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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 17, 1973

Honorable William P. Rogers
The Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I understand that John Zighdis, a former Member of Parliament, who was released for medical reasons from prison in Greece last year, is again threatened with imprisonment. I write to urge that the Department, both here and in Athens, take every appropriate measure on Mr. Zighdis' behalf.

I have followed Mr. Zighdis' case since his arrest and conviction by court martial in early 1970. It was and still is my belief that Mr. Zighdis' alleged offense was one of the more outrageous examples of political repression of the present Greek government. By our material and moral support of that government, I believe further that we share the responsibility for the fate of former Greek Parliamentarians like John Zighdis.

Aside from the basic injustices which would be involved by his reimprisonment, there are, I understand, strong humanitarian reasons based on Mr. Zighdis' health, which deteriorated drastically while he was in prison, which would compel reconsideration of any proposals to end his medical parole. Please let me know what information our Embassy can supply about Mr. Zighdis' case and what measures the Department can and will take to prevent his reimprisonment.

My kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

CANTON, OHIO
REPOSITORY

JAN 24 1973
E - 73,514
S - 83,577

Agnew's Staff Is Cut

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

WASHINGTON — The White House has decreed an important reduction in Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's tiny personal staff which will strip him of long-time aides J. Roy Goodearle and Herbert Thompson — a move certain to be interpreted as a sign of Agnew's political decline.

Agnew has had at least two conversations with President Nixon since the election, but the staff reductions ordered by White House major demo H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and former personnel chief Frederick Malek apparently were not discussed.

Rather, the vice president's staff was "routinely" ordered to be trimmed down as part of Mr. Nixon's overall staff reduction inside the White House. Many key White House staffers, however, were promoted to high jobs in cabinet-level departments and remain closely linked to the White House operation. That is not true of Goodearle, who has been Agnew's political liaison chief, and Thompson, a speechwriter who was Agnew's press secretary as governor of Maryland. They will stay in government, but in nonpolitical jobs.

These involuntary staff reductions coincide with the voluntary departure of press secretary Vic Gold, who is quitting to write a book. Agnew's political staff, never one of his strengths, is now weaker than ever at a moment ripe for building a national operation aiming toward the 1976 presidential nomination.

More important, all this casts new doubts on the President's congeniality toward Agnew. Republican politicians aware of the staff reductions say privately Mr. Nixon could have demonstrated normal courtesy toward Agnew by exempting the vice president's small staff from personal cuts in the overblown White House staff.

They quickly add Mr. Nixon himself may not even know about the cuts. The mere fact they were ordered by Haldeman, however, is evidence that Agnew's standing with the White House palace guard is chilly at the very least.

Wall Street Cowboys

A major House Ways and Means Committee investigation which may tie booming cattle operations of "Wall Street cowboys" to soaring beef prices is being quietly planned by chairman Wilbur Mills.

Mills worries that tax benefits originally written for low-bracket farmers are being used by high-bracket city slickers in a way that bids up beef prices. Therefore in his tax reform hearings, Mills will dig into the law now permitting enormous tax deductions — sometimes exceeding 100 per cent — covering the entire cost of feed for feeder cattle fattened on the range or in feeder lots. For Wall Street farmers, these deductions produce large and immediate tax savings.

Mills is concerned that the growing capital now moving into the cattle-fattening business as a tax shelter may be bidding up the price of the finished product — an argument he may use to close one of the oldest and biggest loopholes in the tax code.

Greek Tragedy

The State Department, notorious for ignoring excesses of the Greek military dictatorship, has been privately asked by a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to intervene in behalf of a threatened Greek politician.

Rep. Ben Rosenthal of New York, chairman of the subcommittee handling Greek affairs, has personally asked Secretary of State William Rogers to make an extraordinary intervention to save John Zigdis, a cabinet minister in parliamentary days from going back to jail.

The disgraceful Zigdis case began in April 1970, with an interview he gave to "Elinos," the highly esteemed Athens newspaper. Because the article was critical of the military junta, the newspaper was shut down and Zigdis and its editors thrown in jail.

After 22 months, Zigdis was released because of deteriorating health. But he is now threatened with a return to jail on Jan. 23. A new, highly-publicized decree promising reversal of verdicts by Extraordinary Courts martial specifically excluded Zigdis.

Thus, barring high-level U.S. intervention, Zigdis faces prison again this week. In a letter to Greek exile leader Elias Demetracopoulos, Rosenthal said that since the U.S. "has offered material and moral support to the present Greek government, it bears the responsibility with that government for the status of political prisoners like Mr. Zigdis."

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Front Page	Editor Page	Other Page
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ATLANTA, GA.

JOURNAL

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JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

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JUN 15 1973

The Greek Quandary

FOR A PROTRACTED period the question of the dictatorship in Greece has haunted our relations with that nation as well as with other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

None of us in NATO have been exactly happy with what has been transpiring in Greece. But we have endeavored to take the pragmatic approach that Greece is NATO's essential eastern anchor on the Mediterranean and so it would be best to regard the travail of Greece as an internal matter.

There has been no enthusiasm in such an attitude. And there has been increasing erosion of such a position.

The recent move by the Papadopoulos regime, abolishing the monarchy and proclaiming a republic of sorts, has added to the complexity of the situation.

Now Britain has granted full diplomatic recognition to the newly formed Republic of Greece. It would appear that such a move is of undue haste. After all, the Greeks themselves are to go to the polls in a referendum July 29 to vote for or against the establishment of a republic. And while the outcome could hardly be in doubt, one would think that the niceties of such a popular vote would precede formal diplomatic recognition.

Other nations, the United States included, are holding back any official position regarding the new form of government in Greece. Presumably we

shall hold back as long as possible simply because whatever we do we can hardly regard ourselves as a winner.

If we endorse the Papadopoulos republic, we are openly and knowingly aligning ourselves with a dictatorial regime which has made freedom a fiction. And while there is no question that we can come up with a plethora of rationalizations to defend such a position, we shall have to live with the knowledge that our position is, in reality, a spurious one.

On the other hand we can refuse to back the Papadopoulos republic. In that case we endanger the NATO flank in southeast Europe and gratuitously provide the means for the Warsaw Pact to outflank us.

Neither choice is inviting. Each has more disadvantages than advantages.

Had the government in Athens continued as in the past, we could have sidestepped such a quandary indefinitely. But the overt abolition of the monarchy and the proclamation of a republic has placed us between a rock and hard place insofar as our Greek policy is concerned.