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OA/ID Number: 13763
Folder ID Number: 13763-012

Folder Title:
Embassy Greeting, Athens, 7/19/91

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	21	5	2

GREECE

Embassy Greeting
Athens

Nick Burns, NSC - x6849

John Long, State - 647-6114

John ~~K~~lekas, Embassy, Political Division x390
call through Signal

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
July 2, 1991 3 p.m.
EMBASSY Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S. EMBASSY GREETINGS
July 20, 1991
Athens, Greece

* Thank you all for that warm reception. I want to give an equally warm thanks to Mike and Estelle: marvelous hosts. Mike's not only a good friend, he's a gifted and hard-working Ambassador. I couldn't hope to have a finer American to serve me here.

* You and the whole staff have done a superb job in all these arrangements. Your admin officer -- are you still speaking to me? You deserve a special thanks -- you bear a disproportionate share of the load. So many others: the political counselor and staff; communications people; military; Greek citizens working here. I'm sympathetic, since I've been in your shoes. When I was Ambassador in China we survived one visit from the President of the United States -- and two from Henry Kissinger. You're talking to a guy who knows what you've been through here.

* To this whole team -- and it really is a team -- thank you for your extra workload and your welcome, and for making sure everything's run so smoothly. The only thing I can say is: you can breathe easy soon, because I promise to leave on schedule.

* (INSIDE STORY TO COME) Being here in Athens, I now know some of the power summoned up in Pericles' Funeral Oration, which reminds us it was "by courage, sense of duty, and a keen feeling of honour in action that men were enabled to win" all the greatness of this proud, ancient city.

* You deserve thanks from the country you represent. We

have a unique relationship with Greece -- a bond based on our shared values of democracy and liberty. Today and yesterday, I have seen first-hand how your special kind of diplomacy celebrates our country's friendship.

* This celebration is especially sweet, because it's been a harrowing year. Everyone representing our country throughout the world has been through times of hard work and hard decisions. But you persevered and pulled together with your colleagues abroad and at home in support of what we were standing for in the Gulf. Your efforts, and your successful liaison with the Greek government, were important to our cause. When war came, I know that this embassy -- the whole American community -- faced a serious terrorist threat. I know you staffed a command post around the clock. You didn't blink. It was a tremendous performance. When you see the victory parades in America -- and they are extraordinary celebrations of the American spirit -- know that they are also paying tribute to you. For you manned your post and stood for our values and stayed fast and firm and true.

* I'll simply end where I began, by thanking you -- all of you, whatever duty you have in this Embassy -- for your service and loyalty to the greatest, freest, most wonderful country on the face of the Earth. Thank you, and God bless you all.

#

671-6344
John K. Home#

FACT CHECK COPY

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
July 10, 1991 1 p.m.
EMBASSY.TS Draft Two

~~STARTED~~
91 JUL 10 12:49
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S. EMBASSY GREETINGS
July 20, 1991
Athens, Greece

* Thank you all for that welcome. I want to give an equally warm thanks to ~~Mike and Estelle~~ ^{Ambassador and Mrs. Sotirhos} marvelous hosts. Mike's not only a good friend, he's a gifted and hard-working Ambassador.

* You and the whole staff have done a superb job in all these arrangements. Your admin ~~officer~~ ^{counselor} -- are you still speaking to me? You deserve a special thanks -- you ~~bear~~ ^{your staff} a disproportionate share of the load. So many others: ~~the political counselor and staff~~, communications people; military; Greek citizens working here; even the peacocks and pheasants whose routine I'm sure we've disrupted.

* I appreciate your efforts because I've been in your shoes. When I was Ambassador ~~in~~ ^{to} China we survived one visit from the President of the United States -- and two from Henry Kissinger. You're talking to a guy who knows what you've been through.

* To this whole team -- it really is a team -- thank you for your extra work and your welcome, and for making sure everything has run so smoothly. The only thing I can say is: you can breathe easy soon, because I promise to leave on schedule.

* And I do apologize for bringing you here not only at this unheard-of early hour -- but on a Saturday, no less. \\ Well, maybe this will set a routine for workouts in your new gym.

motor pool drivers
regional security officers
looking forward

John Klekas

Looking Forward

* Being here in Athens, I now know some of the power summoned up in Pericles' Funeral Oration, which reminds us it was "by courage, sense of duty, and a keen feeling of honor in action that men were enabled to win" all the greatness of this great, ancient city.

* You deserve thanks from the country you represent. We have a unique relationship with Greece -- a bond based on our shared values of democracy and liberty. Here, I have seen first-hand how your diplomatic efforts build upon those ancient ties.

* This celebration is especially sweet, because it's been a harrowing year. Everyone representing our country throughout the world has been through times of hard work and hard decisions. But you persevered and pulled together with your colleagues abroad and at home in support of what we were standing for in the Gulf.

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John Klekas ✓

the face of the Earth. Thank you, and God bless you all.

#

person visit

NIXON - 1972

KISS - 1971-ish

1975

to prepare for
Ford's visit

Ford - 1975

Ford app. Bush to head
the US Mission to Commun.
China

Bush arr. ~~1974~~ 1974

Looking Forward → (2)

KISS - | 1975

to cover a man's other imperfections; since the good action has blotted out the bad, and his merit as a citizen more than outweighed his demerits as an individual. But none of these allowed either wealth with its prospect of future enjoyment to unnerve his spirit, or poverty with its hope of a day of freedom and riches to tempt him to shrink from danger. No, holding that vengeance upon their enemies was more to be desired than any personal blessings, and reckoning this to be the most glorious of hazards, they joyfully determined to accept the risk, to make sure of their vengeance, and to let their wishes wait; and while committing to hope the uncertainty of final success, in the business before them they thought fit to act boldly and trust in themselves. Thus choosing to die resisting, rather than to live submitting, they fled only from dishonour, but met danger face to face, and after one brief moment, while at the summit of their fortune, escaped, not from their fear, but from their glory.

[43] "So died these men as became Athenians. You, their survivors, must determine to have as unflinching a resolution in the field, though you may pray that it may have a happier issue. And not contented with ideas derived only from words of the advantages which are bound up with the defence of your country, though these would furnish a valuable text to a speaker even before an audience so alive to them as the present, you must yourselves realize the power of Athens, and feed your eyes upon her from day to day, till love of her fills your hearts; and then, when all her greatness shall break upon you, you must reflect that it was by courage, sense of duty, and a keen feeling of honour in action that men were enabled to win all this, and that no personal failure in an enterprise could make them consent to deprive their country of their valour, but they laid it at her feet as the most glorious contribution that they could offer. For this offering of their lives made in common by them all they each of them individually received that renown which never grows old, and for a sepulchre, not so much that in which their bones have been deposited, but that noblest of shrines wherein their glory is laid up to be eternally remembered upon every occasion on which deed or story shall call for its commemoration. For heroes have the whole earth for their tomb; and in lands far from their own, where the column with its epitaph declares it, there is enshrined in every breast a record unwritten

with no tablet to preserve it, except that of the heart. These take as your model and, judging happiness to be the fruit of freedom and freedom of valour, never decline the dangers of war. For it is not the miserable that would most justly be unsparing of their lives; these have nothing to hope for: it is rather they to whom continued life may bring reverses as yet unknown, and to whom a fall, if it came, would be most tremendous in its consequences. And surely, to a man of spirit, the degradation of cowardice must be immeasurably more grievous than the unfelt death which strikes him in the midst of his strength and patriotism!

[44] "Comfort, therefore, not condolence, is what I have to offer to the parents of the dead who may be here. Numberless are the chances to which, as they know, the life of man is subject; but fortunate indeed are they who draw for their lot a death so glorious as that which has caused your mourning, and to whom life has been so exactly measured as to terminate in the happiness in which it has been passed. Still I know that this is a hard saying, especially when those are in question of whom you will constantly be reminded by seeing in the homes of others blessings of which once you also boasted: for grief is felt not so much for the want of what we have never known, as for the loss of that to which we have been long accustomed. Yet you who are still of an age to beget children must bear up in the hope of having others in their stead; not only will they help you to forget those whom you have lost, but will be to the state at once a reinforcement and a security; for never can a fair or just policy be expected of the citizen who does not, like his fellows, bring to the decision the interests and apprehensions of a father. While those of you who have passed your prime must congratulate yourselves with the thought that the best part of your life was fortunate, and that the brief span that remains will be cheered by the fame of the departed. For it is only the love of honour that never grows old; and honour it is, not gain, as some would have it, that rejoices the heart of age and helplessness.

[45] "Turning to the sons or brothers of the dead, I see an arduous struggle before you. When a man is gone, all are wont to praise him, and should your merit be ever so transcendent, you will still find it difficult not merely to overtake, but even to approach their renown. The living have envy to contend with,

- from the plan in New Mexico
 - for "mythology" (under the "New & cents")

- system was

importance of events
 parts of her

muscle - part of plant
 - layers & parts - part of value

name of country
 "no people are to be seen"
 "people - two natural resources"

- part of Mt. Olympus

- "Mandibula" - the dragon, head of
 wings had ridges from back head & sea

- "Waves" - from motion of waves
 - 2 types - the quiet & light

- "Mistake in MTGB in DC last year (Tue)
 - 1st corner - on 10 year - the "Mistake" in
 from the w/d a corner in the "Mistake"
 - "Mistake" in MTGB in DC last year (Tue)

George
 Setens
 (Nicholas)
 1903

the quiet & light
 the quiet & light
 the quiet & light

when GB
 the "Mistake"

REMARKS

U.S. EMBASSY ATHENS, JULY 20

HAVING BEEN AN AMBASSADOR MYSELF, I KNOW THAT I HAVE NOT ONLY MIKE TO THANK FOR THE FLAWLESS EXECUTION OF THE SCHEDULE HERE, BUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. MANY OF YOU PERSONALLY WORKED ON SOME ASPECT OF THIS VISIT. SOME OF YOU STOOD AT THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO DID AND OFFERED SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE LATE NIGHTS AND LONG HOURS. YOU ALL HAVE MY APPRECIATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

I WANT TO ADD THAT MY THANKS NATURALLY INCLUDE THE EFFORTS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE NATIONAL EMPLOYEES IN ATHENS, WHOSE UNIQUE TALENTS AND SKILLS HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL TO THE RUNNING OF THIS EMBASSY.

WE HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE. MUCH OF IT GOES ON IN PURELY PRIVATE CHANNELS -- BUSINESSMEN, RELATIVES, PROFESSORS AND OTHERS TRAVELING BACK AND FORTH. BUT DIPLOMACY SHAPES ALL THIS, DIPLOMACY SHELTERS IT, AND TODAY AND YESTERDAY, IN ANY WHIRLWIND TOUR OF CRETE AND ATHENS, I CAN TESTIFY THAT DIPLOMACY CELEBRATES OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.

THIS CELEBRATION IS ESPECIALLY SWEET, BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A HARROWING YEAR. I'M THINKING BACK TO LAST AUGUST, THE INVASION OF KUWAIT AND THE MONTHS LEADING UP TO WAR. THESE WERE TIMES FOR HARD WORK AND HARD DECISIONS IN MANY PLACES, INCLUDING

WASHINGTON. BUT YOU PERSEVERED AND PULLED TOGETHER WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES ABROAD AND AT HOME IN SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY SERVICES. I KNOW YOU SHARED THE PRIDE I FELT WHEN I WATCHED THE VICTORY PARADES IN AMERICA. JUST REMEMBER: YOUR EFFORTS, AND SUCCESSFUL LIAISON WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, WERE IMPORTANT TO OUR CAUSE. WHEN WAR CAME, I KNOW THIS EMBASSY -- THE WHOLE AMERICAN COMMUNITY -- FACED A SERIOUS TERRORIST THREAT. I KNOW YOU STAFFED A COMMAND POST AROUND THE CLOCK. YOU DIDN'T FLINCH OR COMPLAIN. IT WAS A TREMENDOUS PERFORMANCE.

LET ME JUST CLOSE WITH A WORD OF SPECIAL THANKS AND ADMIRATION FOR MIKE SOTIRHOS. HE'S A GOOD FRIEND AS WELL AS A GIFTED AND HARD-WORKING AMBASSADOR, AND I CAN TELL YOU FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN HIS HOME, HE AND ESTELLE ARE MARVELOUS HOSTS. I COULDN'T HOPE TO HAVE A BETTER OR A FINER AMERICAN TO SERVE ME HERE -- AND SO: GOD BLESS YOU ALL, GOD BLESS AMERICA AND GOD BLESS GREECE.

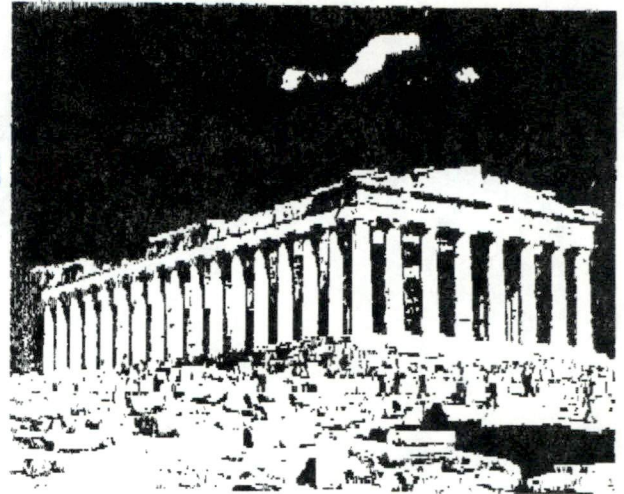
American Embassy ATHENS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

91



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TELEFAX COVER PAGE

FAX Number (30)-(1)- 646-3450

For: CAROL BLYMIRE
Speechwriter, Office of the President

FAX No. (202) 456-6218

From: John KLEKAS, Political Officer, AmEmbassy Athens

Date: _____ Time: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 3

If you did not receive this number of pages please call the above number immediately.

REMARKS: reply to request from Ms. Blymire

*Embassy of the United States of America*

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM

Athens

July 9, 1991

TO: Carol BLYMIRE, Speechwriter, The White House

FROM: John KLEKAS, Political Officer, AmEmbassy Athens

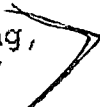
SUBJECT: Notes for the President's Remarks to Embassy Employees

Ref: Blymire/Klekas telephone call 7/9/91

President Bush is currently scheduled to speak to American and Greek employees early Saturday morning, July 20, at the residence of Ambassador Sotirhos.

NOTES:

--The President may wish to remind everyone that he was an ambassador himself and knows first hand about the work and dedication of American and host country national (FSN) employees of U.S. embassies.

--Greece is known for its nocturnal traditions (late dining, etc.); the President may wish to joke about the relatively early hour for gathering on a Saturday. 

--The U.S. Mission in Greece has a large number of American and Foreign Service National (FSN) employees and is comprised of eight USG agencies (e.g., Agriculture, Drug Enforcement Agency, Defense Dept., and Commerce, along with our usual diplomatic agencies). There is a Consulate General in Thessaloniki, one VOA relay station in northern Greece and another on the island of Rhodes.

-2-

--There are 17,000 American and Greek citizens retired in Greece who receive U.S. Federal Benefits administered from the embassy in Athens. Our consular services section receives approximately 54,000 visa applications per year.

--Greece began its struggle for independence in 1821; the U.S. established regular diplomatic relations with Greece in 1868. There have been thirty-four American Ambassadors to Greece over the years since we established diplomatic relations.

--The embassy building (Chancery) was completed on July 4, 1961, having been under construction for two-and-one-half years by 350 Greek engineers, craftsmen and workmen. All of the extensive marble used, along with most of the other material, is from Greece.

--The Embassy Employees Welfare and Recreation Association is constructing a well-equipped gymnasium which is scheduled to open around the period of the President's visit to Athens.

--A Greek monastery has donated two peacocks and two pheasants now housed in a bird cage in the Chancery compound; the President may wish to joke that this is the only embassy he knows of that has such birds as mascots.

--In recent months there were two marriages between American diplomats and Greek FSN employees; such American/Greek marriages have occurred over the long history of the American diplomatic mission to Greece. There are also a number of Greek-Americans--in addition to Ambassador Sotirhos--assigned to this mission. The American staff includes a number of persons having such varied educational backgrounds as anthropology, archaeology and classical studies specializing in Greece.