

ATTENTION!

Press Release
WASHINGTON, D. C., 1957
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S-537,045

BOSTON, MASS.
GLOBE

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NOV 3 1957

Haven for the persecuted

The shocking disclosure by colonels Evans and Novak of State Department efforts to prevent a prominent Greek political refugee from entering the United States could lead to a liberalization of the 1955 Immigration Act and a needed clarification of our policy on political refugees.

Elias P. Demetrasopoulos, a distinguished writer and a foe of the present military government in Greece, is now safely ensconced in Washington. But he almost didn't make it, thanks to a desk officer in the State Department who heeded pleas from the junta in Athens and canceled his visa. His case had to be carried all the way to the Secretary's office and the White House before a new visa was forthcoming.

Capitol Hill, according to Evans and Novak, is now taking about a formal investigation to find out why the Greek junta has so much influence with our State Department and a staunchly pro-American refugee editor has so little.

More to the point would be early hearings on a series of immigration amendments recently introduced by

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) after the administration failed to produce its own promising reform suggestions.

These amendments cover a variety of subjects, but two of the most important are highly pertinent to the Demetrasopoulos case. The first would establish a permanent board of visa appeal where arbitrary one-man decisions could be reviewed. As written it applies only to resident aliens and relatives of U.S. citizens but it could well be expanded.

The second provides EMU entrance visas for refugees from Communist countries or from any country from which a refugee shall have fled "due to a well-founded fear of persecution or danger to his life or civil liberties." This language would give us for the first time a clear and understandable general asylum policy. It would apply to Demetrasopoulos and thousands of other worthy persons in need of a political haven.

Passage of the proposed amendments would not guarantee against immigration law abuses. But it would make them far less likely to happen. And this would be an enormous step forward.

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POST

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U.S. Denies Refusing Visa to Greek Exile

The State Department Embassy in Copenhagen yesterday denied a report that it had refused a U.S. visa to a refugee Greek political editor, Elias P. Demetrasopoulos.

Demetrasopoulos is now in Washington. He told United Press International yesterday that the Greek Desk Officer in the State Department, H. Daniel Everett, had instructed the U.S.

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HERALD-NEWS

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Greek Tragedy

A Greek political refugee of unimpeachable integrity has finally arrived in this country in spite of the best efforts of the junta now ruling Greece to prevent his admission here. That Greece has become hostile to freedom of opinion is a tragedy worthy of its own greatest playwrights. But that functions of the United States should aid and abet the junta in their efforts to keep Elias P. Demetrasopoulos, one of Greece's most distinguished editors, from coming here leads one to wonder just what the political and humanitarian principles of some of our representatives abroad may be.

Fortunately, Demetrasopoulos was so distinguished that his case was brought to the attention of the Secretary of State and the President. He is

now here, but in how many instances has the bungling or bungling of our functionaries abroad created a personal tragedy where none was needed? None of us can be entirely easy in our minds when this sort of incident can occur. It takes us back to the days when Gina Carlo Menotti celebrated in a brilliant, strident opera, "The Consul," the horror of man in flight from his home and trapped by endless bureaucratic red tape.

The situation in Greece is certainly not improving, although the recent resignation of several cabinet officers may preage some liberalization of the policies of the present regime. Meanwhile it is impossible not to feel with Melina Mercuri who, in a letter to the New York Times on the 10th anniversary of the death of Nikos Kazantzakis, lamented what has befallen her country since Kazantzakis could symbolize it in the brilliant, moving pages of "Zorba The Greek."

ROWLAND EVANS and ROBERT NOVAK

U.S.-Greek junta link sparks uproar

WASHINGTON — Shocking collaboration between the State Department and the six-month-old military dictatorship in Greece is exposed by the story, disclosed until now, of how, together, they very astutely barred a prominent Greek political refugee from the U.S.

Obviously, U.S. policy is to keep arms' length from the military junta which seized power in Athens last April. Behind the scenes, however, working-level State Department officials cooperate with the junta in ways that can only encourage the Greek colonels to think Washington has little interest in restoring a democratic regime.

Newsweek is the first to cover (see) in the outposts handling of the case of Elias F. Demetrioupolous, an influential Greek journalist and political editor of three newspapers and a militant foe of tyranny, both right and left. A politician of the Right during World War II after courageously helping downed U.S. airmen (for which he was decorated), Demetrioupolous was captured and then wounded by the Communists during the Red revolt of December, 1944.

When the colonels staged their coup last April on the pretext of fighting communism, Demetrioupolous went into hiding briefly, then emerged as an outspoken critic of the junta—but only by word-of-mouth. Rather than submit to military censorship, he refused to write for his newspapers.

His problems with the junta deepened in August when the United Nations invited Demetrioupolous to be Greek representative at the UN's annual officers' conference in Warsaw, Sept. 12-15. The junta made private overtures to Demetrioupolous to be favorable or at least neutral toward the colonels in the Warsaw discussion, even dangling before him the ambassadorship to a key Western country.

Demetrioupolous refused. The junta, accordingly, barred his trip to Poland by denying him a "special security exit permit." UN officials quietly pressured the colonels by reminding them that the important industrial symposium scheduled in Athens under UN auspices in November might be endangered.

The junta responded with a dictator's compromise. On Sept. 12, it contacted

Demetrioupolous's passport (containing a valid U.S. visa) and replaced it with a new passport permitting him to travel to Poland only and only (see) the Sept. 12-15 conference. Demetrioupolous gave no further in Greece, and, once the Warsaw conference finished, gained entrance to Denmark.

His plans were to attend a World Bank meeting in Rio de Janeiro as an invited guest and go from there to the U.S. That meant getting Istanbul and U.S. visas stamped in his new passport.

Although Brazil has been ruled by its military since 1964, it quickly granted a visa to Demetrioupolous. But not the Americans, a part of what Demetrioupolous would do and say in America, the junta pleaded with U.S. officials to keep him out. The U.S. Embassy in Athens commented the visa he granted anyway, but a foreign service officer named David H. Brewster had other ideas.

Brewster, desk officer for Greece in Washington and the major formulator of U.S. policy on Greece, is an established friend of the colonels. He decided that Demetrioupolous, staunchly pro-American and a visitor here repeatedly since 1951, he denied a visa. The intractable decision was revealed in Demetrioupolous in Copenhagen Sept. 23.

That would have ended the story had Demetrioupolous been without friends here. He immediately called for help to an impressive list including Sen. Vance Hartke of Indiana and Jacob Javits of New York, Speaker John McCormack of Massachusetts, Rep. Emanuel Celler of New York, and former Gov. Pat Brown of California.

The queries were met by weak responses from the State Department, but collective pressure from Demetrioupolous's friends forced the issue over Brewster's head, all the way up to Secretary of State Dean Rusk and the White House. Brewster's decision was overruled and a visitor's visa given Demetrioupolous Sept. 23.

Demetrioupolous is now in Washington, but the incident is not closed. There is interest on Capitol Hill in a possible investigation of the affair to probe State Department actions that could perpetuate dictatorship in Athens and, in the process, unwittingly bolster the return Communist resistance.