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Without taking into consideration many indications of the foreign influences which perhaps contributed to the setting up of the coup of April 21st 1967, it has become very clear since a long time, that the Greek military regime which resulted from it, has the complete moral and material support of the USA and that it is substantially and favourably tolerated by the most important European governments.

Let it suffice, inasmuch as the USA are concerned, to mention the statement made on the 14th of this month by Vice-President Agnew to the N.B.C. TV :

" Greece is a country which acts, since many years, without objection, according to the requirements and expectations of the USA "

The total support bestowed by America to the Greek military regime as well as the European tolerance towards it, appear as consequences of the " strategic reasons " implied by the defence requirements of the Western World.

Such a view, is not only wrong, but it also ignores an obvious fact in the opposite direction, to such a point, that one may wonder if we are not, actually, confronted, on the part of the Western World, with a completely shortsighted outlook, similar to that which led to the Second World War.

And before going into a detailed analysis, let us ask a very simple question:

Have the governments of the Free World never been interested to find out why the Eastern Block, with the exception of some trite remarks made by the Eastern Block countries' broadcasting stations, regarding " the fascist regime " etc, has also given its complete support to the Greek dictatorship ? Have the various " Intelligence Agencies " not been able to discover anything regarding the opinions and the aims of the Eastern countries, of which a short and extremely clear picture is provided by the following statement, made in May 1967 by Mr Korotkine, at that time Ambassador of the Soviet Union, to Mr D. Pappas, former Minister of Foreign Affairs :

" The military regime will become much more useful to us, than if we had an agent in every greek military unit and in every greek civil service".

Let us now examine the question in depth :

A feeling of deep resentment towards America has been created in the great majority of the Greek population. Unprecedented tactical errors also contribute to this, when, for instance, further to the support given to a detested regime, official americans here boast that they are not at all interested in the Greek People, but only in the possibility of utilizing the Greek territory.

The Greeks consider themselves inseparably attached to Europe. And the statements made by European countries, during the first period of the military regime - the decisions of the Council of Europe and of the Human Rights' Committee, the opposition expressed by European governments in the context of NATO toward the military regime etc etc, had made them feel yet more attached.

Now, the <sup>clear</sup> attitude of tolerance, taken by most European countries, has deeply disappointed the Greeks. And they are beginning to feel contemptuous on account of the unconcealed aims and economic objectives on which this tolerance is founded as, for example in the case of France and Germany.

It would be premature, to contend that the unfavourable reactions have created a "pro soviet climate". The Greek people has undergone a lot from Slavism during its centuries of history and the crimes of Communism are still quite recent. But we should not overlook that :

- a) Nearly all those who are opposed to the military regime would enthusiastically applaud any action taken by the Eastern Block which would constitute a blow to the regime
- b) In the younger generation, in particular, the reactions to the activities carried out by the Slavs and the Communists against Hellenism, sont très estompées.
- c) Independently of the indignation ~~for~~ due to the support of the regime by NATO, nobody any longer believes that NATO would be able to protect the territory of the Greek mainland, in the case of a crisis. That is why nearly everybody is tempted by the notion of "finlandisation," which the french journalist JF Mevel presents in a recent article of his published in the magazine 'Expr' ss, as the final aim of the Soviet Union, inasmuch as Europe is concerned.

The Greek Army Until April 21st 1967, the Army was considered by the great majority of the Greek people and, notwithstanding certain reservations on behalf of the progressive elements, regarding its extreme right-wing structures, as an indispensable support of the <sup>Sec. al</sup> ~~political~~ establishment. And even these did not diminish the respect of the military factor.

Now :

- a) ~~All of a sudden~~, all those who fought in the second world war and in the war against communisme, higher and high-ranking officers, were removed. Those who were pushed forward to replace them in the commands, usually come from the <sup>new</sup> "proletariat" and their main aim is to maintain the privileges which the régime gave them.
- b) The officers in their totality are absolutely conscious of the resentments which has grown in the popular masses, in the place of the general respect which existed previously. That is why, although it is certain that the régime lacks the sympathy of the majority of the officers and many of them are also concerned by the deadlock, few are those who would actively provoke, at least at this point, the opening of the tap of "liberalization", which would have unforeseeable consequences for themselves.
- c) And, most important, inasmuch as the supposed "strategic reasons" in favor of the régime are concerned : elements of the régime admit by themselves, in private conversations, that it would be tragic for them, if they were to proceed even to a partial mobilization. Because, nearly the totality of the officers mobilized or of the reserve officer who have been removed by the régime, would turn into a hurricane

against them.

d) Even the "Greek territory", in which the Americans are exclusively interested, would not be everlastingly safe for them, following the psychological radical reaction of the Greek ~~population~~ population. All the more so with the extension of the American presence in the Greek ports, which is being planned and the unavoidable disagreeable situations which this will imply. A small spark will be sufficient and it is absolutely certain, that the opponents of the West will light it when they will consider that the ~~right~~ right moment has arrived.

Let us now examine another side of the problem :

In spite of official boastful statements to the contrary, regarding the "reorganization" of everything, the whole of the civil-service mechanism is in complete disintegration, including the Church and Education at all grades and levels. This is the result of the removal or the neutralization of all the honest and efficient elements and of their replacement by foolhardy elements, of the complete resentment on behalf of the big mass of civil servants towards the State and of the unexpressed abuses and prevarications carried out by the ruling class.

This point is outlined by a private conversation held a week ago by the "hard-core" Ladas, during which he admitted, that the "administrative decentralization, about which so much noise is being made, has led to the total dissolution of the state apparatus".

This complete picture of the situation in Greece today, as well as the rest of this exposé, are extremely clear. And those foreigners who do not wish to admit it are either superficial, shortsighted or insincere. And the question arises if this picture serves at least only the more durable strategic interest of the West? If any statesmen in the West believe anything like this, then they are as blind as the European politicians, who did not realize in time to what a catastrophe the acceptance of the newly born Hitlerite regime as well as of its deeds, would lead.

In deed, the Greek territory is extremely important to the West. Its loss, or even the constitution of a hot spot on it, would have immediate unpleasant consequences for Yugoslavia and, therefore Central Europe and, most probably Italy and Turkey. And the above, at the very least, would probably occur, the moment a hot spot ~~was~~ were to break out, as the result of the inferior situation.

\*While such an eventuality was completely out of the question under democratic governments until 1967. The allegations made by the Colonels regarding a common danger, of which, as it is known, they were unable to produce the least evidence, fell like a pack of cards. It has been established, that the possibilities the communists had, were absolutely insignificant, as was proven by the centre-left masses which were completely attached to Europe. This independently of the guarantee of security in regard to the strategic interests of the West which were then constituted, according to what has been said higher up on the army, by this factor, which has been put in a state of confusion by the regime and cut off from the Greek population

But a more important aspect of the matter has appeared under an acute form since a few days. This is constituted by the handling of foreign affairs.

It is not the aim of this paper to analyse the Cyprus question. It should, therefore, be only underlined, that a few days were sufficient for the creation in that most sensitive area of the Eastern Mediterranean of an extremely dangerous crisis. And the first consequence of the incoherent and clumsy handling of the situation, is that the Eastern Block marked an advantage of political importance, that "the corner-stone" of NATO - as the Americans call the military regime in Greece - appears invoking doctrines similar to those expressed at the time of the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia and, inter alia, that the American Ambassador in Athens called on his British colleague in the middle of the night in an agonizing attempt to put a break on the developments, which risked producing a political and dynamical hot spot in the Eastern Mediterranean and exposing the Americans for having fomented it.

The above should, at least, have caused the arousal of Western concern, ~~because~~ as the actual regime in Greece constitutes a permanent and very great danger for the West, ~~at a moment when it would still not be impossible to create, in Greece,~~ a situation in which the eventuality of a hot spot being formed in the Eastern Mediterranean would seriously decrease, and as Greece would at any rate become a solid link in the European chain.

