

Attic Chronicle by Phocion

Bomb the 'Holy Mountain'

*Mount Athos is the principal agency of evil in our civilization.
Part I of a series.*

The European Community is preparing to entertain proposals on behalf of the interests of a weird, perverse institution, the monastic community of Mount Athos, or "The Holy Mountain," of Greece. Well-paid international lawyers are being approached by solemn diplomats and asked to research and prepare legal arguments in defense of the interests of the Holy Mountain. Pious officials from religious orders at Chevetogne, Belgium, Regensburg, Bavaria, and Zagorsk, Russia, are discreetly inquiring as to what they can do to protect the Holy Mountain against the new dastardly threats looming over it again.

One might even suspect that some stray KGB agents are dusting off old law books, trying to decipher those articles and codicils of the 1878 Berlin Treaty and the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, which guarantee the sovereign rights of the "Holy Mountain."

Why the commotion?

The conservative West German daily *Die Welt* was one among the prestigious international publications to sound the alarm, on Jan. 28, 1986, with a quarter-page article, a call to arms for Western Europe to rise up and defend the cause of the Holy Mountain against the encroachments of the Socialist Greek government of Mr. Andreas Papandreou, who is threatening to nationalize all the monastic and church properties on the peninsula of Mount Athos. *Die Welt* argues that The Holy Mountain, with its special international legal status deriving from Imperial Byzantine legis-

lation of the 10th century, is one of the most cherished cultural heirlooms of all Christendom, including Western Christendom. *Die Welt*, further, makes an impassioned appeal to the Western European public to mobilize and stop the irreverent Mr. Papandreou's impending sacrilege.

We say, it is about time someone bombed the Holy Mountain, its monks, its monasteries, and everything in it. Bomb it thoroughly, systematically, and completely so that nothing of its evil legacy survives.

Give Mount Athos the Monte Casino treatment—it will all be for the better.

For over 1,000 years, the existence of the Holy Mountain has caused the perpetration of untold crimes against civilization and against Christianity itself. The mythical aura of sanctity and its awesome, irrational reputation, over the centuries, have successfully concealed from the eyes of a naive and unsuspecting world, the unique way by which the Holy Mountain operated as the principal agency of evil in our civilization. The present series of articles and comments will attempt, in part, to remedy this deficiency.

The Mount Athos peninsula, officially designated "Holy Mountain" by a Byzantine Imperial Bull during the 10th century, and located about 30 miles from Aristotle's birthplace, Stagira, is inhabited by the world's most fanatically nihilistic monks, who consider themselves as the true aristocracy of world monasticism. Their pro-

fessed denial and contempt for the temporal world is practiced with the fanatical ferocity of the most perverted Gnostic master, who proclaims that everything of the material world comes from the devil. There have been no intellectual, nor artistic traditions in the Holy Mountain, as its doctrine scorns them as much as it does more material enjoyments.

This total denial of the world, ultimately based on the ancient Gnostic argument that the God of the Old Testament, the Creator of the material world, is an evil spirit, contrasted to the true Gnostic god Abraxas, is practiced by the monks and hermits of Mount Athos in the form of a highly stylized Byzantine ritual. These monks subscribe to no faith, no theological doctrine, no moral outlook, Christian or other, except the painstaking daily fulfillment of complicated Byzantine liturgical ritual, laid down many centuries ago. A fanatical, obsessive, homicidal commitment to liturgical ritual is their way to salvation and their faith.

Each new monk who arrives is assimilated into this perpetual flow of ritualistic acts which began some time in the 10th century and are inexorably repeated at every prescribed hour of the day and night, every day and every night for 1,000 years, with the same identical ritual words and ritual gestures of long ago. Morning mass, pre-noon prayers, noon sermons, afternoon prayers, vespers, and the night broken by five ritual prayers to break the sleep every two hours.

Any acts of perversion and immorality which may be committed in between the ritual acts, are of no consequence, since all actions in the material world are evil. To the philosophy of the Holy Mountain, helping an orphan child in need and sodomizing it, are equally evil, the difference between the two obliterated.