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Hon. Ioannis Zighdis
9, Anth. Gari Street
Athens, Greece

Dear Mr. Zighdis:

Many thanks for your kind words contained in your letter of May 28th, 1966 regarding my effort in re: "Is Viet Nam Another Greece?"

In view of the fact that you are actively engaged in politics, having served as Minister of Industry, it occurred to me that a number of questions indirectly affecting tourism in Greece -- which were incorporated in a review of a book entitled "The Land And Isles of Greece," by Philip Deane -- might be of interest to you. Hence, a Xerox copy is enclosed.

In the hope that the "powers-that-be" in Greece will not continue denying the right of the sovereign people of Greece to resolve political issues by free elections, and with kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

George C. Vournas
George C. Vournas

GCV/mse
Enclosures

BOOK REVIEW

"THE LAND AND ISLES OF GREECE" BY PHILIP DEANE

(Doubleday & Co., 365 Pages \$6.95)

Reviewed by George C. Vouras**

"Philip Deane" is the pen name of Gerassimos Svoronos Giganas, a Greek of talent, ideas and ideals. The name was given to him by his London editor when he was covering the Korean hostilities. He was captured there and made a prisoner of war, recording his experiences upon release in a book under the title, "Captive in Korea." He has also written—in collaboration with his equally-talented wife Molly—"The Childish Brides," "The U.N.—Who Needs It?" and "Constantinos Doxiadis." "The Land and Isles of Greece" is his latest book.

Mr. Deane was Director of Information of the U. N. in Washington, D. C. when he was commanded by his sovereign, King Constantine of Greece, to become his Secretary, and after the Royal Wedding, the Cultural Minister of Greece in Washington.

Mr. Giganas will be long remembered in Washington. He labored hard and long to project a twentieth-century image for his young King and the *Vasilissina Demokratia* (Crowned Democracy). "A Constitutional Monarch with a heart of gold; a King as dedicated to the democratic ideal as a Kennedy or a Hubert Humphrey!" But, alas, it did not last long. Came July 15th, 1955 and the Royal booting to the people's choice, the legally-elected—and possibly the most popular political leader of Modern Greece—George Papandreu! What this did to Giganas' world and his psyche one can only surmise. He departed from Washington—not for the land of the lones-ones like his remote ancestor, Ulysses, but for Toronto, Canada and his own television show, "Challenge and Response," presented by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Washington will miss the Giganases—Gerassimos, Molly, Eleni and Claire.

"The Land and Isles of Greece" is a veritable Thesaurus. It is bound to remain the standard travel book on Greece, as only minor revisions will be required every so often to keep abreast of developments.

Sir Compton Mackenzie in his latest book, "Greece Is My Life," states that "most places in Greece are so very beautiful, they defy description." True, indeed. But few will travel to any country at the sacrifice of comfort. The fact is that Greece did not become tourist-conscious until after World War II. Since then notable advances have been made—but not enough. In order to accelerate the tempo of progress it is necessary to speak out boldly—enough has been swept under the rug!

(1) Mr. Deane, in discussing prices for luxury and Class-A hotels (Pp. 56, 57), mentions that the traveler pays a 15 percent service charge. The fact is, however, that this 15 per-

cent "service charge" (intended as a substitute for individual tipping of hotel employees) does not go to the employee, but is expropriated by the hotel operator. In other words, a veritable feud is being perpetuated against both the hotel employees, who are deprived of monies collected in their behalf, and the hotel patron, who pays 15 percent additional on the amount of his bill without receiving anything in return! The hotel workers dare not speak out—unemployment and underemployment is chronic in Greece—lest they lose their jobs or be accused of being "communist" or "communist-inclined." We must not lose sight of the fact that since American intervention in the Greek civil war and the extension of U.S. aid of all types to Turkey and nations further east, upper-class prosperity is guaranteed to any country that joins the U. S. in its crusade against Communism. "Anti-communism" developed into the most profitable upper-class industry in Greece subsequent to 1945, "communist" having been found everywhere with the possible exception of Agamenon's Tomb!

(Would it not be to the interest of the hotel operators to not only let their waiters have the fifteen percent "service charge," but also publicize the fact that all tipping is covered by such a charge, discouraging thereby individual tipping, as practiced in some hotels in London? Would not such an act have the tendency to stimulate employee self-respect—the Greek philoxenia—resulting in an atmosphere of true hospitality to visitors, which, in the long run, cannot but react to the benefit of both the hotel operators and to the Greek nation?)

(2) Another matter which deserves a few words is—plumbing! Even luxury hotels (with the possible exception of the Athena-Hilton) suffer from lack of modern plumbing. In some hotels the water pressure is so low that it becomes a task in upper floors to keep the bathrooms clean and free of offensive odors. And when it comes to toilet rooms in restaurants, theaters, night clubs and tavernas, both in Athens and at the countryside, with the possible exception of the "Xenias" erected by the Tourist Organization, which barely deserve a passing mark, only one word can describe them—"deplorable!"

A crash program in the erection and maintenance of sanitary restrooms would make Greece more attractive, indeed, tourist-wise. Oil companies discovered long ago that even gasoline could not be sold by gasoline stations which did not provide clean toilets and restrooms.

The Tourist Organization could greatly assist were it to design an appropriate insignia, awarding it to business establishments which erect and maintain modern sanitary restrooms. And while we are on the subject, they might also do something to eliminate the employment of women in men's restrooms—a most repugnant and offensive practice in Anglo-Saxon taste.

No nation enjoys greater goodwill—particularly among the better-educated classes the world over—than Greece. Yet, the tourists visiting Greece are but a fraction of those visiting Western Europe. Tourism in Greece, with earnest and constant effort, could be increased ten or twenty-fold.

It is the hope of this reviewer that this book, which is also given as a premium for annual subscriptions to the "Greek Heritage" magazine of Chicago, Illinois—an excellent magazine—will have the wide circulation it deserves. It makes an ideal gift to the banker, lawyer, merchant, student, baker and cardstock maker at all times. Alpha Chapters, Sons, Maids and Daughters, please note!

George C. Vouras

**Note: The reviewer of this book is a resident of Washington, a lawyer by profession, and a Past Supreme President of the Alpha. He has been a frequent visitor to Europe and Greece.

The Editor