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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Greece

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT OENO - The Federation of Greek Seamen and Port Workers Organizations

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIS. 31 October 1943

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PAGES 2

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT

1. The OENO (Omospondia Ellenikon Nautergatikou Organoseon - Federation of Greek Seamen and Port Workers Organizations) is a satellite organization of the KKE. It does not aim to serve the needs of seamen and dock workers, but rather to serve Communism and to accuse each successive Greek Government of being fascist.
2. The leading member of OENO is Antonios Abatielos, an active KKK member. During the Greco-Italian war he was in the United States where, with his active propaganda among the crews of Greek ships, he succeeded in persuading them to go on strike and mutiny. He was arrested by the American authorities and sent to England in a Norwegian vessel.
3. After arriving in Cardiff, Wales, he collaborated with Demetrios Kollios, merchant captain, Vassilios Benskos, first engineer, and Rapsalis, first engineer. Together they founded the OENO. They successfully broke up the Nationalist Seamen's Organization, PNO (Panhellenic Naval Federation) in May 1943, when an armed group under Benskos forcibly took possession of all the furniture in its offices. They enlisted all seamen into their organization and forced them to pay their subscriptions. They installed themselves in the Seamen's Home and took charge of the merchant men's club which was making a profit of £100 monthly.
4. They played a very important part in all the strikes and mutinies in the Greek Navy and merchant service abroad. For this purpose they had ample funds and ran a most luxurious press and propaganda bureau. They employed the services of British politicians and journalists, and published articles in the British press. They were supported in this unpatriotic work by extreme left elements of the British Labor Party. Their anti-national activities were carried out systematically.
5. According to a report of the Executive Committee of PNO, the organization OENO supported all the anti-national activities of the Greek Port Control officers in London, Potiades and Papadopoulos, and others, who had declared themselves in favor of KAM and had refused the orders of the Greek Government.

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CLASSIFICATION

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6. In accordance with the orders of the pre-election Governments, ships leaving for abroad were manned by men of both OENO and PNO, but as it was noticed that the crews of those ships which were manned by OENO went on strike, the Government at that time ordered that crews should only be engaged from PNO, which collaborated with all other national organizations in Greece. Following this order, members of OENO who now realized its political and communistic aims, went over to PNO.
7. The leaders of OENO then decided to return to Greece with the object of breaking up the collaboration of PNO with other seamen's organizations and to receive further instructions from the KKE leaders. To ensure their return to Great Britain, Kollios and Abatielos brought their wives (both British Communists) with them and have declared that if they were unable to return in the normal way, they would do so secretly.
8. Immediately upon their arrival at Piraeus they issued revolutionary pamphlets calling upon seamen and port workers to strike and accusing the present Government of being fascist. Articles dispatched by them to the "Ellenika Nea" published in London portrayed conditions in Greece as terroristic.
9. The present General Secretary of OENO, Benakos, is regularly in touch with the Soviet Embassy in Athens, while Kollios is a member of the Committee of the Piraeus branch of the Greco-Soviet League.

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