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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Turkey

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Greek Community Action Regarding
Phanar Matters; Visit of Anglican
Theologians to Phanar

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 25 March 1947

ORIGIN [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT 90-3592

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1. It is reported that certain members of the Greek community in Turkey, said to be enemies of Patriarch Maximos since the time when the latter was Metropolitan of Chalcedon, have demanded the intervention of Turkish authorities in the question of the Patriarch's mental condition. This group states that in their capacity as members of the Greek community, they are within their rights in demanding such intervention, just as the members of a family may exercise such a privilege in the case of a relative suffering from a mental ailment. They point to certain articles in the Turkish civil code which prescribe that in case of such demands, a medical commission shall be set up by order of a competent tribunal. The commission would examine the patient and report its findings, whereupon the tribunal would decide as to the appointment of a suitable trustee.

25X1X6 [REDACTED] Phanar circles are exceedingly concerned about this new development and sincerely hope that this threat of the eventual appointment of a Turkish trustee will induce the Greek Government to authorize the Holy Synod to accept the Patriarch's resignation, which he has often tendered during the last month and which the Greek Government has not accepted, for political reasons.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] the Greek Government is considering the selection of a successor to Patriarch Maximos, and that the Holy Synod is expected to hold a meeting during the coming Greek Orthodox Easter, in order to elect a new Patriarch.

- 2. A delegation of three Anglican theologians, accompanied by Professor Alivisatos of Athens University, was expected to arrive at the Phanar in early February bringing a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Patriarch.
- 3. Their main object in going to the Phanar is to work for a closer rapprochement between the Anglican and Greek Orthodox Churches.
- 4. Prior to its arrival at the Phanar, the delegation visited ex-Regent Damaskinos of Athens.

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Document No. 007
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Auth: DDA MEMO, 4 APR 77
DDA REG. 77 1763
Date: 10 APR 1978

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