



M. N. SPIRTOS, M. D.
SUPREME PRESIDENT
ORDER OF AHEPA

OUR HISTORICAL DUTY

To convene today on this our 51st Anniversary with the basic objects of our beloved Order in jeopardy. We are facing a historical challenge to examine candidly our responsibilities.

We are the direct link between the people of Hellas and the people of the United States of America. The single most important ideological tie between the two cultures and people is the concept of freedom and dignity of the individual.

Today the people of Hellas are deprived of the voice in determining their institutions. Our task as a link is in jeopardy. We who cherish liberty as a blessing in this great country of ours and as a most valuable possession, cannot allow ourselves to forget what the late President John F. Kennedy said:

"If men and women are in chains anywhere in the world then freedom is endangered everywhere."

It is our mission dictated by our own AHEPA Constitution to oppose tyranny and oppression. It is our obligation to be irreconcilable enemies of all forms of totalitarianism and its different disguises.

Our brothers in Hellas are not free. If we are to maintain our identity and our personality as true AHEPANS, we cannot afford to close our eyes to the denial of freedom in Hellas. As honest Americans dedicated to preserve our own dignity and our own self-respect, we must arouse the people of this country to the goal of restoring the freedom of the Hellenes.

The lessons of the past six years urge me to warn my fellow AHEPANS against complacency and false promises.

If we do not act vigorously now, in 1976 we will run the risk of celebrating the 200th anniversary of our land, the land of the free, while freedom will still be suppressed in its birthplace, our beloved Hellas.

Assisting the Hellenes in restoring their freedom is NOT politics. It is a sacred obligation of all of us to the land where our freedom was born.

Fellow AHEPANS, it was my duty, at these historical moments, as your elected representative to be candid. It is now your responsibility to reflect and meet the greatest challenge we have ever faced throughout the history of our great organization.

Fraternally,

M. N. SpiRTOS, M. D.
Supreme President
Order of Ahepa

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Founded July 26, 1922
in Atlanta, Ga.

Order of Ahepa

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association



Youngstown, Ohio - February 24, 1973

PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY DR. MICHAEL SPIRTOS Supreme President

The Supreme Lodge of AHEPA has just returned from a trip to Europe, including visits to Athens, Nicosia, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, and King Konstantine the II of all Hellenes.

I wish to reiterate at this point that AHEPA is a non-political, non-partisan fraternal organization, expressing the ideals of the community of Americans of Hellenic descent.

This community, whose civic spirit has most recently been praised by President Nixon himself, has consistently supported the declared policies of the Government of the United States in the field of foreign affairs. One of these stated policies, which is of particular import to all Americans of Greek extraction, is the desire of the United States to see Greece return to democratic government as soon as possible.

The restoration of democracy in Greece has also been the declared intention of the present Greek Government, expressed both in public statements and privately to the U. S. Ambassador Henry Tasca.

For all the above reasons I cannot but express my disappointment in not observing any real direction toward constitutional government at the present time.

I consider it my duty as an American and as an Ahepan to speak in defense of our democratic ideals and to urge all brother Hellenes in positions of leadership to raise themselves to the heights of mature statesmanship dictated by our sacred Hellenic tradition of responsible citizenship.