

Attic Chronicle by Phocion

Carrington's southern flank

A study of the NATO secretary general's policy toward Athens helps unravel his secret agenda for the alliance.

Greece under Andreas Papandreou has been the most vocal and active opponent of improvement in NATO's ability to resist the Warsaw Pact's growing military blackmail. The Athens government has systematically sabotaged virtually all joint NATO maneuvers since it came to power in October 1981. It has dismantled significant intelligence and communications facilities of the alliance. It has conducted numerous ideological purges of the Greek armed forces, to the point that any overt, traditional hostility to the Soviet Union has virtually disqualified one from an officer's commission.

The top echelons of the Papandreou government have been well "plugged in" to a network of the Soviet KGB which includes Sweden's Olof Palme and West Germany's Willy Brandt and Egon Bahr—a network which momentarily made headlines with the arrest of the Norwegian Arne Treholt, a senior foreign ministry official who turned out to be a colonel of the KGB. Treholt was a personal friend of Prime Minister Papandreou going back to 1970. On orders from this KGB chain of command, Papandreou launched his campaign for a "Balkan nuclear-free zone" two years ago. On orders from the same source, he revamped his political party, the Pasok, into a Russian-style ideological party during its first congress in May.

Not least among Papandreou's anti-NATO activities was this year's decision not only to *not* participate in the regular annual autumn maneuvers of NATO, but to deploy Greek air,

naval, and land units against NATO units conducting maneuvers in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Papandreou government justified this decision on grounds that Greece's new national-security doctrine no longer recognizes any potential threat to national security originating from the Warsaw Pact. In his capacity as Greece's defense minister as well, Papandreou formally announced that Greek "national security needs" from now on will be defined on the basis that the only "potential military threat" to Greece comes from Turkey, another NATO member.

When this policy was made public in early August, Lord Carrington made the point of announcing that as far as his office was concerned, this shift not only does not violate any of the precepts of NATO, but presages a new era in the evolution of NATO. "It is understandable," the secretary general said, "for a European member of NATO, such as Greece, to have a different perception of its national security needs than does the United States."

There are reasons to believe that Carrington did much more than just "endorse" the Papandreou doctrine. He visited Greece at the end of July, prior to Papandreou's public enunciation of the new doctrine. We have reason to believe that with his Athens visit, Carrington himself set in motion events which inclusively led to this reformulation of Greek national-security doctrine. Carrington is perhaps its true author.

During that visit, Carrington also set in motion certain political devel-

opments which have altered fundamentally the character of the so-called conservative opposition party in Greece, the New Democracy Party. Following Carrington's week-long visit, a new party leader was elected, Mr. Constantine Mitsotakis, a London-based shipowner, who is well connected with both Carrington and the British intelligence establishment which has authored and supports Lord Carrington's "New Yalta" policy. In one of his first public acts, the "conservative" Mr. Mitsotakis complained that Papandreou is failing to pursue "friendlier" and "more cooperative" relations with the East bloc! He promised to outdo even Papandreou in the pursuit of friendship with the Soviet Union.

The secret of the Carrington-Greece relationship might be illuminated by certain events which took place on Aug. 15, 1982, the Feast of the Assumption to Heaven of the Mother of God. On that day, Mr. Papandreou, not otherwise known for his religious sentiments, visited the Monastery of Our Lady of Soumela where he gave an unusual speech making the following claims: First, that "socialism" is a political concept and program uniquely developed by the Eastern Orthodox Church. Second, that the Byzantine Empire, under the guidance of the Eastern Orthodox Church, was in fact a socialist form of organization of society. His analysis was identical with the evaluation of the Soviet state to which British Intelligence has subscribed since Arnold Toynbee's famous 1925 thesis. This analysis in turn provides the rationalization for Lord Carrington's "New Yalta" deal. According to the oligarchical families, the Soviet Socialist-Byzantine Empire is a benign, friendly force with which they must establish a new, cooperative relationship.