

*Rep. M. L. L...*

R E P O R T  
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HELLENIC ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION  
FROM OCTOBER 1962 TO MARCH 1963

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The Association continued to maintain a close contact with the Press-daily as well periodicals - in order to keep the public opinion constantly informed about the activities and the problems of NATO. The keen interest of the Greek people towards the Alliance is being reflected by the constantly growing number of information, comments and articles published in papers and periodicals. Many of these - as well as some published in the NATO letter in English, French, and Greek - have been written by members of our Association. We also keep in touch with the National Broadcasting Institution for the same purpose.

Our Association maintained also a close contact with the A.T.A. and, in spite of the restricted financial means, has been represented in all important council meetings and Annual Assemblies by its President and in some cases by the Vice-President and the Secretary General. In the last Council meeting of the 12-13 December in Paris, due to our impossibility to send a representative from Athens, an ad hoc observer was appointed on our request.

At the same time we maintained close contact with the competent Divisions of the Greek Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Presidency and of the National Defence, as well as with the Ministry of Education and with A.T.A.'s Education Secretary Mr. Eppstein, for all matters of their competence.

In November last year the Secretary General of the A.T.A. General Valluy visited Greece and our Association availed itself of this opportunity to organize for him visits to places of interest and meetings. We also organized a public gathering at the Archaeological Society's Hall, during which General Valluy gave an extremely interesting lecture with subject: "Principles and Forms of War 1962". The audience, among which many distinguished personalities of politics, science, industry and armed Forces were included, gave to the orator an enthusiastic applause. The text of the Lecture in French was duplicated in several hundreds copies and distributed by our Association. It was also translated in Greek and published in the official periodical of the Ministry of Defence.

The program of lectures for this year has been worked out to include some distinguished lecturers, but was somewhat delayed due to the uncertainty created by the problems connected with the constitution of a multilateral nuclear force.

The distribution of the quarterly Greek edition of NATO letters ( Deltion) is being carried on regularly by our Association and the number of the distributed copies has been increased from 3,000 to 4,000, with a prospected further increase to 5,000 copies.

We also keep in our office a complete documentation on NATO for the use of our visitors among whom many young students are included.

The number of our Associates has increased to 80 and is constantly growing. We are now planning to create branches at the most important towns of the provinces, as well as special branches for students of medium and high Schools.

- Included also in the program of our activities for 1963 are two competitions :
- one for students of Universities, Technical University and High Schools, with a 1st prize of 5,000 Drachme and three prizes of 2,000 Dr. each, for the best paper ( of 1000 words) on the objects of NATO and on its role for the maintenance of peace and security with a special reference to Greece.
  - one for an " affiche" advertising Nato's activities and spreading the ideals of the Alliance among the population.

The first one of these competitions has already been proclaimed and quite a number of papers are now daily received in our office.

The second competition is going to be proclaimed during the next month and we will try our best to make it a success.

The difficulties over the question of the creation of an independent nuclear force in Europe and the problems arising on this matter have created some uneasiness among the Greek public opinion. Although our country is not directly affected due to its financial impossibility to acquire and maintain nuclear weapons, yet the present situation has created a certain confusion in the public opinion, which the Leftist Press is adroitly exploiting. They are trying to spread doubts among the public as to the motives of U.S.A.'s insistence to maintain the sole control of the nuclear warheads, as well as to its willingness to use the nuclear deterrent for the defence of minor Allies. The role of our Association is to make it clear to the public opinion that different points of view are bound to exist among Democratic Countries and to be openly discussed without in any way impairing their willingness to meet the requirements of the common defence and its indivisibility.

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