

~~Security Information~~
CLASSIFICATION

MAY 2 1956

DATE:

FROM :

SUBJECT: GENERAL

SPECIFIC - Polk Case Series

RE :

MICROFILMED
JUN 8 1966
DOC. MICRO. SER.

1. In his series of 12 articles on the Polk Case, Vassos Tsimbidaros, Correspondent for Apogevmatini, has resurrected the entire Polk matter and by a piece of thorough research and sleuthing, plus the use of some imagination, has come to the conclusion that despite the fact that he is certain that Gregory Staktopoulos is guilty of complicity in the matter, he is also certain that Staktopoulos is not as guilty as he and the court pictured him and that many loose ends, facts and deliberate failures to tell all of the truth were involved in the investigation.

2. In this regard, Tsimbidaros presents an analysis of the entire Polk matter, the details of his death as officially described and, by presenting certain new facts and also implied new considerations, leaves these for further clarification - the clarification of which is necessary, according to him, before the Polk affair can be considered closed.

3. Since it is our belief that headquarters will be better able to draw its own picture of the series by reading the originals rather than brief resumes by us, we are forwarding the entire series for its study. Headquarters will notice, as we did, that Tsimbidaros makes the following main points in his series:

a. Gregory Staktopoulos, although guilty as were the communists, is obviously hiding pertinent facts which would throw new light on the case and probably reopen the investigation if disclosed. Also, that he hid in many instances, for some reason.

b. The complicity of Randall Coate, BIS man in Salonika at the time of the murder. The writer states definitely that Coate was the cut-out between Markos and American newspapermen wishing to visit the guerrillas and that Coate was in touch with Markos. Coate, as well as his secretary, were hurriedly transferred from Greece one day before Polk's body was discovered. They did not return to testify.

c. The implication that Polk's murder have been BIS inspired. Tsimbidaros, in analyzing Coate's role in the murder of British-American antagonism in Greece at the time and murder that the murder may have been designed to spoil Greek-American relations to the benefit of the British.

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Significantly, this

OTC / NSM

FORM NO. 51-28A
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Significantly, this article in the series was reprinted by Avri, along with all its implications of EIS's hand in the murder.

d. The implication that Polk may have been an American agent. Tsimbidaros bases this on Polk's naval record, his press pass and Identity Card which, he says, gave him a sort of "semi-official status".

e. The strange and not-revealed role of Costas ~~Hadjiargyris~~, who still hasn't revealed all he knows. Also, the implications that Hadjiargyris was a British agent.

f. The strange behavior of ~~Red Polk~~, the wife of the deceased. Here too, according to the writer, was a case of not revealing all that was known.

g. The suspicious complicity on the part of Greek authorities in preventing the exposure of all the facts in this case. In some instances, as in the case of Hadjiargyris, this is attributed to pressure on Rendis, then Minister of Public Order to avoid involving a relative of the (Prime Minister) Sophoulis. In other cases, the implications are that the "allied factor" or "political expediency" may have been involved.

4. As far as we have been able to learn, the intent of the writer was to present a series on a matter that would insure a boost in his paper's circulation. In this respect, he was successful, according to information about town. Allazi, wishing to follow up on the series, probably for the same reason, among others, began on 26 April its series on the case by George Drossos, Greek Liaison officer with UNSCOP, 1947-1948 and presently associated with Allazi. Drossos, in his first article, agrees with Tsimbidaros that many loose ends exist, that much pertinent testimony was either squashed or distorted and that either because of political intent or that desire to cover someone, or maybe both, the official version of the murder was not the complete one. We will forward this complete series when finished, as well as any important revelations as they appear.

5. Forwarded herewith are the 12 untranslated articles of the Tsimbidaros series.

Enclosure:

1. 12 articles (NSM)

30 April 1953

Distribution:

1 - Mash (w/attachment)
 1 - Carano (no attachment)
 1 - Registrar (no attachment)
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