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LETTERS

Greeks

Your recent "The Joys of Tyranny," a story on Greece by Arnold de Borchgrave (INTERNATIONAL, April 24), does not come up to your usual standards of perception and analysis.

Opposition to the Athens regime is mostly talk today because the people are still waiting for a transition through peaceful means. Diluted and ridiculed, even if inactively, the colonels continue to remain in power through the support of the armed and security forces in this country and the U.S. Government internationally. With no popular support, they are sure to topple in the face of the first serious crisis. And the longer it takes, the worse it will be for Greece, the U.S. and the Mediterranean may no longer be part of the free world.

You say Greeks no longer fear arbitrary arrests. This is not so, as proven by quite a number of arrests lately, including many students. You write that the 1958 constitution is gradually being put into effect. Not even the regime makes such ridiculous statements any longer. Most of the constitution has been suspended since it was approved more than three full years ago.

Finally, your treatment of the country's economic situation is quite shallow. The point is not how good it may be now but where does it all lead with just about all the rates of increase in economic development dropping, and inflation almost out of control? And besides, fostering false prosperity has no long-range healthy effect on the fate of countries or peoples, in the present dictatorship calculations should have proven beyond a doubt. They estimated the world in a catastrophic war, and what is worse they entrusted two Communist states into superpower enticement. Unfortunately, the U.S. stubbornly refuses to see the obvious.

The only sane path for Greece is the return to constitutional order through the preservation of the country's Western free institutions. And it can be accomplished through the return of the King and the eventual free elections.

ENDIMANUEL KOTINIS
Former Minister of Commerce

Athens

■ In the eight months since my return to the U.S. from a year spent in Greece, I have not seen a more objective appraisal of the current state of affairs than your article on Greece. It has been apparent that the average American does not possess the minimum knowledge necessary to fully comprehend the importance of Greece in protecting the free world. Critics of U.S. policy in supporting such a vital link in the integrity of the eastern Mediterranean are so engrossed in preserving some semblance of dignity, in the face of potential setback in Southeast Asia, that they run the risk of unconscionable overreaction.

The Greek people are experiencing unprecedented improvements in standards of living, communication and transportation. Martial law has been removed in all

but three major cities. Not once did I detect the slightest feeling of any repression, physical or mental. Most of the Greek people that I know were not that concerned with their country's political structure. Why should U.S. politicians be so hasty to condemn the regime?

The only people in Greece who have anything to fear are those who voluntarily chose to fight the colonels, or what is left of them. May Americans be so critical when the U.S. Army was discovered gathering information "on their peers?" Can certain members of the U.S. Government be so critical of Greece, when, in fact, it is but one of many anti-Communist countries our foreign policy directly or indirectly supports? Greece is an important NATO ally and it is dedicated to the principles of that alliance. We should leave the Greeks alone and quit playing the influence role.

THOMAS W. MARTINDALE
Carmichael, Calif.

■ Arnold de Borchgrave's report gives the impression that the traditionally freedom-loving Greeks have happily traded their liberty for the joys of affluence and watching "Beauty" and "Mad Squad" on their TV sets. Could it be, however, that the Greeks when Mr. de Borchgrave observed or met were not likely to express themselves freely to him or anyone else in view of the arrests of 7,000 dissidents, the widespread torture and continuing secret police and informer surveillance mentioned in the same article?

An honest secret election would be a better clue to the real mood of the Greek people than de Borchgrave's astonishingly superficial speculations. The military leaders who rule the country are apparently not confident enough that the Greek people truly appreciate "The Joys of Tyranny" to permit this.

SIRLEY MC GREAL

Barghite

■ Your article insults Greeks. We are not living in a tyranny. We are living in law and order for the first time since World War II. There is no doubt that Greece has it better than ever before and that anyone who would want to change it for the pre-revolution chaos would be foolish.

Capt. N. J. ROMANIDES

Athens

■ I spent a year in Greece (1970-71) and while I reluctantly agree that the colonels are likely to stay for a long time, I would question one statement put forward, namely: "If one judges Greece by Western standards, it clearly is a Fascist dictatorship. But judge it in a Mediterranean or Mediterranean context and you begin to understand why most Greeks are not so upset about that as Western editorial writers." If I were a Greek, I should feel very sad on reading this.

In the years preceding the coup d'etat, there was a feeling amongst a large number of Greeks that Greece was, at long last, beginning to adapt itself to the Western way of life and become more a part of Europe. The coup of 1967 would all that. By the very Levantine-Balkan

Παραλαοθμεν δικα κατὰ τὰς ἐπαφὰς ααο μετὰ ἐμπροσώπων τῶν
κυβερνήσεων καὶ πολιτικῶν δυνάμεων τῶν Ἐθνερωατικῶν κρατῶν
ἰδιαιτέρως τονίζετε τὴν ὑπαρξὶν ἀπολύτου ἐνότητος μεταξὺ
τῶν ἑλληνικῶν δημοκρατικῶν κομμάτων ὡς καὶ τῶν πολιτικῶν
δυνάμεων ἀπὸ τὴν ἐπίτευξὶν τοῦ κοινουο ἰσοποο τῆς τῆς ἐπανόδου
τῆς χώρας εἰς τὴν ὁμαλότητα καὶ τὴν κοινοβουλευτικὴν
δημοκρατίαν. Αἱ δυνάμεις αὐταὶ ἄλλωο τε ἐξασφαλίζουν
καὶ τὴν ὁμαλὴν μετῶοαοιν εἰς τὸ ἐλεόθερον κοοοατῶο.

Γνωρίζοντες καὶ τὰς κατὰ τὸ παρελθόν προοοαθεαο ααο διὰ
τὴν πραγματικῶν τῆς ἐνότητος εἰμεθα βέβαοι οτι θά προσφέρητε
καὶ πάλιν τὰς ὑπηρεοίαο ααο εἰς τὴν ἐξυπαρέτηοιν τοῦ ὡο δνω
ἰσοποο.



Αναερωατῶν
Γ. Α. Μυρωαδῶν
Μελέη 1979:

