shows at key geographical points where products can be promoted to the markets of the broader region. “This brings Chinese products close to their markets and reduces costs considerably for the potential customers of Chinese groups,” a source familiar with the planning for the Greek Dragon Mart explained to Kathimerini. Heading the Chinamex group is Hao Feng, who has now become one of the biggest international investors in commercial properties, even if that draws reactions from the local business associations and chambers. Such was the case in Mexico, where local interests are very suspicious about the mass inflow of cheap competition that such projects entail.

Dagon Marts vary, as in some cases they involve entertainment and retail commerce centers, also hosting international brands such as McDonalds. This is the case in the second phase of development at the Dragon Mart in Dubai.



GREEK ISLANDS

"A BIT OF OUR HISTORY"

Back in 1971, A group of friends realized the American dream that many immigrants had — they opened their own business after many years of hard work. From humble beginnings they grew their business into the most popular Greek Restaurant in the United States. The same owners today make sure that the founding principles of great food, service, and value are still paramount. From Greece they select and ship to their restaurants the highest quality extra virgin olive oil, superior wines, the best cheeses, herbs, and seafood.

CHICAGO
200 S HALSTED ST.
312.782.9855

LOMBARD
300 E. 22 ND ST.
630.932.4545

WWW.GREEKISLANDS.NET



Two arrested, one more sought for medical student's abductionTwo men were arrested on Sunday on suspicion of kidnapping a 27-year-old medical student and holding her to ransom.The two suspects are Greeks aged 48 and 53. A third man, of Albanian nationality is being sought.Their alleged victim was abducted in the Athens neighborhood of Kypseli on October 31 and was released in the same area on November 9 after her father paid an 82,500-euro ransom.Police said that the men were arrested after officers raided a home in Artemida, northeastern Attica, where the student was allegedly kept during her ordeal. Also, 80,000 euros of the ransom money was recovered from one of the two suspects' homes, police said.



In the 1980s and 90s, Greece was a beacon of hope and opportunity for the people of Poland. After making their way to Greece, Polish workers found work and success. Back in 1990, Poland's gross domestic product per capita was less than half of that in Greece; today it is almost equal.Underlying these numbers is a stark difference in reality: Poland is dynamic and growing fast; Greece is not. Why is Poland now becoming a beacon of hope? Why is it attracting young Greeks to its vibrant cities?It's simple: Poland has leveraged its membership in the European Union to focus on building its society and institutions that not only create opportunities but also respond to them.

SAY HELLO TO AN ALL NEW, INFORMATIVE, EDUCATIONAL, HISTORICAL AND SPIRITUAL FAMILY BOOK

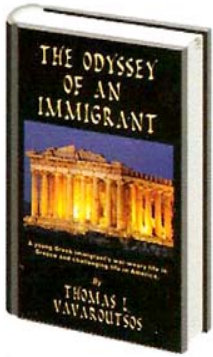
THE ODYSSEY OF AN IMMIGRANT

A Book by Thanasis Vavaroutsos

available on
amazon.com

or ask your local bookstore to order it!

Buy the book today!



Now available at amazon.com, in paperback or hardcover and soon to be released on Kindle

For more information or to buy this book, please visit our web site

theodysseyofanimmigrant.com

My name is *Thanasis Vavaroutsos*, I immigrated to America in 1954 with my family at the age of seventeen, and I have an incredible story to tell you. It is a story of a young Greek immigrant who lived in Greece during WW-II, the Nazi Occupation, the Great Depression and a spiteful Civil War. The book includes my life in Greece, my life in America, the history of Greek immigration to America, a brief history of modern and ancient Greece, historic Hellenic events, the latest Greek economic meltdown, personal observations, and much more...

IT IS A BOOK THAT EVEY PERSON SHOULD READ
AND EVERY FAMILY OF HELLENIC ANCESTRY SHOULD NOT BE WITHOUT



Tony Housakos
Complete Auto Repair
Specializing in BMW



5801 Dempster | Morton Grove, IL 60053
Fax (847) 965-1643 | Bus (847) 965-1642 | Cell (847) 977-4086