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## Interview: Konstantin Mitsotakis

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# Greece enters 'crucial and dangerous phase'

*Mr. Mitsotakis, Member of Parliament and leader of the New Democracy party of Greece, spoke to EIR correspondents Webster Tarpley and Ronald Kokinda in Washington, D.C. Mr. Mitsotakis' remarks were translated by his aide. Excerpts of the interview follow:*

**EIR:** We would like to ask you first, concerning the recent elections in Greece, do you see a pattern of intervention or interference in Greek affairs, for example, by the Soviet Union through Ambassador Igor Andropov?

**Mitsotakis:** I don't see any, either interference or intervention. Of course the policy followed by Mr. Andreas Papandreou toward the Soviet Union, has also its domestic targets and purposes. That is to say, he likes to be on good terms with the Greek Communist Party, internally. And it is well known that the Greek Communist Party closely and respectfully follows Moscow. In the last elections, a percentage of Communist voters cast their votes for Mr. Papandreou. They gave him the margin of difference in his victory. But there is no proof that this occurred following instructions from Moscow. We have no proof, no evidence.

**EIR:** There were reports in the American media of vote fraud, of trucks carrying electoral ballots into Greece from Bulgaria. Do you have any indication of how widespread the vote fraud was in the election?

**Mitsotakis:** Regarding fraud, we have a lot of suspicions. We are now carrying out a study. The government has so far refused to give us the data we have asked for, to carry out our study. Also, on the eve of the election, the government abused its authority and power. It carried out a policy of blackmail and threats. It monopolized the transportation facilities within the country, such as the local airline—the proof of that is that New Democracy, which represents 40% of the voters of the country, got only 2.5% of the total number of tickets for our voters. And most of the planes were taking off from Athens and coming back almost empty, and our voters did not have a chance to come in on the planes [to vote].

**EIR:** Did you feel, during the election or before it, that there was the implicit threat of a coup or military move by Papandreou, if he thought he was going to lose power?

**Mitsotakis:** The overall atmosphere in Athens was nervous. The government didn't look very prepared to surrender power if it lost. But I have the feeling that if New Democracy had won the elections, they [the government] would have surrendered power.

PASOK [Papandreou's socialist party—ed.] was not prepared, was not ready to maintain power without the approval of the popular vote. Not yet. The new phase is, in my belief, a very crucial and a very dangerous one, because Papandreou will try to complete and fulfill his task for overall control of the country. He will try first to control the armed forces, police, and security forces.

**EIR:** We have seen reports here that the Greek armed forces have now been reoriented in their deployments and where they are based, that they generally don't defend any longer against Bulgaria and the Warsaw Pact, but now primarily are deployed against Turkey. Do you think that Papandreou intends to get the U.S. bases out, to get out of NATO, and does he intend to go further? Does he intend to go toward the Warsaw Pact?

**Mitsotakis:** It is very difficult for anybody to predict what Papandreou will do. He is an unpredictable character. But for the first time after the election, I am very much concerned that he could proceed in reorienting Greek foreign policy. A basic change, a fundamental change—to ask Americans to get out, with their bases.

**EIR:** There is tremendous Soviet pressure on that region, on the southern flank of NATO, part of the Soviet drive for the Dardenelles. How do you view Soviet activity in the Mediterranean?

**Mitsotakis:** It is not only that there is a contest of the two superpowers in our region. I want to add the problem of Cyprus. I have strongly emphasized to the United States in my talks, that the Cyprus problem has to be solved. Today the Cyprus problem can be solved on the basis of the latest proposals of U.N. General Secretary Mr. Peres de Cueller. At this time, an active and decisive role by the United States for the settlement of this issue not only would lead to a settlement, but would mark a victory of the West in this area against the invasion of the Soviet Union.

**EIR:** What do you see as the future? What are your plans? What is your party going to do?

**Mitsotakis:** I am optimistic. We will win, finally, if democracy survives. After the elections, we morale is high. In contrast, Papandreou is weak.

**EIR:** So, will Papandreou finish his term?

**Mitsotakis:** I hope not.