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SECRET**Prasa****Tass****Moscow**

Athens 19 Mar [1950]. The newspaper Dimokratikon Times has published a statement of the D.A.S.P.E., democratic left trade-union group (connected with the Sofianopoulos party), which reads: "In our country, the trade-union movement is passing through the most critical period of its history. The great majority of our workers and employees have no faith in the present trade-union organizations nor in the appointed leaders who pretend to represent them. The interference of the State and its organs in trade-union matters, the continued appointment of leaders, and the adoption of anti-labor measures have destroyed liberties in the country. On the other hand, employers, who are free from all pressure on the part of the workers and completely uncontrolled, get richer at the expense of the workers and every day raise the cost of living, while the state refuses to authorize even the most insignificant increase in wages. This situation must be done away with. We all must struggle for bread, for trade-union liberties, for better living conditions, and for the liberation of our imprisoned brothers."

The same newspaper announced that on Simi Island (Dodecanese) an atmosphere of fear and terror prevails. Immediately after the elections, representatives of the democratic coalition and of the E.P.E.K. [National Progressive Union of the Center] were arrested, as well as citizens who voted for these parties. Prisoners were sent to jail on the island of Rhodes.

55. Velichanskiy

L. Velichanskiy TASS.

Ploutarkhou 19.

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PressTASSMoscow

Athens. 17 Mar [X] Malchi (which today became a daily newspaper) published a letter from Polivion Koutsayiorgas, imprisoned on Makronisos Island, about the atrocities in this camp (the content of this letter was cabled to you on 27 January). The newspaper uses an article of Ihan Tairimokos, Secretary General of the [S. K.] E. L. D., as an introduction to the above document. The article states that methods applied during Hitler's occupation are repeated on Makronisos, and that the struggle to abolish this infamous camp has therefore the same significance as had the resistance to the occupation.

All honest Greeks, continues the newspaper, regardless of their political opinions, must participate in this struggle and obtain from the parliament and the government the abolition of a camp which has been already condemned by the people's opinion at the elections. The newspaper announces that the letter of Kantsayiorgas represents the beginning of the publication of a whole series of documents and material on atrocities on Makronisos.

In a small note, [X] Malchi ironically referred to the letter from Grady to Theotokis, wherein Grady expressed his appreciation for the "exemplary" manner in which the elections have been carried out. Referring to Grady's statement that during the elections "almost absolute order" prevailed, the newspaper remarked that either absolute order actually prevailed, in which case the word "almost" was irrelevant, or what prevailed was "almost" order, and this could not be described as absolute.

49. Velichanskiy

L. Velichanskiy TASS

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PressTassMoscow

Athens 19 Nov. The Government Committee on Economic Policies heard the statements on the situation of government employees, made by the representatives of the American Mission and by the Ministers of Coordination and Finance. The Committee concluded that the present scale of salaries results in unfair discrimination against some of the categories of employees, that "in certain cases an improvement is necessary" and that the present rates must be reconsidered. The Committee approved the creation of a special commission to work out a new scale of salaries. In the meantime the Committee refused to take measures for an increase in salaries until new statutes for government employees and new rates are adopted. The Committee's resolution warns government employees that in case of strike "aside from other measures, which even include dismissal of strikers, salaries for the period of strike will not be paid".

Referring to the announcement that the government will take the occasion of the celebration of National Day on 25 March to grant a wide-spread amnesty, Floutiras and Papandhreon declared that the well-known process-verbal of agreement between the center parties did not include provisions for such a measure, and therefore the above rumors "are being spread with the purpose of slandering the center".

48 Velichanskiy

L. Velichanskiy, Tass
Floutarkhou 19.

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SECRET**Prasa****Tass****Moscow**

Athens 20 May. Alan Kinn, US ambassador to the UFR arrived in Athens yesterday. George Allen, US Ambassador also arrived yesterday from Belgr de. He will stay here until the 22nd and will return to Belgr de via Salonika. Today Allen called on the Foreign Minister and King Paul.

[Ta] How reported that the problem of army voting for the election represents a major concern for the center parties. Although, stated the newspaper, leaders of the center parties, recognized that orders of the Army Commander in Chi f were boy nd all criticisms, there are reasons to believe that the e orders were not carried out by the Army's lower echelons. For instance, cases were known where unit commanders advised soldiers to vote against certain parties, the .P.U. [National Progressive Union of the Center] in particular. Therefore, continued the newspaper, it is possible that the question of voiding election results will be raised if not for all electoral districts, at least for those in which violations through interference took place. The question of voiding all the election results in the Army is also being discussed. Qualified jurists maintain that the method of carrying out elections which has been applied in the Army did not ensure secrecy of the ballot as provided by article 66 of the constitution. Since electoral districts for military personnel corresponded to provinces where men were mobilized, voting actually was not secret for a man who was the sole representative of his province. Similarly, when in a province all the ballots were cast for the same party it was obvious for whom each voter had voted.

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L. Velichanskiy, Tass.

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PressTassMoscow

Athens, 17 Mar. Yesterday the king received Tsouderos (E.P.E.K.), Secretary General of the [S.K.] E.L.D. and Tsirimokos. According to the press, Tsouderos repeated to the king what has already been stated by other leaders of the "center" parties. Tsirimokos declared that it was out of the question for the Populist Party to participate in the government, and that the [S.K.] E. L. D. did not oppose the formation of a government of the center, but would have no definite position with respect to such a government before the latter has announced its program and taken its first practical steps. Tsirimokos pointed out that the [S.K.] E.L.D. expected from the government an amnesty and other measures for promoting democracy and peace in the country. Today the king will receive Maniadhakis, then Grigoriadis and Madzibois, leaders of the left liberals. On Monday and Tuesday the king will receive the leaders of the other parties represented in the new parliament. Political and diplomatic circles, writes the Eleftheria, are convinced that on Wednesday the King will call upon the "center" to form the government. Further postponement, remarks the newspaper, is impossible for two reasons: "First because both the King and political circles are now convinced that a government of the center, far from being opposed by the Allies, is favored by them. Second, because by the time negotiations between the King and the party leaders are finished, final results of the election are expected".

50 Beurasickau

N. Beurasickau, Tass

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ExamsTassMoscow

Athens, 16 March. The press reports that yesterday in an interview with the king, Tsaldharis agreed that there would be no sense in his forming a government, because his policy could yield no positive result after the agreement concluded by the leaders of the center. Tsaldharis also advised the king to call not upon Plastiras but Venizelos. He suggested that the latter either form a wide coalition government without the N. P. E. K. and the democratic coalition participating, or have a narrow coalition government of liberals with Papandreu, supported by the Populist Party. Venizelos told the king that no decision other than to form a "center" government had been made. He also asked the king to agree not to call upon him to form the government, but upon Plastiras, as had been decided in the agreement of the four leaders. Today the king will see Plastiras and after him Papandreu. It was also disclosed that tomorrow the king will interrupt his consultatory and will attend the Khalkis manoeuvres. Consultations will be resumed on Monday, and possibly completed on Tuesday. The general opinion is that these consultations are purely formal and can bring no changes, since the American viewpoint was known. Today, Eleftheria published a dispatch from the Associated Press correspondent in Athens, which stated that Grady called on the king yesterday and expressed his concern about the delay in forming the new government and attempts to sabotage the transfer of power to the center coalition.

46 Velichauskiy.

L. Velichauskiy, Tass.
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SECRETPressTASSMOSSBY

Athens, 18 March. Akropolis published an interview of Plastiras by its correspondent. Asked whether he considered that leniency towards communists would contribute to peace in the country or would give the Green Communist Party the possibility of resuming its revolutionary activity, Plastiras replied: "I shall carry out a policy of appeasement and equal rights for all Greeks and all ideologies." Plastiras, however, refused to answer as to whether he believes in the possibility of an agreement between Russia and the Western Powers. He declared "I suppose that we are heading towards a rapprochement between Russia and the Western Powers, which sooner or later will become a reality." To the question of what should be the position of Greece in case of another world war, Plastiras said "I do not want the world to be thrown into another war. In any case the position of Greece in the event of explosion is self-evident". Asked whether there are possibilities improving relations with Soviet Russia, Plastiras answered: "Why not? Relations with Russia must be improved. Greece must be on good terms and have economic relations with everybody". To the question as to whether relations with Yugoslavia can be improved and whether or not this would improve the Russian attitude towards Greece, Plastiras replied that he will strive for improving relations with Yugoslavia as well as with the other countries, and preferred not to answer the second part of the question. Concerning amnesty, Plastiras declared that he will act "gradually and progressively" and will have the court sentences revised.

52. Velichauskiy.

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Athens, 18 March. [Y] Makhi published an article of its correspondent, in which the tragic situation of workers in the city of Kardhista is reported. More than 75 percent of the workers. The correspondent wrote, had no work. The tobacco industry, which before the war employed the majority of workers, is at a stand-still. For several years tobacco workers could not earn bread for their families. Unemployment prevails among workers in the construction and woodworking industries also because reconstruction is progressing very slowly. The very few leaders and shoe industry workers employed receive slave wages. "Misery and hunger, with no hope for a brighter future -- such is the fate of the workers in this city," concluded the newspaper.

51 Velichanskiy

L. Velichanskiy

Ploutarkhou 19.

PressTassMoscow

Athens, 19 March. In spite of the frightful terror and the tricks used against them, which have already been reported, a majority of the Makronisos prisoners voted for the democratic coalition and also for Plastiras. Thus for instance in electoral district, the "incorrigible" isolated behind barbed wires were voting. Out of a total of 687 votes, 441 votes were cast for the democratic coalition, 238 for the E.P.E.K. [National Progressive Union of the Center], and only one for the so-called "Nationalist" Party. In district 5, of the political prisoners from whom the torturers managed to wrest declarations of repentance, out of 566 voters, 409 voted for the democratic coalition and 118 for Plastiras. In district 7, where the voters belonged to the same category as those of district 5, out of 1146 votes, 728 were cast for the democratic coalition, 286 for the E.P.E.K. and 65 for the liberals. Even in districts where voters were imprisoned soldiers, as much as one half of the votes were cast for the democratic coalition and Plastiras. At the newspaper Dhinkratikes Times reported today, these election results brought Bairaktaris, chief of the concentration camp, and other hangers-on of his staff into a state of madness. The day following the elections, and as soon as the representatives of the various parties who supervised the election had left the island, they started to take revenge on the prisoners. Wide scale beatings were carried out from noon to two o'clock the next morning. Inmates of the so-called first battalion and of the "unrepentant" soldiers' platoon were treated with special brutality. The newspaper gave the names of officers who supervised the beating. Carrying lists of voters, they first called the prisoners and asked them for whom they had voted. Those who confessed of having voted for the democratic coalition were handed over to the torturers to be worked over.

continued 53 Velichanskiy.

L. Velichanskiy, Tass

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FromTamMessage

Athens, 19 March. Those who confessed to having voted for Plastiras, called a traitor by the officers, were also beaten. Finally the other prisoners, who maintained that they had voted for the Populist and other parties did not escape ill-treatment, because practically no ballots for these parties were found in the ballot boxes. One hundred and fifty Crete soldiers were brought out, the majority of whom had voted for Ilias Mandokas, a former general who ran in the Crete election. After the beating these soldiers declared to the camp chief, Bairaktaris, that if only a single man among them should leave the island alive, not only the Crete population, but the whole world will learn about the atrocities on Makronisos.

54. Velichanskiy

L. Velichanskiy, Tass

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