

The Soviet KGB's Papandreou gambit

by Phocion

A hideous and exceptional event unfolded last Thursday, May 10 at the First Congress of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou's ruling party, the PASOK. Inside the splendid Olympic stadium of Athens, a fading, all-white-marble beauty from the last century, a group of over 2,500 politicians, government ministers, members of parliament, and other officials stood up for a stormy, protracted ovation to a fateful man of mystery. The object of the officials' adulation, a 70-year-old lanky and grayish figure, was vigorously erect to his medium height, letting his long white hair flow with the Attic breeze and, concealing a set of savage eyes behind dark aviator's glasses, allowing his thin lips to form into a half smile. Next day, a photograph capturing this image circulated in all the newspapers of Greece with an accompanying story explaining that "Captain Markos" had received the greatest honors and the lengthiest ovation at the ruling PASOK's congress.

The mystery man's name was not Captain Markos. Neither did he carry the rank of captain; he was Markos Vafeiadis, who until 1950 was the commanding general of communist guerrilla armies of the bloody Greek Civil War. After his defeat, he spent the next 30 years in the Soviet Union and East Germany. Behind him in Greece, he had left a bloody legacy of horror. He had led his guerrilla armies into a campaign of anti-civilian terror which had included exemplary crucifixions, beheadings, mutilations, and other horrors against especially rural populations. It had taken the years it requires to raise a new generation in time of peace before the memory of Markos Vafeiadis's horrors could begin fading in the minds of the Greek population.

Now, 34 years after his defeat, he stood to take the salute from the first congress that Papandreou's party ever held in the 10 years of its existence. Next to Markos Vafeiadis was standing a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Vladimir Dolgikh, the most honored foreign guest of the Congress.

The other foreign dignitaries invited were a Sandinista delegation from Nicaragua, communist representatives from

Cuba and Vietnam, a Polisario delegation, socialist military men from Ethiopia and El Salvador, and Yassir Arafat.

Before this audience and after the tribute had been paid to Markos Vafeiadis, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, the U.S.-educated economist and a former citizen of the United States, by his American wife Margaret, a close friend of U.S. Ambassador Monteagle Stearns, delivered a three-and-a-half hour keynote speech wholly devoted to attacking the United States, defending the Soviet Union, and pledging to break up NATO. The irony, which was not missed either by the Congress participants or by outside observers, was the fact that Gen. Markos Vafeiadis had been the man who had led the rebellion against Andreas Papandreou's father George, who was prime minister in the 1940s.

U.S. 'expansion and domination'

The first congress of Papandreou's PASOK has greater significance as an international event than as a domestic Greek affair. The Soviet Union was involved in more ways than one. While Andreas was reporting to Politburo member Dolgikh, back in Moscow Konstantin Chernenko was meeting with Charilaos Florakis, the general secretary of the Greek Communist Party, to make arrangements for the joint Papandreou-Florakis election strategy for the next 15 months. The tribute paid to Markos Vafeiadis is an early indication of what that strategy will be and the extent to which it will be controlled by Moscow.

In this context, it is significant to note that Papandreou's keynote speech, which dealt almost exclusively with international affairs, made him, a prime minister of a NATO member-country, sound more extreme than Fidel Castro or Babrak Karmal. After a hard-hitting identification of the United States as the center of world imperialism, Papandreou went on:

"The strategy of the United States always is to marshal all means for the attainment of one constant objective: expansion and domination. The constant renewal of *imperialism*. . . . This modern, U.S.-led imperialism finds itself in



The First Congress of the PASOK party, with its tributes to the Communist Party's Civil War butchers and to Soviet "anti-imperialism," showed that Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's electoral strategy is now made in Moscow.

instability and crisis, into which it drags everyone.

"This crisis appears as a crisis of existence itself involving the danger of nuclear holocaust.

"It is also an economic crisis, a crisis of economic relations resulting in the threat of unprecedentedly massive unemployment. This crisis is also evident in the enormous indebtedness and the economic disintegration of such nations as Brazil and Mexico. The crisis is evident in the massive spread of famine and malnutrition in all parts of the Third World."

However, Papandreu explained that in the course of this imperialist crisis, all developments are not controlled by the U.S.-led imperialist forces. He identified the existence of a powerful world movement, made up of "nations, peoples, parties, movements, anonymous and eponymous citizens . . . all reminding us that there are many ways for the preservation of national liberation and sovereignty, there are many forms of preservation of democracy, freedom, and civil rights, there are many models for socialist transformation and reorganization of the world economy."

He identified the "North-South conflict" as the "primary contradiction" in world affairs today. "The crisis of the world capitalist system," he said, "has been shaped by the limitations of the system itself. The U.S.-led imperialist system is now attempting a new form of domination and exploitation based on the following six policies; 1) control of the world market; 2) control of world communications and transportation; 3) monopoly over all new forms of high technology; 4) control of nuclear energy and all energy resources; 5) rapid development of new armaments; 6) control over all of the

world's money markets. . . . This leads to a further polarization between the metropolis and its colonial peripheries, a polarization which is assuming ever more violent forms. . . ."

As a former chairman of the economics department of the University of California at Berkeley, Papandreu had no problem expounding on this theme for hours. About the Soviet Union, he had a few choice words; "The Soviet Union's struggle for peace is genuine. It springs from the deep, internal character and dynamic of the social system of the Soviet Union. Because without peace, Soviet society is obliged to spend a large proportion of its national wealth on unwanted armaments. This in turn limits the possibilities of further developing the living standards of the Soviet people. In other words, the march toward socialism tends to inhibit the drive toward new great armaments. Thus, the Soviet Union is a factor which inhibits the further growth of capitalism and its imperialist expansionism."

Greece to be torn up from inside

The public theatrics of a party congress are usually the final touches over the icing on a cake baked long ago. About three weeks before the PASOK congress, *EIR* published the fact that Prime Minister Papandreu had suddenly stopped acting as a "British" political agent according to the Kissinger-Carrington gameplan for Europe, had stopped acting as a Kissinger-like Soviet agent of influence, and had begun behaving like a direct Soviet agent. That conclusion was reached, as we published at the time, on the basis of developments within the Greek government's law-enforcement agencies and its intelligence and national-security agencies.

In summary: Since Andreas Papandreou made himself the head of the Greek central intelligence service (KYP), he has been systematically purging valuable historical files which would enable one to piece together Soviet KGB operations in Greece, Cyprus, and the Eastern Mediterranean. From 1975 onward, beginning with the assassination of the CIA's Athens station chief, Greece has been turned into a major area of operations for both the KGB and the GRU's spetsnaz units.

Papandreou's February-to-May 1984 rolling coup d'état in the state's security services has consolidated the Soviet intelligence services' hold over Greece. The May 10 PASOK Congress and the spectacular resurfacing of the legendary spetsnaz Gen. Markos Vafeiadis merely stamped the conclusion of the Soviet services' consolidation phase.

Now Moscow will begin unfolding its grand political gambit with Papandreou as the lead pawn. Moscow's Papandreou gambit will be played on a chessboard involving the whole Balkan peninsula, the Eastern Mediterranean east of the line which stretches from Trieste, Yugoslavia to Tripoli, Libya, and the Near East, involving primarily the crucible of Turkey-Syria-Iraq-Iran.

One of the indications of how Moscow intends to play this gambit was the meeting between Soviet General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko and Greek Communist General Secretary Charilaos Florakis, Papandreou's election ally, at approximately the same time as Papandreou was paying tribute to Markos Vafeiadis and Vladimir Dolgikh. A Chernenko-Florakis communiqué was issued in Moscow in which, for the first time, the Soviet Union sided with Greece against Turkey in the perennial Cyprus dispute. This new Soviet anti-Turkish attitude was an unambiguous break with Moscow's past practice of preserving a benign attitude toward Ankara, and it marked the inauguration of an era of pressure and blackmail against Turkey. The Soviets have the option of moving militarily into Yugoslavia and Northern Iran simultaneously. They have the option of blowing up the local Cyprus tinderbox, of reasserting their presence in Egypt, tightening their grip over Libya, and so forth.

In addition, they have captured from inside the Greek government and Papandreou's ruling party, transformed both into mouthpieces of Soviet propaganda, and given them a piece of paper, in the form of the Chernenko-Florakis communiqué, which allows them to assert to the Greek electorate that Moscow is now the champion of the Greek national cause against Turkey. All this was completed while the State Department back in Washington produced a study in which it asserted that the political situation in Greece was "stable and secure" as a result of the masterful control exercised by the country's moderate conservative President, Constantine Caramanlis, over the "unpredictable" Andreas Papandreou. In point of fact, Papandreou has moved out of the control of Caramanlis. He decided to run his party's congress in the way he did in order to signal to the public that he intends to

clash with Caramanlis over the period of the June 17 European Parliament elections, the May 1985 Greek presidential elections, and the October 1985 general parliamentary elections.

Moving toward a showdown

Until May 8, two days before the PASOK Congress, Prime Minister Papandreou, in consultations with President Caramanlis, had maintained the pretense that his party's election strategy for all these elections would be in conformity with the President's scheme for a political "climate of tranquility," which, in electoral terms, meant that the two major parties, the moderate-conservative New Democracy Party and the left Socialist PASOK, would coordinate their campaign strategies to ensure that 86-90% of the electorate would vote for these two parties, thus undercutting the voting base of the Communist and other extreme parties.

On May, 8 Caramanlis asked Prime Minister Papandreou to replace his Ministers of Public Order, Interior, and Mass Communications with individuals who enjoy the confidence of the opposition party, in order to ensure the integrity of the upcoming elections and preclude the possibility of anyone in the future charging vote fraud. The practice of replacing these ministers before an election has been a long-standing tradition respected by all parliamentary parties. Papandreou, however, refused to comply.

And well he might. Four days earlier, on May 4, a number of professional polling organizations had reported that among Greece's urban populations, voter preference for Papandreou's party had been reduced to 25% and preference for his rival New Democracy had gone up to between 53% and 56%.

This polling result merely confirmed the self-evident: The bulk of moderate-centrist voters who had voted for Papandreou in 1981 have abandoned him in horror after a tasting of his extraordinary radical and mystifying policies. The New Democracy Party has shed the last remnants of its old right-wing origins, and succeeded, between the beginning of February and the end of April, in presenting itself as the party of middle-of-the-road "normal folk."

By the beginning of May, Papandreou had been left with only two alternatives, as we said at the time: Either acquiesce in electoral defeat or go for civil war. When he capitulated to his well-known passion for power, the Soviet KGB was there to offer him the means. Dolgikh and Markos Vafeiadis were made available. And this, my friends, is the meaning of that extraordinary political event in which a repugnant and well-forgotten ghost of 30 years ago, the Butcher of the Civil War, Gen. Markos Vafeiadis, basked in that fleeting moment of glory in the Olympic Stadium of Athens to receive the standing acclamation to 2,500 officials of the Papandreou regime. He is the man who is about to lead them in a second butchery of their people, perhaps no more than 16 months from today.