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U.F.O.'s and E.T,s

Louis A. Palivos



Humanity is more and more seduced to two global beliefs; that evolution is a fact and that there is life on other planets. If evolution, in fact, has been happening for 10-15 BILLIONS OF YEARS, then, it is reasonable to assume that life has evolved in our vast universe over the BILLIONS OF YEARS and that there are evolved beings whose intelligence could be far more advanced to humans, as humans are to bacteria? Could there be advanced beings who have developed unidentified flying objects (UFO's), that is, spaceships to have reached earth? Is there extraterrestrial intelligence (ET's)? Is there another plausible explanation for the thousands of historical, unexplained UFO's and ET's? Are there other beings outside or inside the earth? The answer is YES there are other beings!

U.F.O. Cults

The teaching of the cults that follow is based on the encounters that their founders allegedly had, either directly or telepathically, with extraterrestrials and the revelation they claim to have received. A) The Aetherius Society: a cult founded in London in 1955, by the English occultist and practitioner of Kundalini Yoga, George King (1917-1997). In 1959, the headquarters of the cult was relocated to Los Angeles, CA. B) The Unarius Academy of Science: a cult established in 1954 by Ernest Norman (1904-1971) and his wife, Ruth Norman (1900-1993) in Los Angeles, CA. This cult is extremely hostile to Christianity. C) Heaven's Gate: a cult formed in 1975 by Marshall Applewhite (1928-1985). On March 26, 1997, members of this cult committed mass suicide in the belief that their souls would be transported to a spaceship hidden in the trail of Comet Hale-Bopp D) The Urantia Foundation: a cult founded in 1950, in Chicago, by William S. Sadler (1875-1969), a Chicago physician influenced by Theosophy. E) Ashtar Command: this UFO cult brings together the theories of the esotericist and founder of the occult organization, "I AM". Guy Ballard (1878-1939), with the cult's own eclectic beliefs about UFO's. F) The Ancient Astronaut Society: a movement formed in the U.S.A. in 1973, with branches in fifty countries today. It endorses and disseminates the theories of Erich Von Däniken (1935-) concerning extraterrestrials. Von Däniken's books are, Chariots of Fire (1968); God, from Outer Space (1970); and In Search of Ancient Aliens (1973). G) The Raëlian Movement: a European cult founded in 1973 by the French journalist Claude Vorilhon (1946-), who changed his name to, "Raël". This is the cult that in 2003, in an attempt to gain international publicity, falsely claimed that it had cloned a human being. H) Universelles Leben: a cult founded in 1975 by the German spiritualist Gabriele Wittek. Up until 1984, it operated under the name, Heimholungswerk Jesu Christi" (Jesus Christ's Rescue Work [from the German Heimholung, literally, "taking home"], and, since 1984, under the name "Universelles Leben" (Universal Life).¹

St. Paul prophesied that, "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they leap to themselves teachers,

(Continued p.4-5)

"2018 Capital Link Maritime CSR Leadership Award"

Official Award ceremony

Honoring:

Mr. Philippe Louis-Dreyfus,

Chairman - Louis Dreyfus Armateurs S.A.S.;

Former President – BIMCO

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018 - AT THE ATHENS HILTON HOTEL



It is with great success that the "8th Annual Operational Excellence in Shipping – Best Industry Practices" Forum took place on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at the Hilton Athens Hotel, attracting 670+ participants. The Forum concluded with the presentation of the "Capital Link Maritime CSR Leadership Award".

The "Capital Link Maritime CSR Leadership Award" was initiated 6 years ago aiming to recognize a person or an organization for demonstrating the highest level of commitment to Business Ethics and Best Industry Practices. Previous Honorees were Mr. Jeremy Penn, Dr. Nikos Tsakos, Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Mr. Clay Maitland and Mr. John Platsidakis.

OFFICIAL AWARD CEREMONY

The 2018 "Capital Link Maritime CSR Leadership Award" was presented to Mr. Philippe Louis-Dreyfus, Chairman - Louis Dreyfus Armateurs S.A.S.; Former President – BIMCO. Mr. Panagiotis Laskaridis, President - European Community Shipowners Associations; CEO - Lavinia Corporation/Laskaridis Shipping Co. Ltd., delivered the Introductory remarks.

Mr. Panagiotis Laskaridis in his speech he stated: "We have gathered here today to honor a close friend for many years. When I first met Mr. Philippe Louis-Dreyfus, I wondered who this guy was, always telling me what is right and what is wrong; now I never open my mouth without asking for his opinion first. He has had two distinguished careers, in both banking and shipping, and is a very accomplished person all around.

(Continued p.2)

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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.

“2018 Capital Link Maritime CSR Leadership Award”

Among other distinctions, Mr. Philippe Louis-Dreyfus is Commandeur of the Légion d'honneur and Officer of the British Empire. His honesty and perseverance have left a big impact in shipping and he has many friends in Greece. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Louis-Dreyfus, a more than worthy recipient of this award.”

Mr. Philippe Louis-Dreyfus, Chairman - Louis Dreyfus Armateurs S.A.S.; Former President – BIMCO, in his speech he stated: “Greece is traditionally the biggest country in shipping worldwide, given its fleet and presence in all international organizations. Shipping is important in Greece, and Greece is important for shipping. My sincere thanks to Mr. Laskaridis for his kind words, and to the organizers for compliments that are usually only uttered after one's death.

Shipping is one of the oldest professions in the world. For me however, it is also the best one. You get to build something solid, lasting, and meet fine, dedicated and passionate people. Shipping is defined by its values: Solidarity and family.

Once again thank you to everyone for this prestigious award.”

ORGANIZERS

Founded in 1995, Capital Link is a New York based investor relations, financial communications and advisory firm with a strategic focus on the maritime, commodities and energy sectors, MLPs, as well as Closed-End Funds and ETFs.

Based in New York City, Capital Link has presence in London, Athens & Oslo. Capital Link is a member of the Baltic Exchange and works very closely with the New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ and the London Stock Exchange as well as with major international and supranational organizations and industry associations in the areas of the firm's strategic concentration.

Our proactive approach, which integrates Investor Relations, Information Technology and Media, enhances awareness and branding for our clients through tailored outreach programs targeting analysts, institutional and individual investors and the financial media complemented by extensive and uniquely powerful marketing platforms. Capital Link offers a full suite of services including strategic and corporate advisory, investor relations, media relations, public and industry relations and

the organization of corporate events. Capital Link is also known for the organization of large scale, high quality Investment Forums focusing on maritime transportation and U.S. investment products in key industry centers, such as New York, London, Athens, Limassol, Shanghai, Singapore and as of this year in Tokyo. We organize twelve to fourteen conferences annually, of which seven are focused on the maritime sector. The Capital Link Investment Forums feature industry leaders and draw the elite of the global financial and investment communities. The Capital Link brand is widely-recognized and valued worldwide by participants in these communities for combining rich informational and educational content with as well as superior networking opportunities. In addition to conferences, Capital Link organizes Webinars focusing on investment strategies, sectors, critical topics of interest to the investment community and company presentations. Capital Link's global marketing platform enhances the visibility and reach of these events on a global scale that lasts well beyond the date on which each event is held, becoming a continuous reference point for market participants.

TOMELLIS

Greece in the new East Med regional security scheme



Developments over the last few years have upset many of the traditional relationships and partnerships in the Eastern Mediterranean and Greece now finds itself at the center of the new stage that has emerged. It is true that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's confrontational attitude toward the United States and Israel, as well as Egypt under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, has played a catalytic role.

However, circumstances have also changed due to the choice of successive Greek governments to forge a closer strategic relationship with Israel. The skepticism that was indeed present in the past has given way to an honest desire for cooperation, which is bearing fruit.

The first step in this direction was made by George Papandreou in July 2010. Having spearheaded this new approach, he was able to move forward because of the tension between Turkey and Israel. Everyone may say that the different state and regional partnerships are not aimed at edging out anyone else, but the Turkish president's statements and actions undoubtedly facilitated the Greece-Israel relationship.



Ever since, the relationship has flourished, developing its own momentum, and is becoming deeper on several levels following the establishment of a tripartite alliance that includes Cyprus, and the expansion of cooperation into an increasing and diverse number of areas.

The rise in tourism between the two countries is not just resulting in the obvious economic benefits, but is also very important in reversing stereotypes and building bridges between people, something that has proven extremely challenging for other countries in the region which have chosen a different path, and that is true not only of their leaders but also of the societies themselves.

In the meantime, an excellent relationship between Athens and Washington is also contributing to this new regional framework. This is unprecedented for a leftist government, but here too we are seeing a break with the past and, whatever the reason, it is a welcome development that some are starting to realize that defending the country's interests comes above any ideological fixations.

In that context, a strategic dialogue between the US and Greece is slated to start next month in Washington and will be followed by the process of the US's gradual inclusion into Greece and Cyprus's tripartite partnerships with Israel, but also with Jordan and Egypt.

This will result in a new security framework in the Eastern Mediterranean that will involve the US, but will also endow Greece with a starring role not only as a result of its geographic location but also due to the fact that it is the only member of both NATO and the European Union in the region.

The government and the opposition – in a democracy the roles will alternate, but the national strategy here should and will transcend people and parties – will be judged by how they handle this new framework and the degree to which they take advantage of the opportunities it presents.

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MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos with Mr. Angelo Gianopoulos.

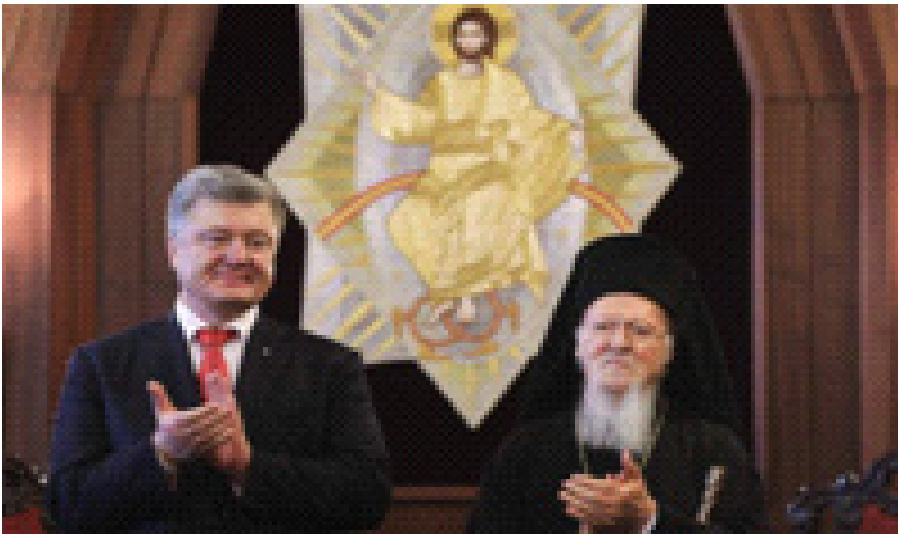
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Office of President Mariyana T. Spyropoulos
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Chicago, IL –In honor of the upcoming Veteran’s Day Holiday, President Mariyana Spyropoulos invited Mr. Angelo Gianopoulos, a Cook County resident and WWII Veteran, to MWRD’s November 1, 2018 Board Meeting. Mr. Gianopoulos was given a resolution honoring his service to our country.

“I don’t know of another individual more deserving of our gratitude and respect. His sacrifice and the sacrifices of all our soldiers and veterans should be honored every day. Mr. Gianopoulos is a piece of living history that stood before us today sharing his chilling stories of war, like the Invasion of Normandy and his time serving in General George Patton’s 3rd army. The emotion in his eyes is something I will always remember. It was an honor to meet him,” said MWRD President Spyropoulos.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is an award-winning special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management. MWRD’s mission is to protect the health and safety of the public, the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan) and protect businesses and homes from flood damages.

Vartholomaïos, Ukraine presi-
dent sign cooperation agreement



A handout photo made available by Ukrainian Presidential Press Service shows Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (l) and the Ecumenical Patriarch Vartholomaïos (r) clapping hands during their meeting in Istanbul, Saturday.

Ecumenical Patriarch Vartholomaïos and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko have signed an agreement of cooperation and coordination between Kiev and the Istanbul-based Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The pact was signed after a meeting between Vartholomaïos, the spiritual leader of the world’s Orthodox Christians, and Poroshenko in Istanbul on Saturday. It is designed to accelerate the granting of autocephaly, or self rule, to the Church of Ukraine. “I am sure the autocephaly decision will lead to unity and unification of all Orthodox believers in Ukraine,” Vartholomaïos was quoted as saying. Poroshenko described the day as “historic.”

Last month, a synod chaired by Vartholomaïos endorsed Ukraine’s request for an autocephalous church. The move has angered the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church, which compared it to the Great Schism of 1054 that split western and eastern Christianity.

U.F.O.’s and E.T,s

having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall turn to fables.” II Tim. 4:3-4.

Scientific Investigations of U.F.O.s

A world renown scientist, was Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who had divided the UFO phenomenon into 6 categories;

A) Nocturnal Lights. Most are explained as heavenly bodies, balloons, meteors or planes. Some remain unidentified. B) Daylight Discs. These are the flying saucers shaped like saucers or long-ciggars. Then make rapid starts and stops, are motionless hovering and noiseless C) Radar Visual. Simultaneous sightings by airplane pilots and ground radar. Lasts for a few minutes to hours. D) Close Encounters of the First Kind. Are awesome and frightening leaving witnesses overwhelmed, but no contact. Objects come in various shapes, illumination and hover, then, suddenly moves and disappears. E) Close Encounters of the Second Kind. These sightings leave physical and/or psychological effects. They leave marks on the ground, plants, trees, cause radio static, discomfort to animals, paralysis or numbness to humans, cause levitation or healings. Also, leave strange marks on the body. There are 800 cases documented of these types in 24 countries. F) Close Encounters of the Third Kind. These are experiences with “animated beings”, “occupants” or “humanoids”. There are over 300 of these reports. These beings are 3-4 ½ feet tall, wear white coveralls, have claw-like hands, float, have huge heads and eyes (without pupils or eyelids), large pointed ears, arms hang to the ground, small or no noses, a slit for a mouth, communicate with humans, materialize and dematerialize, resulting in healings or leukemia and radiation sickness, cause psychological effects, deterioration, insanity and/or suicide.²

Another world authority on U.F.O.s, is Dr.

Jacques Valler, who believes that the U.F.O.s are a physical craft and/or psychic devices. They are parapsychical or in the occult realm. He believes humanity is “dealing with a control system”. The object is the “control of human beliefs.”³ Drs. Hynek and Vallee now speculate that the UFO’s are “earth-bound aliens” that somehow interface with an “interlocking universe.” It seems that scientists are moving closer and closer to psychic phenomenon that was known to parapsychologists and theologians centuries ago. Dr. Hynek concluded his life work on U.F.O.s with these hypothesis: A) There are extraterrestrial intelligence (E.T.I.); B) There are extra dimensional intelligence (E.D.I.); and C) There may be a civilization millions of years more advanced that encompasses both the physical and psychic, the material and the mental.⁴ Dr. Vallee has concluded that U.F.O.s are real, partly associated with a form of non-human consciousness that manipulate matter, space and time. Also, that U.F.O. involves human manipulation by humans.⁵ Perhaps, Dr. Vallee, could also investigate that its demonic beings manipulating humans.

Holy Scripture

Satan transforms himself into a serpent; now the Serpent was more cunning than all the wild animals the Lord God made on earth. Gen. 3:1

Satan can transform himself into an “angel of light.” Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness. II Cor. 11:14-15.

Jannes and Jambres, magicians in Pharaohs Court, were able to duplicate by the power of Satan many of the miracles that Moses and Aaron did by the power of God. II Tim. 3:8. Aaron’s rod became a serpent and pharaoh’s sorcerers put their rods on the ground which became serpents but were swallowed by Aaron’s rod. Ex. 7:8-12.

Satan caused “loathsome sores” against Job, Job 2:7; Job loses his servants and Satan caused a “great wind “ to destroy Job’s children. Also, a “fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep.” Job 1:13-19.

They sacrificed to devils, and not to God; to gods whom they knew not: new and fresh [gods] came in, whom their fathers knew not. Thou hast forsaken God that begot thee, and forgotten God who feeds thee. Deut, 32:17-18.

For all the gods of the heathen are devils: but the Lord made the heavens. Ps. 95:5. And they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to devils. Ps. 105:37.

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. In those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, Deut. 8:3 ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ” Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, Deut. 6:13; 10:20; ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: Ps. 91:11 ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,’ and, Ps. 91:12 ‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ “And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, Deut. 6:16 ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ” Lk. 4:1-12.

Jesus offered “one sacrifice for sins forever.” Heb. 9:28. “He has perfected the offering forever.” Heb. 10:14.

Jesus Christ said, “I saw Satan fall like lighting from heaven”. Lk. 10-18.

St. Paul wrote, “the things which the Gentiles sacrificed they sacrificed to demons and not to God.” I Cor. 10:20.

“I believe...all things visible and invisible.” Nicene Creed 325 A.D.

Jesus Christ cast out demons from:

1. Man in a synagogue. Mk.1:23-28.
2. Blind and mute demoniac. Lk. 11;14.
3. The Gaderene demoniac. Mk. 5:1-20.

4. A mute demoniac. Matt. 9:32-35.

5. The daughter of a Syrophenician women. Matt. 15:21-28.

6. A boy at the base of Mt. Hermon. Mk. 9:17-29.

7. A women in the synagogue. Lk. 13: 10-17.

The Scientific Impossibility of Evolution

According to Dr. Frank Salisbury, a renowned scientist, the chance of *one of the most basic chemicals* reactions for the continuation of life taking place by chance for a specific DNA molecule is 10⁴¹⁵.⁶ This number dizzies the human mind and becomes an impossibility to have happened by chance.

Dr. Emile Borel, one of the world’s greatest experts on mathematical probability, formulated a basic law of probability. The law states that the occurrence of any event taking place where the chances are greater than 10⁵⁰ is an event that can be stated with certainty will never happen, no matter how much time is allotted, no matter how many conceivable opportunities could exist for the event to take place. In other words, life by chance evolving is mathematically impossible on earth or any other place.⁷

Sir Fred Hoyle, renown Astronomer, has stated that, “Even if the whole universe consisted of ‘organic soup’ from which life is made, the chance of producing the basic enzymes of life by random processes without intelligence direction would be approximately 1 in 10^{40,000}.”⁸

Yet eminent scientists, like Robert Jastrow, speculate that life exists beyond earth, “Maybe far beyond the flesh and blood that we would recognize. It may have escaped its mortal flesh to become something that old fashioned people would call, ‘spirits’. Maybe it can materialize and dematerialize. I’m sure it has magical powers by our standards.”⁹

Holy Fathers

Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna has stated: “Contemporary abduction reports are similar in appearance to the demons which for centuries have been described in Orthodox literature.”¹⁰

Father Alexey Young has written that the ancient pagan mystery religions as well as numerous mystical fraternities speak of an elite, “The Great White Brotherhood”, “The Ascended Masters”, “Mahatmas” or “highly evolved” or “perfected humans.”¹¹

Father Seraphim Rose has written that the puzzling U.F.O.s incidents are not puzzling to Orthodox readers; because, in the life of The Church, Fathers, Mothers and Monks, there is a wealth of similar experiences recorded over the centuries. He wrote about a former sorcerer St. Cyprian, St. Anthony the Great, St. Martin of Tours and St. Nilus of Sora. These Fathers had experiences of battling demons, materialize and dematerialize, kidnapping, lights, sulphur smells, forms of pagan gods, howlings, false miracles and aerial manifestations. He further quotes Bishop Ignatius Brianchaninov about a blacksmith who saw a multitude of demons on branches singing to weird musical instruments, “Our years have come, our will be done.”¹²

Conclusion

Based on science, Holy Scripture, and the Holy Fathers it is reasonable to conclude as follows:

- 1) U.F.O.s have been seen throughout the planet and throughout centuries.
- 2) U.F.O.s can materialize, dematerialize, manipulate space, matter and time.
- 3) U.F.O.s are not from other planets.
- 4) U.F.O.s’ movement violate our known laws of physics, like breaking the sound barrier without a sound, travelling at 70,000 miles per hour and making 90 degree turns.
- 5) U.F.O.s are supernatural.
- 6) U.F.O.s are demonic.
- 7) U.F.O.s main purpose is deception.
- 8) Science fiction has given the masses the images, like 2001: A Space Odyssey, Star Trek, ET and Encounters with Aliens; evolution has produced the philosophy that beings evolve into higher states; and science has supplied the plausibility that there is life in the vast universe.
- 9) Holy Scripture warns mankind of an eschatological onslaught of, “terror and great signs from Heaven,” Lk. 21:11, and Satan, “will go out to deceive the nations,” Rev. 20:7, “with all power, signs and wonders, and with all unrighteousness to deceive those who parish.” II Thes. 2:9-10.
- 10) The Lord Jesus Christ stated, “I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not, if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.” Jn. 5:43. In other words, humanity is going to accept the Antichrist.

The Reader is encouraged to read the author’s articles on Faithful Angels and on Fallen Angels on his webpage, www.LouisAPalivosLaw.com.

- 1) Protopresbyter Father Basileios A. Georgopoulos, Ph.D., Extraterrestrials, Orthodox Tradition Vol. XXXI, No. 1, 2014
- 2) Fr. Seraphim Rose, Orthodoxy and the Religion of the Future, St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina, CA, 2013.
- 3) Jacques Vallee, The Invisible College, E.P. Dutton, Inc., New York, NY,
- 4) Wikipedia, J. Allen Hynek, Evolution of Opinion on UFO’s.
- 5) Wikipedia, Jacques Vallee, Interpretation of UFO Evidence.
- 6) John Weldon with Zola Levitt, *U.F.O.s What on earth is happening?*, Harvest House, 1975.
- 7) Ibid, *U.F.O.s What on earth is happening?*, Harvest House, 1975.
- 8) George Cornwall Interview, quoted in Times-Advocate, Escondido, CA. December 10, 1982.
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- 10) Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, *Alien Abductions and the Orthodox Christian*.
- 11) Father Alexey Young, *U.F.O.s The Shattering Assault*, Orthodoxy America Vol. IX, issue 88, March 1989.
- 12) Ibid, Father Seraphim Rose, Orthodox and the Religion of the Future, Saint Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina, CA. 2013

Tsakalotos gives pay raises to finance ministry employees



Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos (C) attends a meeting with Greek cabinet ministers at the parliament in Athens, Greece, 16 October 2018.

Representatives of the civil service believe that the wage hikes are of a pre-electoral, and trade unionists nature, as the increases are being offered only to newer public servants

In a move viewed by many as a pre-electoral bonus, Finance Minister Minister Euclid Tsakalotos tabled a law giving raises to employees of the finance ministry and of services overseen by it, including the Independent Authority for Public Revenues (AADE, the tax bureau), the Legal Council of the State, and others.

According to a report in the Athens daily Kathimerini, representatives of the civil service believe that the wage hikes are of a pre-electoral, and trade unionists nature, as the increases are being offered only to newer public servants, who were hired or transferred to the ministry after 1 November 2011.

The basic argument of the ministry is that the bill, which will have an annual cost of 10.5mn euros, restores justice and equality between newer employees and those with seniority.

The introductory report on the bill states that the measure has been introduced, “in compliance with the constitutional principle of equality, given the fact that it involves employees who perform the same tasks and have similar responsibilities with those who were already employed before that critical date.”

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Theresa May under pressure after Gove rejects Brexit Secretary job



Theresa May will continue to sell her Brexit withdrawal deal on Friday as cabinet minister Michael Gove is understood to be considering quitting.

BBC political editor Laura Kuenssberg said she understood Mr Gove had rejected the PM's offer to make him Brexit secretary, because Mrs May would not let him renegotiate the deal.

Dominic Raab quit the role on Thursday over "fatal flaws" in the agreement. Mrs May says the deal "delivers what people voted for".

But she was warned by one of her own backbenchers it was "dead on arrival" and would not get the backing of MPs, during nearly three hours of hostile questioning in the Commons.

The government unveiled its long-awaited draft withdrawal agreement on Wednesday, which sets out the terms of the UK's departure from the EU, over 585 pages. The prime minister will answer callers' questions about the plan on LBC radio on Friday morning.

Asked about Mr Gove on Thursday, she said he was doing "an excellent job at Defra" adding: "I haven't appointed a new Dexeu [Department for Exiting the European Union] secretary yet and I will be making appointments to the government in due course."

But the BBC understands Mr Gove, a leading figure in the Leave campaign during the EU referendum, rejected her offer to make him Brexit secretary - saying he would only accept it if he could try to make changes to the negotiated deal, something Theresa May had made clear was not possible.

Former Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab and Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey have both quit over the withdrawal deal.

And various Tory backbenchers, including leading Brexiteer Jacob Rees-Mogg, said they had submitted letters of no confidence in Mrs May to the chairman of the Conservatives' backbench 1922 Committee. Forty eight letters are needed to trigger a confidence vote.

It is understood that a group of cabinet ministers are considering whether to try to force Mrs May to make some changes to the withdrawal deal.

The agreement sets out commitments over citizens' rights after Brexit, the proposed 21-month transition period, the £39bn "divorce bill" and, most controversially, the "backstop" to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Mrs May issued a defiant message in Downing Street on Thursday, saying: "I believe with every fibre of my being that the course I have set out is the right one for our country and all our people."

She added: "Leadership is about taking the right decisions, not the easy ones."

She acknowledged unhappiness among some with compromises made to secure a withdrawal deal but said it "delivers what people voted for and it is in the national interest" and vowed to "see this through".

But Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn told her: "The government simply cannot put to Parliament this half-baked deal that both the Brexit Secretary and his predecessor have rejected."

And some of her own backbenchers warned her it could not command support in the House of Commons, if it is put to a vote.

The government, for today at least, is at the mercy of events not in control.

Theresa May's vow to stay does not make her deep, deep problems disappear.

With her party in revolt, her colleagues departing - some determined to usher her out of office - we can't, and don't know yet, if Brexit can happen as planned, perhaps, if at all.

Tory MP Mark Francois said, with Labour, the SNP, the Lib Dems and the DUP planning to vote against it - alongside, he said, more than 80 Tory MPs, it was "mathematically impossible to get this deal through the House of Commons" and it was "dead on arrival".

But, during a press conference in Downing Street, Mrs May said abandoning the withdrawal deal would be "to take a path of deep and grave uncertainty when the British people just want us to get on with it", she warned.

But Liberal Democrat leader Sir Vince Cable suggested the prime minister was "in denial": "The facts haven't changed. There is no majority in Parliament for her deal, and she has rightly conceded that "No Brexit" is the real alternative to it."

Scientists discover what they say is oldest intact shipwreck



A handout photo made available by the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology Project (MAP) on October 23 shows what scientist describe as the world's 'oldest intact shipwreck.'

A team of maritime archaeologists, scientists and surveyors has discovered what it believes to be the world's oldest intact shipwreck – a Greek trading vessel whose design had previously been seen only on ancient pottery.

The Black Sea Maritime Archaeology project says it found the wreck off the Bulgarian coast at a depth of 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) in oxygen-free conditions that preserved its components. The group says the vessel has been carbon dated to more than 2,400 years ago.

The project as spent three years surveying the area using technology previously available largely to oil companies. It discovered some 60 shipwrecks, including a 17th century Cossack raiding fleet and Roman trading vessels carrying amphorae.

A documentary on the project will open Tuesday at the British Museum. [AP]

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GREEK NEWS

Weak Greek economy threatened by world unrest



The world economy is being tested again. When big countries sneeze, the small and weak ones catch a cold. Greece, as the eurozone’s weakest link, emerges as the first easy victim.

International investors, those we theoretically want to attract, are already skeptical about the prospects of the Greek economy. And in today’s worsening environment, with trade wars and market turbulence, it will be even more difficult for those investors to place their money in Greece – with the exception, to a certain degree, of the real estate market.

This also applies to local entrepreneurs who are reluctant to invest in the country. Everyone – Greeks and foreigners – has to cope with an unfriendly environment, characterized mainly by bureaucracy, corruption and entangled interests and, secondly, with high taxes and levies.

Greece remains a risk, a situation not entirely of its own making. The whole region is being tested. The Italian crisis and the multilevel uncertainty taking hold in Turkey are negative developments for which Greece is not responsible but which inevitably have an impact on this country.

Even the “distant” Brexit, which is already affecting the European economic environment, is not helping.

At the political level, developments in Europe do not allow for any optimism either. The rise of “antisystemic” – and by extension anti-European – parties in most EU member-states is gnawing away at the stability and prospects of the European economy.

This is now true of Germany, the traditional leader of the bloc, the locomotive of its economy and a key pillar of its political stability.

Again, we, as the weakest link, are the first that could be at risk.

The “post-bailout era” finds Greece unprotected and faced with international investors reluctant to buy Greek bonds – whose yields remain at much higher levels than those of the other EU member-states – and risk investing with a long-term horizon.

Although all Greek parties now agree that international investments are a prerequisite for growth and an increase in employment, the country has not implemented the many necessary reforms that would facilitate investment, and not only does it continue to be a risk, but it also suffers from the migration of the most capable and productive members of society, whose presence would have been pivotal in the effort to improve and grow the Greek economy.

Distribution of school lunches to start on Monday

The Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity will begin distributing school lunches on Monday, as part of a program aimed at helping youngsters whose fami-

lies are having trouble making ends meet.

The distribution will cover



831 schools and 90 percent of the families who applied across Greece for assistance.

The remainder are expected to be covered within the next few days.

Deputy Minister Theano Fotiou said that 20 percent more families applied for school lunches this academic year compared to last year, with 153,244 pupils standing to benefit from the program.

Popular measures in pipeline

The government is planning to submit to Parliament the first batch of handouts and tax discounts based on Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras’s announcements at the Thessaloniki International Fair in September, with an eye on next year’s general election.

The Finance Ministry has completed the preparatory work for drafting the clauses seen reducing the Single Property Tax (ENFIA) in 2019 by 10 percent on average for properties up to 150,000 euros in objective value terms (prices used for tax purposes).

The upcoming bill will also



provide for the reduction of the corporate income tax rate from 29 to 28 percent next year and 25 percent by 2022, as well as reducing the dividend distribution tax.

The draft law will be submitted to the House before the completion and publication of the European Commission’s report on next year’s budget and before the definitive decisions to be reached at an extraordinary Eurogroup meeting that will probably take place on November 19.

In fact it is possible that this bill may be passed but not implemented, as may well be the case with the law on the reduction of pensions as of 2019. This is because there appear to be some notable differences between the calculations on the primary surplus of 2019 by Athens and Brussels. The gap between the different estimates comes to 720 million euros, or about 0.4 percent of gross domestic product.

The Finance Ministry argues the primary surplus will be significantly above the target of 3.5 percent of GDP even without the pension cuts and with the implementation of the measures Tsipras announced in Thessaloniki, and

will suffice to finance the extra handouts.

After mid-November the government is expected to submit some more clauses to Parliament, providing for the reduction of the social security contributions that professionals pay, which is the only bill certain to be implemented even without the approval of the country’s creditors.

Bank initiative brings together Greek producers, foreign traders



Dairy products from the Koukakis Farm in Kilkis, central Macedonia, are among the exports that have found their way to the Netherlands thanks to the contribution of Eurobank’s ‘Go’ program.

At a time when the credibility of the country and its businesses is in doubt, bringing producers into contact with traders who receive guarantees that a transaction will be completed as agreed could be one of the most important services a bank can offer, besides financing.

That is the objective of Eurobank’s “Go” initiative, which the lender is implementing for the eighth year in a row, putting producers in touch with suppliers and traders around the world for the promotion of Greek exports. Thanks to “Go,” Green Cola, Meligyris Cretan honey and Dear Crete cookies are now available in Canada and the Koukakis farm’s dairy products and Cretel olive oil can now be purchased in the Netherlands, to name but a few.

Manolis Stefanakis, the head of Meligyris (a family enterprise with a beekeeping history that dates back to 1920), was at “Go Athens” in 2017 and

met Greek-Canadian trader Steve Kriaris, who imports Greek products through his Toronto-based enterprise, Kolonaki Group. He is also to be credited for the success of Green Cola in Canada.

The “Go” initiative, Stefanakis says, “is not a faceless exhibition where you meet traders whose credibility you cannot check.” That has already been done by the bank, allaying the concerns a producer in Crete or northern Greece might have before sending their produce abroad.

The Dear Crete company produces biscuits made with Cretan olive oil. Its head, Christoforos Kalabokis, who participated in “Go Crete 2017,” acknowledges the significant role of the initiative in the expansion of his company’s exports: “This service is supplier cost-free and constitutes additional assistance for Greek produce in periods of crisis,” he says.

The “Go” initiative has now secured a strong partner in Trade Club Alliance (TCA), comprising a network of some 12,000 corporations from about 50 countries around the world brought together by 13 banks including Eurobank. TCA was inspired by Banco Santander, with Eurobank being the second member of the alliance that allows export-minded producers to find reliable partners abroad, using information provided by TCA member-banks.

Erdogan warns over East Med energy plans

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has reportedly reiterated Ankara’s intention to persist with its energy plans in the Eastern Mediterranean, in pointed remarks seen addressed to Greece, Cyprus and the United States.

“There are conflicting interests on the matter of the Eastern Aegean,” Greek media quoted Erdogan as saying from a report in Turkey’s Hurriyet newspaper, referring to gas exploration efforts being carried out by Turkey, Cyprus and the United States off the coast of Cyprus.

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US mid-term election set record voter turnout



If Donald Trump has one undisputable achievement during the first two years of his presidency, it's that he has succeeded in increasing the political engagement of a large share of the American public.

Preliminary figures for nationwide turnout in the 2018 mid-term elections are in, and they've reached a mark not seen in more than a century. Across the US, 49.2% of the voting age public cast ballots. In 2014 that number was 37%, and the average over the last few decades has hovered around 40%. The last time turnout for a mid-term topped 50% was 1914 - before women had the vote in the US.

In some states, the numbers were even higher. Washington and Colorado, which heavily utilise voting by mail, topped the list at 69.4% and 65.5%, respectively. Minnesota, always a high-participation state, came in at 64.3% this year. Even states with lower 2018 turnout saw sharp increases over recent mid-terms. In Texas enthusiasm generated by Democrat Beto O'Rourke (who was narrowly defeated) helped boost turnout to 46.1%, compared to 28.3% in 2014. Georgia, which had a contentious governor race, saw an increase from 38.6% to 55%. In California, where several prominent Republican congressional incumbents have been unseated, turnout rose from 30.7% to 47.8%. The numbers across the US still fall short of the roughly 60% voter participation seen during recent presidential elections, although 2018 does come close to the 51.7% mark for Bill Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign. And digging back farther into the historical records, it surpasses the levels of the 1920 and 1924 presidential years.

Overall, more than 103 million votes were cast across the US in races for the House of Representatives (in which all 435 seats were up for election). Some states, such as California, are still processing mail-in ballots, but at last count Democrats won 51.8% of the overall vote, while Republicans accounted for 46.5%. With seven races still to be decided, Democrats have posted a net gain of 35 seats, giving them control of the chamber for the first time since 2010.

Thirty-three states also had Senate races, in which a total of at least 84 million votes were cast (a partisan breakdown of the balloting here is misleading because California, the largest state, had two Democrats advancing to the general election). And if there was any doubt that this election was a referendum on the Trump presidency, a just-released Pew Research Center poll should put them to bed.

Only 35% of Americans said the president was not a factor in their mid-term vote. For those who had Mr Trump on their minds, 39% said they were casting their ballot against the president, while only 25% were voting to support him. According to Pew, 57% of Americans are "happy" about the results of the mid-term elections - although there are sharp partisan divides over exactly what they like about it.

Ninety-one percent of Democrats are glad their party took control of the House, but only 11% are happy about Republicans holding the Senate. The numbers are reversed for Republicans, who are overwhelmingly pleased that their party kept the Senate, while only 20% are happy Democrats took the House. When it comes to the chance for real, bipartisan legislative progress in the next two years, the American public's outlook grows darker. Sixty-three percent of poll respondents say Mr Trump won't be successful in getting his programmes enacted, while 61% say the same thing about Democrats. Nearly half of all Americans think that relations between Republicans and Democrats will get worse, while only 9% see them getting better.

And that may be the key takeaway from the 2018 mid-term elections. More Americans are engaged, more Americans are voting, but the partisan lines are deepening, and no one is all that convinced things are going to get better. Democrats and Republicans have two years to try to figure it all out before they face the voters again. And in 2020, Mr Trump won't just be on voters' minds, he'll also be on the ballot.

US mail bombs: Cesar Sayoc charged after campaign against Trump critics



A 56-year-old man has been arrested in Florida in connection with a mail-bombing campaign aimed at critics of US President Donald Trump.

US officials named the man as Cesar Sayoc. He faces five charges including mailing explosives and threatening ex-presidents. Mr Trump said the acts were "despicable and have no place in our country".

Fourteen items have been sent in recent days to figures including ex-President Barack Obama and actor Robert de Niro. Two were found in Florida and New York City on Friday morning. Later, two more were discovered in California. Billionaire and Democrat donor Tom Steyer said that a package sent to him had been intercepted at a mail facility in Burlingame, and another addressed to Democrat Senator Kamala Harris was reported in Sacramento.

The incidents come less than two weeks before the US mid-term elections, with politics highly polarised. The president praised law enforcement for the quick arrest of the suspect, describing the search as looking for a "needle in a haystack". "These terrorising acts are despicable and have no place in our country," he said. The comments were in stark contrast to Mr Trump's tweet earlier in the day, when he suggested the incidents, which he described as "'Bomb' stuff", were slowing Republican "momentum" in early voting.

But Mr Trump returned to the theme later, accusing US media of exploiting the latest case. "The media's constant, unfair coverage, deep hostility and negative attacks... only serve to drive people apart and to undermine healthy debate," he said at a rally in North Carolina.

Former intelligence chief James Clapper, one of the recipients of Friday's packages, told CNN: "This is definitely domestic terrorism, no question in my mind." He said that anyone who had been a critic of President Trump needed to be on the alert and take extra precautions. "I'm not suggesting a direct cause-and-effect relationship between anything he's said or done and the distribution of these explosives. But I do think he bears some responsibility for the coarseness of civility of the dialogue in this country," he added.

How Cesar Sayoc was caught?

He was at a vehicle parts shop in the city of Plantation, Florida. FBI Director Christopher Wray revealed that he was detained after his fingerprint was allegedly found on one of the packages. Officials also said DNA and mobile phone data were used to track the suspect down. The Department of Justice said he faced up to 48 years in jail.

What do we know about Cesar Sayoc?

Law enforcement agencies said Mr Sayoc lives in Aventura, Florida. In 2002, he was arrested for making a bomb threat in Miami-Dade County, and received one year of probation for the charge. Mr Sayoc has a criminal record dating back to 1991 in Broward County, according to clerk records. He was arrested, aged 29, on a theft charge. He has also faced charges of fraud and battery.

Court records show Mr Sayoc filed for bankruptcy in 2012 while he was living with his mother. A handwritten note in his bankruptcy report reads: "Lives w/mom. Has no furniture."

In 1980, he spent three semesters as a student at Brevard College in North Carolina, a university spokeswoman told BBC News. He did not graduate, the spokeswoman added. Following his arrest, US TV broadcast live images of a white van, said to belong to Mr Sayoc, being loaded on to a trailer in Plantation and towed away for examination. The van's windows were covered in images. One piece of artwork depicted President Trump standing on a tank and another showed Hillary Clinton with a bullseye superimposed on her face.

Twitter and Facebook accounts in the name of Cesar Altieri and Cesar Altieri Randazzo respectively, believed to be used by the suspect, have been taken down.

How did the bomb threat unfold?

The series of bomb alerts began on Monday, when a suspected device was found in the post box of billionaire businessman George Soros, a major Democratic Party donor.

A total of 13 devices were sent to various politicians.