

## Attic Chronicle by Phocion

### Breakdown in Athens

*The stage-managed selection of a new opposition-party leader sheds light on the civil-war threat.*

In the aftermath of the two-week intrigue period at the island of Corcyra, after the resignation of Evangelos Averoff-Tossitza as chairman of the conservative opposition party "New Democracy," a new party leader was elected by that party's parliamentary fraction, Mr. Constantine Mitsotakis, a shipowner from the island of Crete, and member of a political family with longstanding connections to the Freemasonic wing of Western European liberal parties such as Britain's Liberal Party and Hans-Dietrich Genscher's West German Free Democrats. Mr. Mitsotakis is distinguished by two qualities which, in the present context of political crisis in Greece, spell disaster for that fast-disintegrating nation.

First, Constantine Mitsotakis is not a man of loyalties either to his nation or to his party. Second, he has over the years exerted a kind of personal psychological terror over his chief opponent, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, a kind of terror which forces Andreas to hastily leave the room when Mitsotakis enters, to even leave the parliament chambers when Mitsotakis speaks, etc. The source of this terror which Papandreou experiences in the presence of Mitsotakis is not generally known.

On the day of his election, Sept. 1, Mitsotakis gave a press conference, which was carried over the country's electronic media, in which he challenged Papandreou to a public debate for the purpose of clarifying one particular point: the respective role that

the two men played during the July 1965 events which led to the downfall of the liberal-centrist government of George Papandreou, Andreas's father, in which both Andreas and Mitsotakis were serving as ministers. Mitsotakis insinuated that Andreas was the minister who was responsible for his father's downfall. Andreas's own known oedipal psychological profile, plus certain known facts from that period, would make the allegation credible.

The prime minister's retaliation came the following day: In a nationally televised interview, he characterized Mr. Mitsotakis as a "traitor" to his country, as a "degenerate," and the body which elected him, the parliamentary fraction of "New Democracy," as a body of "proven degeneracy." Furthermore, he announced that there will no longer be direct meetings between the prime minister and the head of the principal opposition party in parliament. Any consultative meetings between the government and the opposition mandated by the Constitution will be handled in meetings between Mr. Mitsotakis and a cabinet minister representing Mr. Papandreou.

As was pointed out by the entire daily press in Athens, Papandreou's response to Mitsotakis' psychologically well-aimed provocation signals the virtual formal dismantling of due "constitutional process" as established in the last 10 years under the careful supervision of the President of the Republic, Constantine Caramanlis.

Whatever the secret agreements during the Aug. 2-17 "Corcyra intrigues," they evidently included decisions which were deliberately aimed at blowing up this fragile constitutional arrangement. Before the "Corcyra intrigues," it was not self-evident that either Averoff-Tossitza had to resign as leader of New Democracy or that Mitsotakis would have to replace him. The persons who made and enforced the Mitsotakis selection were primarily concerned to emphasize and give play to the destructive personal passions between Mitsotakis and Papandreou. In short, they were planning for a civil-war scenario.

Those same behind-the-scenes puppeteers knew that this civil war would be presided over by the newly appointed Soviet ambassador to Athens, Igor Andropov, the son of Yuri. The civil-war scenario is, in fact, part and parcel of the projected rearrangement of political forces and coalitions in Greece which will make that country amenable to whatever its status will be under the "New Yalta Agreements" which Lord Carrington and Henry Kissinger are now arranging with Moscow.

The foolishness of this column, which since May of this year has been warning against the eventuality of a bloody civil war in Greece, has been that we initially imagined that the threat of civil war was deriving from the stupidity, selfishness, and petty power hunger of the political figures in charge of public affairs there. In the aftermath of the Corcyra intrigues and the so-called "Mitsotakis opening," we are led toward the conclusion that the horrible spectre of civil war has been the cold, calculated objective of numerous individuals inside Mr. Papandreou's Pasok and Mitsotakis' New Democracy Party, the stage managers of a bloody new Greek tragedy.