
Attic Chronicle by Phocion

Papandreou, Treholt, and 'the Baker'

Arne Treholt, the ex-press spokesman of the Norwegian foreign ministry caught spying for the Russian KGB, is in the third week of his trial in Oslo. About a dozen of the 91 scheduled witnesses for the trial have already testified behind closed doors. Both defense and prosecution are now going through the motions to decide if the rest of the trial should be open to the public.

Despite the secrecy, one important fact has been established. Andreas Papandreou's immediate political circle in the United States, especially in New York City, first recruited Mr. Treholt into the ranks of the Russian KGB. Treholt's former wife, Britt Groen, testified that starting in late 1967 her ex-husband was holding frequent meetings with a KGB official named Yevgeni Belyayev "discussing matters pertaining to Greece and NATO."

Further, the West German daily *Die Welt* reported on March 4 that Treholt's intelligence liaison for his espionage activities were Greek, pro-Papandreou circles in New York City. This was while Treholt was living in New York City as a Norwegian government representative to the United Nations. The obvious inference is that while Andreas Papandreou was still imprisoned by the Greek military government, Papandreou's political sponsors in the Greek and Greek-American community in New York and around the United Nations had already recruited Mr. Treholt into the Russian KGB. Papandreou himself was released from jail in the beginning of 1969 when Kissinger was made National Security Adviser and after Treholt's initial recruitment.

Be it also noted that Treholt's current trial has confirmed that the payments which he was receiving from the Russians were being dispatched from the Athens residency of the KGB. Part of these moneys was deposited in Switzerland, where at least one account of Treholt's has been located, containing \$50,000.

There are enough leads for beginning a profitable inquiry into the question of "who are the pro-Papandreou Greek-American circles in New York City and around the United Nations which recruited Mr. Treholt into the Russian KGB." Some hints are in order here:

At the United Nations itself, the senior pro-Papandreou person was the deputy director of UNCTAD, Mr. Gerassimos Arsenis, currently minister of national economy in Papandreou's government. Arsenis's younger brother, Vincent

"Takis" Arsenis, is today general manager in Papandreou's National Greek Munitions Industries which supplies the Libyan government with most of its small arms and ammunition. Vincent Arsenis was one of the principal "gun runners" for the Papandreou organization's terrorist wing, aided in this by, among others, one Professor Kalambokides of Minnesota, the home state of Andreas' American wife, Margaret née Chadd, daughter of a founder of the Minnesota Communist Party. Others in this circle in New York at that time were Melina Merkouri and her brother Spyros, one Prof. Stephen Rousseas, and another Prof. Adamantia Pollis of the New School. A longstanding KGB journalist at the United Nations, of Greek extraction but U.S. citizenship, also kept a visible interest in this KGB-Papandreou interface.

Cyrus Sulzberger of the *New York Times* and his Greek-born wife were among the high patrons of the group; Zbigniew Brzezinski, then still at Columbia University, was reportedly close to Gerassimos Arsenis. Henry Kissinger's known role in this context is that he in effect induced the Greek military government to release Papandreou from jail, despite the public myth that credits John Kenneth Galbraith's intercessions.

The juiciest part of this "New York pro-Papandreou circle which recruited Treholt to the KGB" is this: When Kissinger got Papandreou out of jail and Papandreou came to North America in a drunken stupor, a mysterious man provided for Papandreou's physical security. For now let us call this person, now deceased, "the Baker."

Papandreou's protector, the Baker, had a brother in Romanian intelligence, a family in Switzerland, had been a personal acquaintance of Leo Trotsky, and until the day of his death, exerted an overwhelming influence on the notorious Michel Pablo, a.k.a. Michael Raptis, the general secretary of the Fourth International. The Baker also exerted, until his death, a powerful influence over the Algerian Ben Bella. The Baker had influence over two members of the Politburo of the pro-Moscow Greek Communist Party then still exiled in East Germany. The Baker had known Papandreou since 1934, through association in a Trotskyist cell. He, the Baker, despite his professed "Trotskyism," was known to display only one emotion: pride in the prowess of the Russian military. At the time of his death, there was speculation that the Baker was a senior Russian military intelligence officer.

The Baker protected the man whom Kissinger freed from a Greek military jail. After he kept him alive, the rest of the circle of "pro-Papandreou Greeks in New York" financed and built a political party which finally propelled Papandreou to power in Greece. This seems to have been the circle that recruited Arne Treholt to the KGB.

One final loose end: The Baker was a native of the same tiny island which produced Gerassimos Arsenis, formerly of UNCTAD, now Papandreou's minister of national economy, a friend of Zbigniew Brzezinski, and an "intimate house guest" of Robert S. MacNamara.