

INTERVIEW GIVEN TO Mr. RASTIN, DANISH RADIO ORGANISATION,

by Mr. J.G. ZIGHDIS.

Athens 29 March, 1973.

We have joined NATO -and I was a member of the Government who signed the Treaty in 1952 -to safeguard the independence of the Country and the democratic way of life of the people. Not to find ourselves living under conditions of a concentration camp.

Heavy are the responsibilities of our allies and more particularly of the USA Government for the imposition and the maintenance of the dictatorship. Without the latter's open support the military regime would have been impossible to last so long. But some other Governments too have shown an unexpected tolerance towards the regime.

NATO, however, is an alliance to defend the democratic way of life. The majority of the allies, therefore, have not respected their responsibilities and their obligations deriving from the alliance.

Greece is indispensable for the defense of Western Europe. But not only as a geographical area, as some of our allies seem to think. There is the Greek people too. And if the Greeks are definitely convinced that their only role in the alliance is that of a slave assistant, their soul will be definitely alienated from the West. The defense of Western Europe will then suffer in an irreparable way.

Greece is also indispensable for the economic and political unification of Europe and this unification can be only based on the democratic principle. Greece, by joining the Council of Europe and the ECSC, considered that she was entering agreements which bind all their signatories in the defense of democracy.

Unfortunately the Greek people are witnessing during the last six years that several of the Governments of Western Europe consider that they fulfill their obligations arising from the agreements by paying lip service to democracy and at the same time doing all their best to develop their relation with the dictatorship.

It will again be disastrous for the idea of a unified Europe if the Greek people are definitely convinced that their status in a so-called democratic Europe is one of a permanent servitude.

I hope I made myself clear. The Greek people does not ask their allies to intervene for the restoration of democracy. They ask, however, most categorically, to stop intervening in a direct or indirect way in favor of the dictatorship.

The dictatorship is obviously a calamity for Greece but it is at the same time a serious danger for democratic Europe. The restoration of democracy in Greece is therefore a common obligation, a common duty, for all Europeans - Greeks and otherwise.

Democracy after all in to-days Europe is indivisible.

QUESTION : But, Mr. Zighdis, by which methods the European States can safeguard the restoration of democracy without intervening ?

and

ZIGHDIS : The North Alliance Treaty, the EEC Agreement define certain obligations for all members countries. If the European Governments were true to their obligations deriving out of these treaties the situation in Greece would have been different to-day. But in the Council of Europe also, which was the only case of the right reaction to the dictatorship, action was delayed too long to have any real effects.

.....



INTERVIEW GIVEN TO Mr. RASTIN, DANISH RADIO ORGANISATION,

by Mr. J.G. ZIGHDIS.

Athens 29 March, 1973.

We have joined NATO -and I was a member of the Government who signed the Treaty in 1952 -to safeguard the independence of the Country and the democratic way of life of people. Not to find ourselves living under conditions of a concentration camp.

Heavy are the responsibilities of our allies and more particularly of the USA Government for the imposition and the maintenance of the dictatorship. Without the latter's open support the military regime would have been impossible to last so long. But some other Governments too have shown an unexpected tolerance towards the regime.

NATO, however, is an alliance to defend the democratic way of life. The majority of the allies, therefore, have not respected their responsibilities and their obligations deriving from the alliance.

Greece is indispensable for the defense of Western Europe. But not only as a geographical area, as some of our allies seem to think. There is the Greek people too. And if the Greeks are definitely convinced that their only role in the alliance is that of a slave assistant, their soul will be definitely alienated from the West. The defense of Western Europe will then suffer in an irreparable way.

Greece is also indispensable for the economic and political unification of Europe and this unification can be only based on the democratic principle. Greece, by joining the Council of Europe and the EEC, considered that she was entering agreements which bind all their signatories in the defense of democracy.

Unfortunately the Greek people are witnessing during the last six years that several of the Governments of Western Europe consider that they fulfill their obligations arising from the agreements by paying lip service to democracy and at the same time doing all their best to develop their relation with the dictatorship.

It will again be disastrous for the idea of a unified Europe if the Greek people are definitely convinced that their status in a so-called democratic Europe is one of a permanent servitude.

I hope I made myself clear. The Greek people does not ask their allies to intervene for the restoration of democracy. They ask, however, most categorically, to stop intervening in a direct or indirect way in favor of the dictatorship.

The dictatorship is obviously a calamity for Greece but it is at the same time a serious danger for democratic Europe. The restoration of democracy in Greece is therefore a common obligation, a common duty, for all Europeans - Greeks and otherwise.

Democracy after all in to-days Europa is indivisible.

QUESTION : But, Mr. Zighis, by which methods the European States can safeguard the restoration of democracy without intervening ?

and

ZIGHIS : The North Alliance Treaty, the EEC Agreement define certain obligations for all members countries. If the European Governments were true to their obligations deriving out of these treaties the situation in Greece would have been different to-day. But in the Council of Europe also, which was the only case of the right reaction to the dictatorship, action was delayed too long to have any real effects.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

