

NEWSLETTER

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HELLENIC LINK

Midwest

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC
LINK WITH GREECE

Upcoming Events

Hellenic Link Midwest Annual Dinner Dance - Scholarship Awards

This year our Annual Dinner Dance and Scholarship Awards will be combined with our celebration for the New Year. The combined celebration will be held on Saturday, January 23, 1998, at the Ambassador Banquets, 110 West North Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois (phone: 630 279-0424). Dinner will be served at 7:30 PM while cocktails will start at 6:30 PM. For tickets, \$30 for adults and \$15 for children, please call 847 498-3686, or contact anyone from the members of the Board. Our Dinner Dances are always distinguished for the excellent food, the unique kefi and the fine music. The Annual Dinner Dance is the only fundraising event of Hellenic Link Midwest. The proceeds are used to support the scholarship awards, the cultural and educational programs, and all other activities of the organization. The generous support of our members and friends will be greatly appreciated.

The Hellenic Link Midwest scholarships are awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who have at least one parent of Greek decent and excel in their studies. The primary selection criteria are scholastic performance and financial need.

The Cyprus Crisis of 1974 - American Policy Perspectives Then and Now

On Sunday February 28, 1999, Hellenic Link Midwest will present Ambassador Thomas Boyatt in a lecture on "*The Cyprus Crisis of 1974 - American Policy Perspectives Then and Now.*" Mr. Boyatt entered the Foreign Service in 1959 and has served in many diplomatic posts around the world, including Ambassador to Upper Volta and Ambassador to Columbia. He was First Secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus in 1967-1970. He returned to Washington in 1970 as Special Assistant to Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East. In 1974, when Turkey invaded Cyprus, Ambassador Boyatt was Director of the Cyprus Desk at the U.S. State

Department (1971-1974). In 1983 Ambassador Boyatt was promoted to the personal rank of Career Minister of the Foreign Service. He has received many awards and speaks Spanish, French and Greek. The lecture will be held at Embassy Suites Hotel, 600 North State Street in Chicago.

In Brief

Europarlament on Latest Halki Provocation

Turkey in violation of its own constitution, in 1971 closed the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate's Halki School of Theology. In early November, Turkey decided to abolish the School's supervisory committee for alleged "mismanagement and propaganda against the Turkish state". Speaking on the subject, on November 10, 1998, Greece's Deputy Foreign Minister Yiannos Kranidiotis said that "it should be stressed that the issue goes beyond the narrow framework of Greek-Turkish relations, since it is a problem of respect of human rights and religious freedoms in Turkey, and as such, it has provoked the reaction of other governments and international organizations." On November 19, 1998, the European Parliament passed a resolution, backed by all political groupings, that calls on Turkey to take all necessary measures to reverse the "illegal and unfair" decision, to proceed with the necessary actions for the reopening of the Halki Academy, and ensure its smooth operation as an essential part of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Human Rights Watch on Turkey

The Human Rights Watch report covering the period December 1997 to November 1998 was released on November 27, 1998. The report accuses Turkey for systematic use of "torture and mistreatment during pre-trial detention by the anti-terror police"; failure to aid those the government forcibly displaced; state control of women's virginity; deaths while in police custody; abuse of the Greek ethnic minority, and the torture of children. "Turkey's anti-terror police has become infamous both within the country and outside of Turkey for the

widespread use of such practices against detainees accused of political crimes, both violent and non-violent... criminal suspects also face the prospect of torture and mistreatment at the hands of the regular police... The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CTP) stated that the maltreatment of seven suspects at the Anti-Terror Branch of the Istanbul Police headquarters must rank among the most flagrant examples of torture encountered by CTP delegations in Turkey...certain departments within the Interior Ministry were becoming a "State within a State"... Some 2,685 villages and hamlets in Turkey's southeastern provinces have been completely or partially depopulated since fighting broke out in the region in August 1984 between government forces and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). The move intended to "deprive the PKK of logistical support," and in its effort to root-out PKK sympathisers, death-squads killed 2,000 civilians. Human Rights Watch also compiled a special report on the state control of females' virginity in Turkey, citing several separate incidents in "the spring of 1992, when young females committed suicide after authorities ordered them to submit to examinations of their hymens." For Greece, the report stated that human rights abuses focus on "migrants and ethnic minorities", but "some positive steps" have been taken since 1996. According to the report, the Greek government has taken steps to legalize the presence of an "estimated 500,000 illegal Albanian migrants" and to increase infrastructure investments in regions of Thrace populated by Moslems. The report said that last February "Prime Minister Simitis openly acknowledged the problem of racism in Greece, a first for a Greek prime minister."

About 800,000 Illegal Immigrants in Greece

On November 11, 1998, the international medical care group Doctors without Frontiers released data collected over the past two years on the illegal immigrant population of Greece. Two years ago the group initiated medical and social support for illegal immigrants in Greece. According to this data, about 800,000 illegal immigrants are living in Greece, of which about 500,000 live in Athens, Thessaloniki and other major urban areas. A large number of those who visited the group's medical facilities are mainly seasonal workers and Kurds in transit to other countries, as well as Albanians returning to their country freely or through deportation. Representatives of the group said that 19 per cent of the patients they treated were Albanians; 13 per cent were Bulgarians; 12 per cent Romanians; 12 per cent Iraqis; 4 per cent Moldovans; and 3 per cent were Nigerians. The remaining 21 per cent are divided among several nationalities.

Parks of Wind Power in Crete

On November 18, 1998, the Greek Public Power Corporation signed a contract worth 3.5 billion drachmas with NEG Micon-ATE Gnomon Group for the construction of two wind parks in Xerolimni, Crete. The 17.6 MW wind generators of these parks is expected to generate 10.2 MW of power. The project will contribute to the energy supply in the island of Crete, especially in the summer months, and to a cleaner environment by reducing dependence on energy production by fossil fuels. It is expected to be completed in thirteen months.

Greece Less Vulnerable to the Millennium Bug

On November 20, 1998, Greece's interior minister Alekos Papadopoulos said that the inefficiency of Greece's public administration makes it less vulnerable to the "millennium bug" than other European Union countries. Among other reasons, the Greek public administration is less efficient than those of other European countries because it has been slow in introducing computers. This is a "silver lining in the cloud" the minister said. A five member ad hoc committee, made up of the ministers of the interior, defense, national economy, development, and transports will be established to deal with the problem and set an information campaign on the issue.

The Health of Greeks is Constantly Worsening

The health of Greeks is going from bad to worse practically every year, scientists said on the occasion of the second national health education conference. Assistant professor of social medicine Yiannis Tountas said that Greece is the only developed country in the world in which deaths from cardiac diseases, cancer and accidents are constantly increasing, as neither the citizens nor the state show any interest in health. He said that important factors creating health problems and shaping negative indicators are the increased number of smokers, pollution in internal spaces and environmental pollution. These factors also have a negative impact on fertility.

From Our History

Sir John Stavridi and the British Offer of 1915.

(Continued from the last issue)

Wednesday 24th March. Lloyd George telephoned that he had a cold and was staying at Walton Heath and asked me to go and lunch with him. I have just returned from spending the afternoon with him....Referring to the statement in Zografos' telegram that if any proposals were made, they would be considered in the most friendly spirit, he repeated that no further proposals would be made by the Powers to Greece, but any such must come from us. We must not forget that we are dealing with the Great Powers, who have their dignity. They had made proposals and offers and these had been rejected: they would not again lay themselves open to a slight from Greece. We then discussed what guarantees and concessions Greece might acquire for her assistance. I started that I had no instructions on the subject and would not, therefore, in any way bind the Government, but that my personal views on the subject were as follows:

- 1) A guarantee for the integrity of our actual possessions, with the armed assistance of the Powers in case of need.
- 2) The recognition of Northern Epirus as part and parcel of the Kingdom of Greece.
- 3) The vilayet of Smyrna with hinterland and the littoral, with frontiers to be settled later.
- 4) Cession to Greece of the islands of the Dodecanese retained by Italy.
- 5) Cession by England of Cyprus.
- 6) Financial assistance as required, and
- 7) An offensive and defensive alliance with England.

I thought that these concessions would fully satisfy both the King, the Government, and the Hellenic aspirations of the people. When I got to No. 4, he stopped me and said that, from their information, the Government had every hope of seeing Italy join the Allies in April or May and that, if she did, it would be impossible to ask her to give up the Dodecanese. If, however, she did not join in, England would be willing to assist us as much as possible in obtaining these lands. I reminded him of Churchill's and his own statements on the subject, and also of Grey's public declaration in the House of Commons, but he replied that if Italy were their ally, the whole circumstances would have changed. - As regards Cyprus, none of the Ministers, except perhaps Kitchener, would object to our having it. I pointed out that if the aim of this war was to liberate small nationalities, it would be an immoral act on the part of England not to free the Cypriots, and he agreed.

Concerning the proposed alliance with England, he said I knew his views on the subject and the whole Cabinet would welcome it, as it would render the two countries masters of the Mediterranean; they would be willing to discuss the question and settle the basis, but the final treaty could only be signed after the end of the war. He asked me to tell Zografos that the Powers had decided that, after this war, there would no longer be any Ottoman Empire, neither in Europe, nor even in Asia.

I asked whether, at any time, Russia had stated that she did not wish our army to enter Constantinople with the Allies, as had been mentioned in the Greek press; but he told me that was not so. Russia did not like us and was perhaps afraid of our influence in Turkey, but had not laid down any conditions in regard to us. She was negotiating with Bulgaria and preferred to have her as an ally. Even Churchill was now much more pro-Bulgarian than pro-Greek, notwithstanding our navy. He said that all their information tended to show that there was no longer any danger of an overwhelming attack against Serbia; the fall of Przemysl had relieved the situation entirely on that side. I again mooted the question of his going East to resuscitate the Balkan alliance, and told him, in my opinion, he could do it in a month, and as it would probably curtail the war by many months, it would be the greatest thing he had ever done, not only for his own country and for the Balkan powers, but for the whole of humanity. He agreed and said that he had not given up all hope of going. - He then stated that I could telegraph Zografos and tell him that if Greece were to offer the Allies her wholehearted support, provided the guarantees and concessions mentioned by me, but particularly Nos. 4 and 7, were granted, he believed he could get England and her Allies to give their consent. He stated that a Cabinet meeting would be held on Friday next at 12 o'clock and if I could give him some news, it might prevent any decision contrary to our interests being taken.

Saturday 22nd May: Italy has broken off with Austria and decided to join the war. Now it is clear why Lloyd George did not wish to see me, and why the proposals of Greece, while not rejected, were left without a reply. - It is impossible for one to rejoice at the entry of Italy into the fray; I feel as if she had usurped a place belonging to Greece. She will now realize her national ideals and aspirations, whereas we may have to wait for centuries, if ever the chance should come to us again. The worst thought is that the Dodecanese is now lost to us; never will the Powers and Italy give up our twelve islands inhabited purely by a Greek population. And think that this war is fought for national redemption, and to free small crushed nationalities, what hypocrisy!

(To be continued)

ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΛΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΜΑΣ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ

Εκείνα τα Χριστούγεννα

Θεανώ Παπάζογλου-Μάργαρη

Ήρθαν και σφήνωσαν στο νου μου εκείνα τα Χριστούγεννα στο Σιντιρλί. Τουρκόπολη το Σιντιρλί, στην καρδιά της Μικρασίας. Μα είχε και 200 οικογένειες χριστιανικές (τότε- τώρα ούτε μιά!) και προσφέρθηκαν να στεγάσουν 150 προσφυγικές οικογένειες, ώσπου να τελειώσει ο πόλεμος, ο πρώτος μεγάλος πόλεμος, και πήγαν 500. Οι πιά πολλές απ' τα βομβαρδισμένα μέρη: Τσανάκαλε, Καλλίπολλη.

Γέμισε ο αυλόγυρος της εκκλησίας, τα δυό σκολειά, το νεκροταφείο, δίπλα και πέρα οι σταύλοι, οι αποθήκες, στην άκρη της πόλης. Κι ερχότανε οι ντόπιες φαμιλιές, χριστιανικές μα λιγα τα ελληνικά τους, οι πρόσφυγες ούτε μιά λέξη τούρκικα! Διάλεγαν μιά προσφυγική φαμιλιά και την έπαιρναν στο σπίτι τους.

Εμάς δε μας θέλησε καμιά. Τέσσερα μικρά ορφανά, και η γιαγιά όλο να κλαίει γιά τη μάνα μας, που πέθανε κοπέλλα ακόμα, και μείναμε στη ραχη της, κι ο παππούς όλο να βλαστημάει, μισοπάλαβος από τότε που η τουρκική κυβέρνηση κατάσχεσε τη μαούνα του γιά στρατιωτικές μεταφορές. Πιός να μας θελήσει εμάς!

Μείναμε έξω ως τα πρώτα κρύα και μετά βρήκαμε θέση στο ενα από τα δυο σκολειά που δε λειτουργούσε, γιά να 'χουμε στέγη-κάπου 70. Κοιμόμασταν αράδα όλοι, γυναίκες και παιδιά, σαν σαρδέλλες στο βαρέλι.

Μα κατά τα Αηνικολοβάρβαρα, μήτε οι μισοί! Είχε πέσει θανατικό στους πρόσφυγες, σ' όλη την πόλη και πήρε και πολλούς ντόπιους, χριστιανούς και Τούρκους.

Στό σκολειό η φαμιλιά της Μιλίτσας. Έξι παιδιά είχε και η μάνα της, και δεν τους θέλησε καμιά ντόπια οικογένεια. Αυτό ήτανε μεγάλη τύχη γιά μένα. Γιατί το Μιλιό, μόνο κάνα χρόνο μεγαλύτερό μου, μα σπέρτο! Μόλις ξημέρωνε, μ'έπαιρνε και βγαίναμε και δεν ακούγαμε το κλάματα και τα μοιρολόγια. Γιατί κάθε μέρα και λείψανο είχανε, στο ένα ή στο άλλο σκολειό, χώρια πού φέρνανε στην εκκλησιά και κείνους που πεθαίναν στα σπίτια, πρόσφυγες και ντόπιους, και πίσω από τα σκολειά το κοιμητήρι, πού όλο μνήματα άνοιγε κάποιος. Λοιπόν έξυπνο το Μιλιό, τετραπέρατο, μέ τράβαγε και φεύγαμε πέρα στα περιβόλια, όπου βρίσκαμε κάτι λαχανόριζες θαύμα, πίναμε κι απ'τό ποτάμι νεράκι, και γυρνούσαμε βραδάκι στο σκολειό να κοιμηθούμε.

Ός τα Αηνικολοβάρβαρα είχε θάψει η μάνα της όλα τα άλλα πέντε παιδιά της. Η μεγάλη της, κοπέλλα της παντριάς, 16 χρονών, πέθανε την ίδια μέρα με το αγοράκι της, κι έλεγαν ότι της έστριψε της άμοιρης. Το Μιλιό τώρα νά 'τανε βολετό να μην ερχόμασταν καθόλου στο σκολειό, ούτε γιά ύπνο.

Αλλά μιά βδομάδα πριν τα Χριστούγεννα, ξαφνικά κι αναπάντεχα, πάει και το Μιλιό.

Τώρα η σειρά μου. Τό ήθελα. Πως θα ζούσα χωρίς το Μιλιό; Στον άλλο κόσμο θα 'βρισκα και τη μητέρα μου και τον πατέρα μου, όλους που πέθαναν...

Δυό μέρες πριν τα Χριστούγεννα βγήκε τελάλης και διαλάλησε πως μιά επιτροπή από τη Σμύρνη έστειλε αλεύρι και κρέας για τον προσφυγόκοσμο να κάνει καλά Χριστούγεννα. Τρέξαν οι γυναίκες και πήραν όσο τους έπεφτε, ανάλογα με τα άτομα που απόμειναν στη φαμιλιά μας. Ζύμωσαν την παραμονή, χώρια η καθεμιά τ' αλεύρι της, τσουρέκια, και δανειστήκαν κι ένα καζάνι από μιά ντόπια, και βάλανε το βραδάκι το κρέας όλο μαζί να σιγοβράζει, έξω, στον αυλόγυρο, στήσανε τζάκι.

Γέμισε κόσμος, όχι μόνο η εκκλησιά τη νύχτα, σα χτύπησε η καμπάνα, μα κι ο αυλόγυρος-δε χωρούσε μέσα. Γιά 200 φαμιλιές χτισμένη. Και μόλις ακούστηκε απ' τον παπά το "επί γης ειρήνη", όλα τα στόματα με τα μάτια ψηλά, προς το Θεό,

"ειρήνη, ειρήνη" φώναξαν με δέος. Μετά στρώσανε στο πάτωμα του σκολειού μας ένα σεντόνι, της Άννας, που δεν το 'χε πουλήσει ακόμα γιά ψωμί, βάλανε στη μέση γαβάθες με ζωμό και κρέας, και κουτάλια γύρω και καθήσαμε, με το δαδί να φέγγει, μα πριν αρχίσουμε να φάμε, κάποια είπε:

-Πού είναι η Μαρίτσα-η μάνα της Μιλίτσας.

-Θα πήγε δίπλα, στο άλλο σκολειό, την Τσανακαλιώτισσα, που εχασε κι αυτή όλα τα παιδιά της, είπανε. Και πήγαν να τη φέρουν.

Δεν ήτανε εκεί, ούτε και στον αυλόγυρο πουθενά, οι οξώπορτες κλειδωμένες.

-Στο κοιμητήρι θα πήγε να κλάψει τα παιδιά της, είπανε.

Πήραν το δαδί να βλέπουν και πήγαν. Τη βρήκανε πάνω στο φρέσκο μνημούρι του Μιλιού. Το είχε μισοσκάψει με τα νύχια της.

-Θέλω να βγάλω το Μιλιό μου να ζεστάνω το ποδαράκι του, κάνει κρύο, έλεγε παράξενα.

Την τράβηξαν στο σκολειό, την κάθισαν να φάει, μα δεν έφαγε αυτή. Μόνο νιαούριζε:

-Το Μιλιό μου, που ήτανε σα ρέπανος, δεν είχε σεντόνι της Άννας, που δέν τό 'χε πουλήσει ακόμα έσβησε κι αυτό;

Κάτι τέτοια έλεγε. Εμείς τρώγαμε. Μήνες κρέας δεν είχαμε φάει.

Πώς ήρθαν και σφήνωσαν τώρα εκείνα τότε τα Χριστούγεννα στο νου μου; Μυστήριο!...