

Attic Cronicle by Phocion

In the shadow of Count Capodistria

The entire leadership of Greece "vacationed" on the island of Corcyra, and then Greek-U.S. NATO maneuvers were cancelled—for good.

NATO's secretary general, Lord Carrington, has given full approval to the decision by Athens to cancel "in perpetuity" the joint Greek-U.S. annual military exercise codenamed "Zeus." Lord Carrington's office justified its approval of Athens' startling move on grounds that: 1) "Athens did not reject cooperation with NATO, only with the United States," and 2) "It is only right for Greece, a *European* member of NATO, to have a conception of what its security needs are which does not coincide with the security needs of the United States, a *non-European* member of NATO."

The latter was an approving reference to the Papandreou government's announcement that "for Greece, the Warsaw Pact no longer represents a potential future military adversary; only [NATO member] Turkey poses a threat to Greece." In short, Lord Carrington, in approving the cancellation "in perpetuity" of the traditional U.S.-Greek annual maneuvers, is de facto establishing the criteria on the basis of which he intends to cause the military decoupling of Europe from the United States. Also, for reasons to be explained below, Lord Carrington just voted for Igor Andropov to become, de facto, the next President of the Hellenic Republic, successor to Constantine Caramanlis.

In the two weeks before Papandreou's decision to cancel the maneuvers, the entire political leadership of Greece was gathered in the Ionian is-

land of Corcyra (Corfu in Venetian dialect) to deliberate on the long-term future course of the country. A two-week highly secretive orgy of betrayal, cross and double-cross, "Balkan intrigue" and sellout took place in Corcyra, whose full details will take years if not decades to bring to light and sort out. Leaving this greater job to future historians, we focus here on the essentials.

Mr. Evangelos Averoff-Tossitza, the head of the conservative opposition New Democracy Party, spent his August vacation in Corcyra meeting with a steady stream of visiting lieutenants and "barons" of his party. At a nearby hotel, Andreas Papandreou and his Socialist Speaker of the Parliament G. Alevras were also meeting with a steady stream of their own party's "barons" and lieutenants. In addition, Corcyra's remaining hotel suites and beach hideaways were filled with shadowy figures from London, Moscow, Munich, and elsewhere. In the course of the intrigues, Papandreou twice dispatched emissaries to Moscow; on numerous occasions, Averoff-Tossitza was seen flanked by British visitors from Lord Carrington's and Lord Caccia's entourage. Of a sudden, Corcyra, a colony of the Venetian republic until 1812 and chief Mediterranean resort of the Hapsburg Emperors until World War I, the home fiefdom of the evil Count John Capodistria, a Venetian nobleman who was the Czar's foreign minister during the Congress of Vienna and later, the first

governor of the independent Greek state in 1827—this Corcyra of Venetian fame was once again transformed into the center of East-West intrigue in the season of Ferragosto of 1984. Franz-Josef Strauss of Bavaria did not miss out on the festivities. He stopped over, checked out the scene and then proceeded to Albania, not more than 15 miles across from the Corcyrean coast.

When the party chiefs emerged from this most unusual vacation, certain decisions were made clear. Averoff-Tossitza, in bitterness, resigned as head of the New Democracy Party; Papandreou resolved to 1) alter the election law in order to ensure Socialist victory in the October 1985 general election, 2) purge and reorganize the law enforcement and internal security forces of the country in order to secure total political control, 3) prevent President Constantine Caramanlis from being re-elected President in May of 1985, 4) rely on the Communist Party of Greece for a working parliamentary majority after the next elections, and 5) pass the reins of his Socialist Party to its left "Marxist" wing by next year.

Papandreou preserves the option of either running for prime minister again or crowning himself President of the Republic to replace Caramanlis. Caramanlis is now considering whether to resign or preside over his nation's transformation into a "people's democracy" by next year. The morning following the Ferragosto vacation, the Communist Party put the Corcyra deals to the test: It demanded that joint maneuvers with the Americans be cancelled. Andreas immediately complied, and Carrington endorsed.

This arrangement makes the Soviet Ambassador to Athens, Igor Andropov, de facto President of Greece. His Communist Party will be the Hellenic Republic's arbiter.