

(Draft  
Foster)

CHAIRMAN MORGAN

General Goodpaster

June 20, 1974

Q. (Brumfield) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ as to your comments made as to the forces and training, with a high degree of readiness, given the internal friction existing in Greece, will they be able to fulfill their legal obligations?

A. I will speak of the Greek armed forces. I of course follow their condition very closely <sup>and I speak of</sup> ~~and I speak on~~ their training and of their readiness and of the strategic role in NATO in the territory of the forces in Greece, that they have in that area. The state of their training is high, as I stated, there. They train hard and their soldiers are dedicated to their country, to the independence of their country. I have no question in that regard. They maintain a high state of readiness that is <sup>in tested in</sup> ~~dependent~~ <sup>air</sup> so far as the Armed Forces, <sup>as concerned</sup> ~~concerned~~ thru evaluation procedures and <sup>as tested with their</sup> ~~ground~~ forces, thru exercises and other means. We are aware, of course, of a mutiny in the Navy that occurred during the past year and no one would claim of course that this would be without its effect. <sup>Don't even mention 74-7</sup> ~~Take into account~~

the capability they have developed and maintained in the Armed Forces is, I think, solid.

~~As~~ The strategic role <sup>is</sup> important <sup>To</sup> of the area and the forces of Greece in that area, the control of the Eastern Mediterranean ~~and~~ The maintenance of a stable security for this area there, I think is very much dependent upon the continued participation of our <sup>all the Greek nation</sup> allies in the NATO structure.

You refer to internal political situation. As an Allied officer, in my relation to Greece, as I have described here, it is incumbent upon me and my commanders and staff officers to avoid, to keep clear of involvement and interference in the internal political affairs of Greece, just as any other NATO -- we attempt to do that; those attempts sometimes are not always successful. We attempt as best we can to meet our obligations in good faith and avoid being caught in internal political situations.

*Present, all*  
 Q. Because of the internal political situations, does it not reduce the ~~love~~ effectiveness <sup>of</sup> Greece in NATO?

A. To attempt to link those factors would be speculative and I must confine myself to the description of their forces as I perceive them.

Shapiro

3.

Q. Will you comment upon the effect in Portugal --

A. I think it is too early for me to be able to say much about that on the side of U.S. activities, that is, the military assistance programs. I know this is being observed with great interest. I know it has been a subject of discussion and has been now discussed between Nixon and Spinoza. I believe there is a wide feeling that possibilities have now opened for the future which will permit a much more mutually beneficial relationship to develop. Exactly how it is to be done will be a matter of negotiation and discussion.

On the NATO side, I can only say we are gratified at the word that has been given to us from our Portuguese Allies as their contingent to continue to participate fully with in NATO and the hope that/their participation it may be possible to become greater in the future.

MR. ROSENTHAL: I want to expand on the subject of Greece -- <sup>which Mr. Bronsfield indicated.</sup>  
On March 27 this year John Zighdis former Greek Minister of <sup>and leading member of the Center Union Party</sup>

Industry, testified before the Subcommittee on Europe.

Among things he testified to, <sup>he said:</sup> "The <sup>not</sup> result of the present

Greece <sup>has been the</sup> <sup>(of the Greek armed establishment because)</sup> <sup>weakening</sup> <sup>practically all senior officers</sup> <sup>have</sup>

been removed for political reasons." He suggested the <sup>with no experience</sup> "sit-

uation" <sup>in May 1923</sup> led to some disintegration of the Armed Forces.

<sup>Thereafter</sup> You presumably granted an interview to a Greek journalist which

appeared in all Greek <sup>in some papers</sup> <sup>with a four column</sup> press in Athens on April 27

<sup>headline and in other cities</sup> an 8-column headline. On April 21 Athens News said the

following and I quote --

The significance of Gen. Goodpastor's statement is <sup>manifest</sup> multifold because:

a. <sup>those who</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>may</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>plotting</sup> <sup>against</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>national</sup> <sup>interests</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>Greece</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>warned</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>country's</sup> <sup>armed</sup> <sup>forces</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>shaken</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>ready</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>protect</sup>

b. A severe blow is dealt against those <sup>who</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>effort</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>save</sup> <sup>self</sup> <sup>political</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>social</sup>

have not hesitated to claim the Greek armed forces have been

weakened, as a <sup>former</sup> <sup>official</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Center</sup> <sup>Union</sup> <sup>Party</sup> <sup>did</sup> <sup>before</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Joint</sup> <sup>States</sup> <sup>House</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>Representatives</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>March</sup> <sup>27</sup>.

c. The Greek people believe the armed forces are strong and

are at a high degree of readiness. <sup>is</sup> <sup>strengthened</sup> <sup>further</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>Gen.</sup> <sup>Goodpastor's</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>statement</sup>.

What happened was that your statement was unsatisfactorily

used <sup>in</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>political</sup> <sup>context</sup> <sup>against</sup> <sup>Zighdis</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>others</sup>

Subsequently Zighdis did return to Greece <sup>and</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>now</sup>

confined in some type of prison. I am also advised Ambassador

Tasca <sup>was</sup> distressed at your statement. -- <sup>and</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>able</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>decide</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>any</sup> <sup>political</sup> <sup>ramifications</sup>

<sup>and</sup> <sup>I</sup> <sup>am</sup> <sup>absolutely</sup> <sup>certain</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>no</sup> <sup>political</sup> <sup>ramifications</sup> <sup>were</sup> <sup>desired</sup>  
While you declare no political ramifications, but it did in fact have political ramifications and was used against.

Zighdis. What I am interested in is, <sup>is the procedural question, 5.</sup> ~~is~~ there anything that can be done at NATO Hq for clearing <sup>such situations so that the political</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>if</sup> ~~there~~ is anything else you want to tell us. <sup>if anything</sup> What went wrong. Can anything be done to avoid this in the future.

A. First, may I say in addition to my comment concerning this, I will refer to the point of removal of senior officers <sup>These are officers of</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and experience and</sup> ~~these~~ ability, and inevitably there is a period of time before successors have fully regained the effective level of effectiveness of leadership and no one can deny this <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ a fact in military life. These changes occur constantly in all services and all forces, but when a considerable number of changes occur at the same time there is an inevitable consequence of that, and I would not like to have any misunderstanding in relation to what I have said about training, readiness and incidents in the Navy.

Let me go to a broader question and add to my comment previously. The position that we try to follow is clear and it is not too difficult to <sup>arrange</sup> ~~arrange~~ it. As I indicated, we try to do our military job, to carry out <sup>our military</sup> ~~our~~ responsibility and to do that in the context of respect for the people and the nation of Greece, our allies, a very steady and valued NATO Ally.

We tried to do this also in a way that keeps clear of internal political affairs and I assure you of our effort to avoid interference, involvement, influence,

pro or con, with any particular regime <sup>or its opposition</sup> within any NATO country. It would be quite improper for us as holding allied responsibilities to involve ourselves in that.

We attempt to ~~make~~ ~~do~~ act correctly, to make our actions correct, in these matters. That is the principle. The difficulty comes in assuring that that principle is reflected in practice, in practical affairs that come up. It is difficult because obviously military matters do -- can be made to impinge or can be made <sup>appear to</sup> to impinge on domestic political differences. We try to hold a neutral line.

I have to say I am chagrined to hear my interview given in good faith and prepared very carefully ~~as~~ <sup>as to</sup> the military aspects and to the NATO aspects of the matter, may have been confused in a way that had some influence on <sup>the</sup> domestic political situation. I can only say that should this question arise in the future we will take account of the experience we have had here. I do not want to over state that because I don't believe we could do our military job if we took a stance of refusing to give an evaluation of the role and the success of the military efforts in a particular country. I regard that as part of my obligation and I try to do that carefully.

Now with regard to procedural actions, I think that

perhaps what I have just said, suggests the kind of additional consideration that we will have to give to requests of this kind if they are made in the future.

Q. Re increased tension between Greece and Turkey.  
Comment on the significance of it?

Shipped  
↓

A. We are aware of various issues that concern these two countries and this is a matter to which obviously is given thought and attention and I have taken occasion to discuss some of these concerns with senior military leaders in each country. I will say my view has been that these are issues which in the framework of NATO ought to be -- solutions ought to be found through consultation, through development of mutually satisfactory accommodations. Many of these issues have very complex backgrounds and they will be extremely difficult to resolve, but I have counseled with strength and I have been very gratified at responses assuring me that such restraints will indeed be exercised. I think that is of particular importance insofar as military structure. Problems are difficult enough without adding to the tension through arousing concerns of an emotional nature with the military forces.

I might say that NATO gives a very valuable framework within which to press for the processes of consultation to go forward. Secy Gen. \_\_\_\_\_ devotes his attention to this and I think all of us who bear senior responsibilities to NATO work in that direction. The specifics of these issues are very complicated. They have long historical precedents, Some aspects arise which complicate and disturb the situation. It is my deep hope that a solution will be found by the governments directly concerned and found through the processes of consultation. The other effort I might say to which I have devoted myself is to try to keep focus in both countries on what I regard as maintenance of a stable and secure situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and there must be harmonious action with the other NATO allies if that objective, vis-a-vis the Warsaw Pact is to be attained. I am hopeful that wisdom and the benefit of the NATO association will result in restraint in these problems.



Q. There is no fault in mechanism of NATO.

A. I would go beyond that to say it is part of the established practice and understanding within NATO to use the Council as a forum within which these matters can be considered and the fact that each country is represented by experienced men of high position in the NATO council means they have constantly sought channels of consultation. From time to time Sec. Gen. \_\_\_\_\_ has given a watching brief, where he sees a problem arising he has traditionally exercised initiative to bring the matter under discussion, sometimes more formally, sometimes informally. Finally, a meeting which just occurred in Ottawa - ministers were present - which provides opportunity for direct consultation.

<sup>the</sup>  
ROSENBERG:

I said before John Zighdis was in Greece. I am informed <sup>this is</sup> ~~incorrect~~. He is still in the U.S. and I would like to correct ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> record statement. <sup>accordingly</sup>.

MR. HAMILTON: Do you <sup>expand to</sup> use ~~homeports~~ <sup>as aircraft</sup> in Athens? <sup>soon</sup>

A. At the present time this project is in a deferred status. I think <sup>Secretary</sup> Schlesinger stated that there were, in his words, differing perceptions regarding the factors that enter into this issue. Until a better and stronger basis is reached, it would not seem likely that these negotiations could go forward.

Q. You gave us an impression of the readiness and importance of the <sup>Greek</sup> armed forces. I would like to say, <sup>many US officers who have taken part in 6, 6, 6, 6!</sup> according to information I have had, there ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> excellent <sup>exercises</sup> impressions about the capabilities of the Greek Armed Forces. Would you comment?

A. I commented earlier about the evaluation we conduct from time to time, particularly regarding the Air Force, in which Army and Navy units are involved. It is out of those experiences that we are able to form this evaluation of the effectiveness and dedication of the Greek soldier, Greek officer, and Greek sailor and Greek airman. They train hard. They are very serious about their military activities and their military obligation and they are very serious about their dedication to continued independence of their country against foreign attack. These factors, and you see the result of these factors,

in the fact that their units are handled well, <sup>their</sup> troops perform ~~formed~~ well. They perform excellent maintenance <sup>on equipment</sup> ~~much~~ of which is old and hard to maintain. These are tests that Commanders and senior staff will be making when they observe forces.

In yesterday's Washington Post there was a syndicated column entitled (etc) in which Elias Q. Demetriopoulos is said to have had close contact with Papadopoulos -- How do you see the southern flank - <sup>represent a "Washington back seat leader" was mentioned. Mr. Demetriopoulos is said to have had close contact with someone from NATO.</sup>  
<sup>of the Alliance with the</sup> important contribution of Greece?

A. Well, that is just it. It is important contribution, it is indispensable contribution. I think Greece gains security because of membership in the Alliance and the Alliance gains <sup>security</sup> from the participation of Greece. I am not familiar with the views of <sup>these</sup> the gentlemen you mentioned to be able to comment. <sup>battle</sup> Military and security views of the matter lead me to the conviction that we have achieved stable security situation in that area, <sup>and</sup> without Greece it would be not possible to conceive maintenance of balance and stability <sup>in the region.</sup>