

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Greece

DATE DISTR. 8 December 1948

SUBJECT SK-ELD and the Guerrilla Movement

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X6

Auth: DPA MEMO 77/1763



1. The congress of SK-ELD has been postponed because the most serious topic for discussion would be the position of the party regarding the guerrilla movement.
2. The idea of denouncing Markos and the guerrilla movement had grown, and the majority had favored such a denunciation during the operations on Grammos, etc. When, however, in spite of these operations there were no concrete results, opinions changed, and with Elias Tsirimokos at their head the majority favored the position which the party has maintained up to the present.
3. In order to make sure of the opinion of the Central Committee of SK-ELD on this question, Tsirimokos called its members to a conference and presented the question of the denunciation of Markos and the guerrilla movement.
4. Tsirimokos stated the reasons why he believed that while KKE was merely a rival political party, the Rightists were an enemy. Consequently it was not to the interest of SK-ELD to denounce KKE, because this would mean alignment with Tsaldaris, and SK-ELD would lose its Socialist character.
5. After this explanation Tsirimokos put the question: "Who disagrees?" All the Central Committee, except Demetrios Stratis, agreed. Stratis maintained that the denunciation should be made.
6. When Stratis expressed his opinion, Tsirimokos asked, "What will happen to the members of the party who do not want the denunciation to be made, when this question is discussed at the congress of the party?" Tsirimokos answered his own question: "The members who favor this denunciation have nothing to fear from the present situation; those, however, who oppose this denunciation will be called Communists and will suffer the familiar consequences from the monarcho-fascist regime. Who, then, will assume the responsibility for betraying his comrades to the Security? Therefore I propose to postpone the congress, and we shall try to be present at the congress of the KOMISKO (sic) in London, where we shall clarify many questions".
7. Following this, all agreed to postpone the congress and not to make any decision regarding the denunciation of the guerrilla movement, but to maintain the position of SK-ELD as it has been up to the present.

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8. A draft of a denunciation has been prepared and has been communicated to the members of SK-ELD. They are permitted by the party to sign this denunciation if they are arrested by the Security or if their work requires it in accordance with the law. They may sign ~~a statement~~ that they never were Communists, that they have no connection with the guerrilla movement, with KKE, or with Markos, that they do not approve of arson, slaughter, and barbarities committed by anyone whatsoever (if such are committed), and other ambiguous provisions. Regarding a straight and clear question regarding the guerrilla movement they should avoid giving any answer or should give an indefinite answer. Such an answer, for example, would be: "This subject is political. I am not a politician, and so cannot judge".
9. In spite of the fact that Stratis was opposed to the above, he finally agreed. He does not play any serious role in SK-ELD, but is busy with organizing a "free labor movement".
10. "SK-ELD (according to Informant) insists upon appeasement and reconciliation, because we see no other way out, unless we are to become followers of Tsaldaris. What man with any self-respect can denounce Markos and agree with Tsaldaris?"

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