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Last Updated: 08/28/2023

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

#### Dear George:

The President asked me to thank you for your recent letter and to provide you with a detailed and comprehensive response.

I know how well you understand the state in which this Administration found our defense readiness upon taking office. We are still engaged in the effort to convince Congress and the American people of the need to strengthen our ability to deter Soviet aggression. One very cost effective way of doing so is to help our allies, who in many cases form the front line of U.S. national defense, improve their deterrent capability.

Nowhere is this more evident than on NATO's southern flank where two key allies face difficulties. Both Greece and Turkey are essential to the Alliance in deterring Soviet aggression on their borders as well as that directed at the vulnerable Eastern Mediterranean region. Turkish armed forces are suffering from block obsolescence of their equipment. Turkey's equipment is in some cases so old that spare parts cannot even be found to keep the equipment in operation, and the spare parts that are available are exorbitantly expensive because they are so rare. A modernization program can no longer be postponed. We have proposed additional assistance to start meeting that need. It will not transform the Turkish armed forces overnight. It will, however, help the Turks meet their minimum defense tasks, agreed upon in NATO planning councils.

The fact we are proposing substantial assistance for Turkey does not mean that we value any less our traditional relationship with our close ally and friend, Greece. This Administration is convinced that both Greece and Turkey are important and that both countries are best served by membership in NATO, and the common defense umbrella that membership provides. We regret there are serious areas of dispute between these two allies. We certainly have urged them to meet to discuss their differences and to work out mutually agreeable solutions. In this and other ways we try to be helpful, including paying due regard to the need to maintain a balance of forces in the region. Our aid program has been developed with this in mind.

We are presently engaged in negotiations with Greece on a new agreement to define the status of the U.S. military facilities there. We have informed the Greek government that, in the context of an acceptable agreement, the U.S. Government is proposing an increase of \$220 million in FMS support for Greece. This is in addition to this year's proposal for \$280 million in Foreign Military Sales guaranteed loans.

I can assure you that this Administration sets a high priority on a just and lasting settlement of the tragic Cyprus situation. We have made extensive efforts to encourage realistic and meaningful negotiations between representatives of the two communities. The Secretary of State has appointed an experienced senior diplomat to coordinate our efforts in support of the UN-sponsored intercommunal talks. We believe these talks offer the best forum for resolving deep and so far intractable differences, and we are ever alert to new opportunities for reducing tensions in the region.

The Turkish Government has publicly stated its interest in a solution to the Cyprus problem and has firmly supported the intercommunal talks. We have encouraged this and believe the Turkish Government will continue to promote flexibility on the part of the Turkish Cypriots, but we believe it is unrealistic to expect unilateral concessions from Turkey, except as part of the negotiating process.

George, I do hope this information helps clarify the policy President Reagan is pursuing with regard to Cyprus and to our assistance for Turkey and Greece and that it will be useful to you in responding to inquiries from Greek-Americans. Your statesmanship and support are vital to us as we try to build understanding for our policy toward the southern flank. We are convinced that the course we are pursuing is a reasonable one and the one best designed to promote a Cyprus solution and to strengthen our relations with both Greece and Turkey over the long term.

Sincerely,

William P. Clark

Mr. George Christopher President Christopher Commercial Corporation 1170 Sacramento Street, 5D San Francisco, California

#### MEMORANDUM

INFORMATION

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

October 30, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK BURGESS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

FROM:

ALLEN J. LENZ

SUBJECT:

Foreign Policy Talking Points for the President's

Meeting with Greek Orthodox Archbishop Takavos

Attached at Tab A are two talking points and one background point for the President's meeting with Archbishop Iakavos.

Tab A Talking points



### SUGGESTED BAKCGROUND POINT FOR PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKAVOS

-- The United States is conducting "business as usual" with the new government in Greece, not responding to any of Papandreou's public statements on US-Greek issues.

### SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKAVOS

- -- With the new Papandreou government in Greece, it is more important than ever for Americans with ties to Greece to emphasize the fundamental interest which unite our two countries.
- -- We know that the resolution of the Cyprus problem is a matter of great concern to many in the Greek Orthodox Church. We have been working actively, primarily behind the scenes, to foster a negotiated solution between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Copies to: EHD

Red

Jack Burgess

Charlotto

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

**MEMORANDUM** 

10/29/81

OCT 30 1981

TO:

ELIZABETH DOLE

SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING:

with Archbishop Iakovos

DATE:

November 3, 1981

TIME:

1:45 pm (changed from 4:15 pm)

DURATION:

15 minutes

LOCATION:

Oval Office

REMARKS REQUIRED:

To be included in briefing paper

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY

PARTICIPATION:

No

cc: M. Brandon

R. Darman

D. Fischer

M. Friedersdorf

C. Fuller

C. Gerrard

E. Hickey

P. McCoy

L. Nofziger

J. Parr

B: Shaddix

L. Speakes

Speechwriting and Research

S. Studdert

N. Wormser

WHCA Audio/Visual

WHCA Operations

#### OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

President Ronald Reagan is shown with His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America, in a recent meeting at the White House.

The two discussed a number of issues that are of mutual interest and the President expressed the hope that the two could continue a dialogue that would be beneficial to both.

The Archbishop conveyed the prayers and best wishes of the Greek American community and the President expressed the hope that he would continue to merit their support.

###

Photograph enclosed



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Photograph enclosed





The New York Times/George Tames

COURTESY CALL: Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas, visiting President Reagan yesterday at the White House.

WASHINGTON October 20, 1981

EMINENCE

MEETING WITH His Excellency Archbishop Iakovos

Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church

in North and South America

DATE November 3, 1981

LOCATION Oval Office TIME 1:45-2:00 pm

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dolé

I. <u>PURPOSE</u> To receive His Excellency, Archbishop Iakovos, who wishes to pay a courtesy call and offer the prayers and best wishes of the Greek American community.

II. BACKGROUND Archbishop Iakovos is the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America and, as such, is the spiritual leader of 5.5 million people. Most Greek Orthodox live in the New York-Connecticut-D.C. area, but there are also ten other diocese located throughout the United States, Canada (Toronto), and South America (Buenos Aires).

Archbishop Iakovos is 70 year old and has served as Primate for 22 years. He is a former President of the World Council of Churches and currently serves as Chairman of the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA). The Archbishop has been active in both the civil rights and ecumenical movements, and last year was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Carter.

- III. PARTICIPANTS Archbishop Iakovos, Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Tom Korologos, Jack Burgess (Office of Public Liaison)
- IV. PRESS PLAN Photo/writing pool
- V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
  - 1:45 pm Archbishop Iakovos and the others will enter the Oval Office where you will greet them and escort the Archbishop to the chairs in front of the fireplace.
  - 1:50 pm After you and the Archbishop are seated, the press pool will enter for a photo opportunity and then depart.
  - 2:00 pm The Archbishop will thank you for the visit and the party will depart the Oval Office.

Attachment: Talking Points

### SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

NOTE: (According to protocol, Archbishop Iakovos can be

Employ

addressed either as "Your Excellency" or simply "Excellency."

His assistant can be called "Father Alex.")

(On a personal note, Archbishop Iakovos is an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. Father Alex is a Yankee fan, should you wish to console him over their loss to the Dodgers in the World Series).

Regarding the new government in Greece, we are conducting "business as usual" with the Greek government and not responding to any of Mr. Papandreou's public statements on U.S. - Greek issues. You might ask how the Archbishop feels the Orthodox Church will fare under the new government.

With the new Papandreou government, it is more important than ever for Americans with ties to Greece to emphasize the fundamental interests which unite our two countries. We hope this Administration can continue to merit the support of Greek Americans.

We know that the resolution of the Cyprus problem is a matter of great concern to many in the Greek Orthodox Church. We have been working actively, primarily behind the scenes, to foster a negotiated solution between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

#### REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

529 38 0686

4/6/33

(background attached)

KOROLOGOS, Thomas

#### **MEETING LOCATION**

Building WH/WW Requested by Jack Burgess

Room No. Oval Office Room No. 128 Telephone 7140

Time of Meeting 1:45 pm Date of request November 2, 1981

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

SSF 2037 (05-78)

WASHINGTON October 20, 1981

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Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church

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#### TIMMONS AND COMPANY, INCORPORATED

1850 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 (202) 331-1760

Copy Sent to: Jack B & in Event File

WILLIAM E. TIMMONS

President

TOM C. KOROLOGOS

Vice President and

Director of Legislative Affairs

MICHAEL L. REED Vice President and Secretary

JOHN M. NUGENT, JR.
Vice President

HOWARD G. PASTER
Vice President

MICHAEL J. BATES
Director of Research

October 30, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RED CAVANEY

FROM:

TOM C. KOROLOGOS

SUBJECT:

Archbishop Iakovos

The Archbishop has requested a "courtesy call" on the President and it is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, at 1:45 p.m. for 15 minutes. Accompanying him will be Rev. Alex Karloutsos, who is Director of Communications, Chaplain and aide when the Archbishop travels, as well as Tom Korologos, who handled the Congressional Relations for the President-elect.

The Archbishop should be addressed as "Your Eminence." Rev. Karloutsos should be addressed as "Father Alex."

Archbishop Takovos has been in the job 22 years, He is a leading figure in the World Council of Churches and was the first Orthodox official to visit a Pope in 900 years when he met with Pope John XXIII.

He has participated in Kennedy, Johnson and twice in Nixon inauguration ceremonies.

He is the spiritual leader of 5.5 million Greeks in North and South America (3.5 million in the United States).

During the Carter years he was, in my opinion, "used" -- participating in many "prayer events" and eventually Carter gave him a Medal of Freedom.

#### Suggested talking points:

- 1. Express an interest and concern over the recent elections in Greece. Inquire how the Church there will fare under the new Socialist government.
- 2. Express hope that an early solution can occur to the Cyprus situation and that Greece can remain a vital NATO and Free World ally.
- 3. Point out the many Greeks who are close to the President: George Christopher, who has recently been appointed to one of the public positions at the United Nations; Pete Pitches, Sheriff of Los Angeles County; Alex Spanos, construction magnate from Stockton; Korologos in the campaign and the transition.
- 4. Express knowledge of his meeting with Secretary Haig and Deputy Secretary Clark, where the Archbishop offered to assist the Department in any way that he could.
- 5. Express hope that the Administration can continue to merit the support of the Greek-American community.

NOTE: On a personal note, the Archbishop is a hot Boston Red Sox fan, and the President could mention this. Father Alex is a Yankees fan.

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1850 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 (202) 331-1760

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WILLIAM E. TIMMONS

President

TOM C. KOROLOGOS

Vice President and

Director of Legislative Affairs

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**MEMÓRANDUM** 

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Tab A Talking points

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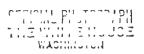
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