

Attic Chronicle by Phocion

The KGB in the Parthenon's shadow

Igor Andropov's embassy has a weak driver-education program, but a very strong grip on Greece.

With Igor Andropov's arrival, the "Scythian policeman" returned to Athens after almost exactly 2,400 years. As a senior KGB official, Andropov is rapidly transforming the Greek capital and its environs into a KGB "exclusion zone." According to one report, the KGB is establishing a training school in Athens specializing in electronic communications interceptions. Andropov's embassy recently purchased an extraordinary amount of ultramodern equipment.

Following this report, the following three police blotter items appeared in the Athenian press; bear with their boring text, the punchline comes at the end:

Item: "On 11/8/84 at 16:30 hours, automobile with license plate XA4150IXE belonging to the Soviet embassy in Athens, driven by Victor Dragonov, 32, clerk of aforesaid embassy, driving along Schinia Avenue in the direction of Athens and on the 44th kilometer, diverted leftward from its course, crashed into a tree and subsequently turned over resulting, in injury to its driver."

Item: "On 11/8/84 at 16:45 hours, automobile with license plate DS3768EIX, belonging to the Soviet embassy in Athens, driven by Alexander Savenko, driving along Schinia Avenue in the direction of Athens and on the 44th kilometer, diverted leftward from its course, crashed into a tree, resulting in material damage to the vehicle."

Item: "On 11/8/84 at 16:50 hours, automobile with license plate YY2880FIX, driven by George Stath-

opoulos in the direction from Athens to Schinia, collided, at 44th kilometer of Schinia Avenue with another automobile driving in the opposite direction with license plates DS3778 belonging to the Soviet embassy in Athens and driven by the Russian national Valerin Nestorovits Aniurin, 40, a diplomatic officer of aforementioned embassy, tel. no. 6725235, resulting in injury of the driver."

The punchline is: The tree and everything else at the "44th kilometer of Schinia Avenue" is right across from the major United States Naval Communications base at Nea Marki, near the ancient field of Marathon, considered to be the most important U.S. naval communications base in the Eastern Mediterranean.

It turns out that Valeri Aniurin, officially first secretary of Andropov's embassy, is a lieutenant-colonel of the GRU, Soviet military intelligence, and the other two unfortunate drivers are his subordinates, though formally members of the KGB. The most obvious conclusion to be drawn is that the "KGB school in Athens" has a very weak driver-education section.

The aftermath of the public side of this was a brief statement by the Greek Minister of Public Order, Mr. John Skoularikis: "Reports on the three consecutive traffic accidents of Soviet diplomats near the U.S. base on Schinia Avenue bear no relation to reality."(!)

The Russian KGB's grip over the current Greek government is shown by a recent confidential report of the Greek air attaché in Washington,

Brigadier-General Ph. Makedos, on the political "unreliability" of the Greek-American community: "Greek Americans," the air attaché says, "have attached their interests to those of U.S. imperialism and they thus engage in opposition to efforts of socialization of Greece, thus becoming agents of American interests and of ruthless capitalism. In their politics, they have become brainwashed and appear to be worshippers of cold-war militarism imbued with an intolerable fascist mentality which surpasses the fascist mentality of Americans themselves. . . . Many are hirelings of American secret services. These men can be characterized as dangerous. . . . In the context of the general imperialist strategic and geopolitical effort of the United States to effect an encirclement of the Soviet Union belongs also the strong American interest to exert control over the nations of the Eastern Mediterranean. The Americans, with their diseased anti-communism, are unable to tolerate the slightest tendency of independence on the part of Greece. . . . Therefore, they would be happy to overthrow our present political reality and to reverse our current orientation. . . ."

This impertinent and uncouth brigadier general is but one typical example of recent decades of educational reforms in Greece. In my time, I have known more cultured and more articulate private enlisted men in the Greek air force, persons capable of thinking without the aid of either slogans or that special Marxist nourishment known as "koutohorto." To declare Brigadier Makedos *persona non grata* would be a compliment. I therefore propose he be declared *flora non grata*. He and his colleagues under General Kouris have been turned into fodder for the "Scythian policeman," Andropov's mount.