

WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT- NWDCA

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HELLENIC INFORMATION SERVICE.
INFORMATIONS BUREAU.

*In spite of their age
these seem to me
definitely important
to Hill, Arden etz. as
well.*

*For pouch 7.3.43
Roy*

INFORMATION BULLETIN "B"
Nos. 30-31-32

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH

1943

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INFORMATION BUREAU.

INFORMATION BULLETIN " B " Nos 30-31-32

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH

1943.

I N F O R M A T I O N B U L L E T I N

Nos 30, 31, 32.

Conditions of life in Greece.

From the first few months of the occupation, the Greek populace bitterly compared the Axis forces with locusts who take and destroy everything in their passage. In fact German policy towards Greece can well be said to have been based on Marshal Ludendorf's book "Total War".

This officer, a true representative of the Prussian Militarist spirit, advises that "Should you want to be spared the trouble of keeping an occupied country in order, you should render the population to such a state of starvation, that all inhabitants will wander about from morn to dusk in search of food they will not find".

And such was the plan of wholesale murder by starvation that the brave and heroic German Army applied to the people of Europe.

Details of Government.

Athens Government:- General Tsolakoglou's resignation finally published on December the 3rd, followed a first statement announcing that the Prime Minister, in need of a long rest had entrusted his duties to Professor Logothetopoulos.

The Eastern Agency published the following telegram:-

In an official statement to the Greek People, the prime Minister, General Tsolakoglou, announced his resignation for reasons of health. He further expressed his conviction that the new Government would carry on the policy of close co-operation with the Axis which he had first inaugurated on the 29th of April 1942.

The following are the members of the new Government:-

PRIME MINISTER	LOGOTHETOPOULOS
MINISTER OF FINANCE & NATIONAL ECONOMY.....	KOTZAMANIS
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & MERCHANT MARINE.....	MOUTOUSSIS
MINISTER OF INTERIOR & PUBLIC SECURITY.....	TAVOULARIS
MINISTER OF JUSTICE.....	MARKOU
MINISTER OF DEFENCE	GENERAL BAKOU
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & SUPPLIES.....	TSIRONIKOS
MINISTER OF LABOUR	KALIVAS

Professor Logothetopoulos is also in charge of the ministries of Social Welfare and Education.

Kotzamanis is no longer in charge of the Ministries of Labour, Agriculture and Supplies.

Thus the composition of the new cabinet is no doubt a defeat for Kotzamanis who failed to realize his aim to become Prime-minister. He was the instigator of a much advertized plan of commercial exchanges by which he hoped to reduce the peoples sufferings. He advocated exchanging with the farmers, agricultural

products to be delivered to the towns-folk against machinery. The failure of this plan led to his dismissal from the ministry of supplies and to the ministerial crisis.

Various informations and rumours reach us in the meantime as to the real cause of this crisis which had apparently broken out long before it was made public. Amongst other, we also learn that General Tsolakoglou was forced to resign as he would not give his consent to the Civil Mobilisation.

Faced with this economical crisis, Kotzamenis intended to resign. He was prevented from doing so by the Italians as he was their sole representative on the Athens Government. Tsolakoglou's Government had long since been divided into two factions according to whether individual sympathies swung towards the Germans or the Italians. Often was it rumoured that General Tsolakoglou was to be replaced by Kotzamenis, or on the other hand that the General was to remain, Kotzamenis resigning from the cabinet instead. The appointment of Logothetopoulos was quite unexpected, and in the new cabinet at the express wish of the Italians, Kotzamenis was finally reinstated.

The Pope's representative in Constantinople, Rogali, who happened to be in Athens when Logothetopoulos assumed office, noticed that the latter was highly unpopular and attributed his appointment to his well known pre-German feelings.

From other sources we learn that the Tsolakoglou Government's unpopularity was due to the close co-operation existing between Kotzamenis and his faction in cabinet and the black-market dealers.

We also learn from a circular published on the 9th of October 1942 that Tsolakoglou was at that period also minister of Finance.

The Pope's representative also reports that Tsolakoglou accompanied by the minister of National Defence visited him and expressed the thanks of the Athens Government for the interest the Vatican had shown for the Greek supply problem.

Details of local Government.

The prefect of Evros district, contrary to the general rumour has not been recalled. From a press bureau which he set up in the town Hall, he issued the following declaration.

"Rumours that the Government had ordered my dismissal, have been going on for some days now. I followed these rumours closely without wanting to interfere, only to see how far the black marketeers would go. The people of Evros only laughed at these absurd sayings and their attitude touched me deeply. It seems to me a loss of time to deny rumours spread by a group of worthless inhabitants of the district who hoped to profit by my dismissal at the expense of the rest of the inhabitants!"

In spite of this, it seems that Eftaxias had actually been recalled and was to be replaced by Colonel Repas. It did not suit the Germans however to have an officer in charge of this prefecture, so Eftaxias remained in function. On the other hand Eftaxias knowing that he enjoyed German support refused to give up his post on receipt of orders from Athens, answering that he was remaining for patriotic reasons.

An official, who is now a refugee in Turkey, in a statement to our Legation there said " German theft, with the colla-

boration of Eftaxias has assumed new record proportions in the Evros prefecture. Many inhabitants were imprisoned because they reacted against him.

The capital of the province of Evros was transferred from Alexandroupolis to Didimotihon owing to the occupation of the former by the Bulgarians.

SAMOS. From information received, the Italians are said to have dismissed the Prefect of Samos replacing him by an Italian fascist captain.

New Administrations. In order to allow for greater initiative the Minister of National Economy on the advice of the Secretary for Agriculture, decided on the creation of various agricultural bureaus with corresponding agricultural pay offices. Agronomes have also been appointed to Ferraes in the province of Evros, to Filipiadi in the Preveza province, and Amfiklia of the province of Etolidofokidos.

Distribution of Agricultural lots. On the 9th of December 1942, Salonica's paper APOGEVMATINI, announces that following decision of the Governorate General of Macedonia, the distribution of the Megritis lots to refugees and farmers has ceased.

Social Welfare. At a meeting held in Piraeus' town Hall, the secretary of the Prefecture Mr. Bouferis, presented an account of work done by Social Welfare: Founding of a Children's Home, renovation of the Tzanniou Hospital, the purchase of hospital stores, and the opening of a credit of 30 million drachmas for the purchase of clothes and shoes for poor children. He also gave an account of work done by the communal clothing and shoe factory.

A new children's home was founded (Estia) Public first aid posts have been reorganized. 400 kilograms and 3000 kilos of Paraffin oil and alcohol issued by the occupation authorities have been distributed to the poor. Five disinfecting ovens and public laundries are now functioning. A credit of 5 million drachmas has been voted for the purchase of books for the poor children. The "Poor Children's Home" and the Home for Homeless Children" will start functioning on the end of December.

An educational committee was founded with the object of collecting money to buy books, paper, clothes, shoes so as to help primary education.

The Prime Minister together with the Minister of Social Welfare, decided that grants paid to War orphans living in the Country should be the same as those paid to War orphans living in the towns. This allowance was fixed at 500 drs. It was also decided to increase the food allowance to 200 drs daily (food allowance of various hospitable societies in towns, and 80 drs food allowance of some establishments in the country.)

Chios. The Military Barracks are being used to house starvation victims and children of parents who had been shot by the Germans.

Salonica. We learn that the authorities are requisitioning rooms and houses for the refugees.

Relations of Greeks to Foreigners. From informations received we learn that the Refugees from Eastern Macedonia and Western Thrace in Athens have presented in the name of Greece a note to the Reich's Plenipotentiary complaining about the law voted by the Bulgarians authorities in these provinces, which rendered compulsory the choice between Greek or Bulgarian nationality.

No answer was given to this note. The refugees also informed the political authorities of their requests.

Liaison Committee with the Italian Occupation Forces.

On the 20th of November 1942, the paper "PROIA" announces the following:

By decree published in the Government's Gazette, it has been decided that Bank employees are eligible to the Liaison Committee with the Italian occupation authorities. Any previous attachments to this committee are valid.

FOOD SUPPLIES - COMMERCE - INDUSTRY.

Starvation victims: The following article written by an Athens correspondent is published on the 31st of Dec. 1942 in the "DONAU ZEITUNG", giving us a clear picture of misery.

"So on the porches of grand houses in Athens, huddled together dirty, half-starved, their bones sticking out of the ragged dirty remnants of their clothes, their cheeks sunken from illness or hunger, unkempt with a wild expression in their eyes lie men and women. A few mothers still hug children of skeleton like thinness to their bony breasts. Other children surrounding their mothers are even too weak to lift up a hand to beg for alms. In front of these heaps are food tins which seem always to be empty. This poor wretched lot of humanity remains there from dawn to dusk. When the night comes they heap themselves together in an amorphous lot. One the porch is found empty. As silently as they came they disappear, nobody knows where or how. Children are also seen on their own either in heaps or in pairs wandering about the side-streets of Athens and leading a filthy and animal like life. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

This correspondent pretends that this condition is the normal one in Greece, and that these were the normal existing life conditions in the country. Anybody who knows well enough cannot remember any such state of affairs in the capital, and we think that we can clearly attribute this change in the conditions of life to starvation.

The Constantinople magazine "REALITE" publishes on the 8th of January 1943 an article taken from an American newspaper whose correspondent was in Athens during the past winter:- Here-below some of the most striking parts of this article.

"Walking about the town with a friend of mine, we first visited a public first aid post. The waiting room was full of mothers holding to their breasts wretched skeleton like babies who were too weak to cry even.

Owing to the great shortage of drugs, red cross nurses are often forced to take quick decisions, and drugs will often be administered only to those who really have a definite hope of living through. For the rest it is considered wasteful to administer drugs that would, in any case not save their lives.

On the other hand the local authorities are absolutely incapable of determining the real death rate of the country which has increased by 600%, because people refuse to register deaths as they would have to give up valuable ration tickets belonging to the dead. They prefer rather to carry their dead out silently at night to bury them.

Food supply situation:

A n officer of the International Red Cross Committee who recently arrived in Turkey gave a picture of the food situation in Greece up to the end of Nov. '42:

To examine the whole situation better; it is as well to divide it into three periods. First period deals with the first few weeks of occupation. The second, from the second month of the occupation up to March '42. The third; from the day Kozzamanis took over to this date.

First period: A great many mistakes were made by those in charge of the food supplies, as they handed ~~the~~ colossal amounts of stored food, over to the Germans, thus depriving the civilian population of sufficient food. This could have happened during the first few days of the occupation owing to panic and fear. No excuse can be accepted for the indifference, which caused 300-400 thousand oke of flower to be handed over to the Italians, whilst hospitals remained completely unprovided for.

Second Period. From July on the Breadv situation became acute owing to the large amounts of corn handed over to the Germans as war booty. The olive oil was requisitioned by the Germans and set at an astronomical price. The lack of oil on the market caused a great many deaths, owing to devitamination.

At this tragic stage, the official Greek Government in agreement with Turkey and other countries managed to import various food stuffs via Constantinople to Piraeus. Under the administration of the director of the International Red Cross these food stuffs were taken over on arrival and public kitchens founded. His help and activities for the survival of the Greek race will remain historical. At first 1,500 tons and later 2200 tons of food were sent every 22-26 days, and during this period a 30 drame ration was distributed.

Third Period: Kozzamanis takes charge of the Ministry of Supplies and delivers vast quantities to his Axis patrons. The people wait in vain hoping to receive even the smallest quantity of oil.

The Greek Government managed to send 12-15,000 tons of wheat and the first medical stores. After negotiation with the Axis and with the help of the Swedish Government, permission was obtained to send 15,000 tons monthly to Greece from Canada. The distribution of wheat was taken over by a committee composed of Swedes and Swiss under the direction of Paul Mon, secretary to the Swiss Legation.

From the 7 of September 1942 this Committee took over the distribution of bread to Athens Piraeus and all the unproductive mountain districts of Greece. It also undertook the up keep of the Public kitchens. Previously the former organization in charge of the public kitchens produced on a total population of 1,150,000, 250,000 rations. The new committee inquiring into this case found that only 22,000 people were willing to take part. As a consequence the Committee increased the bread ration to 60 drames per person. Still further improvement is hoped as new quantities of cereals are expected from Canada.

Thus the bread problem practically solved, but still remain the lack of every sort of oils and fats. The whole olive oil production was requisitioned by the Axis and fats are only manufactured for the occupying forces. Should the Official Greek Government be able to provide ~~xxx~~ Greece with a small ration of fats, it would be very beneficiary to the general survival of the population.

The staple food in Athens and Piraeus is wheat imported from abroad, and in other areas the local production. Most of the islands are in great difficulties owing to the lack of transport (the Germans and the Italians prohibit transport between Salonica, Mitilene, Crete, Peloponnes, Epirus.) In some areas local production is sufficient to meet needs, in other such as Attica it is not; therefore, see different prices in every district:- Wheat is quoted at 3000 drs in Salonica whilst in Athens it is worth 10.000.

Considerable improvement in the food situation has been brought about since new imports from U.S. reached the country. This year's local agriculture production is very poor and considerable help will be needed, especially in Towns and Islands until next year's crop.

MITILENE:- 300 tons of flour were sent to the island to/distributed to the inhabitants by the International Red Cross. 40.000 okes were handed over to various organisations of the Island, 1,5 okes were given to every inhabitant of the town and villages and to those who had special need an extra 1/2 oke per person was given. The remaining quantity of flour was redistributed among the poor. The transport expenses were paid for by the rich inhabitants.

The Food situation in the island has considerably improved as a consequence of the above. Bread is now sold at 3200 drs, olive oil at 1400 and beans at 10000 drs.

CHIOS: Despatch of flour to the island from Smyrna considerably improved the situation. New despatches will be however urgently needed. Food and flour were distributed by the Int. Red Cross to the poor and to the public kitchens. It is certain that this food was not despatched from Athens. In the open market prices are very high and only the few rich can afford them.

From information received, we learn that the Italians distribute some small quantities of food but at very irregular intervals. Thus as an average for the last fifteen days only 30 drames of rice, 30 drames of cereals and 15 drames of sugar were distributed over that period per head.

CYCLADES:- Food situation critical. Many deaths due to starvation. Few weeks ago 300 drames of cereals and 3 okes of flour were distributed per head.

In Syros every kind of transport has been stopped; the necessary permission for this has to come from the Italians who never seem to issue any permits. It is reported that last winter 6.000 people out of a population 23.000 died.

ZAKYNTHOS:- We learn that the Italians confiscated various lots of food-stuffs from the island, rendering the situation there critical.

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The paper "Proia" reports that inspite of repeated requests from the Ministry of supplies, people are still reluctant to hand their fish ration cards to shops designated by the Ministry, as there are not sure that these shops will give them fish.

Following an investigation, the Ministry of Supplies discovered many thousands of false ration cards in circulation. These were found to belong to the dead or people who left the area and were being used by their relatives. The total circulation of ration cards up to the 31st Dec, '42, came to 1.336.865. After control and confiscation of the false cards this figure came down to 1.224.193 i.e. approx. 100.000 cards less.

In Volos, Patras and Halkis the bread situation is very critical.

Lemnos: Germans are constantly requisitioning food in the island and but for Red Cross help which is considerably improved the situation the food supply question would remain acute.

Samos, Icaria:- The food situation is acute as the Italians from the beginning of the Allied attack in Africa stopped any kind of transports to the islands. The small flour ration of 30 drames daily was stopped and the Italians requisitioned the greater parts of the raisin and olive oil crops promising to each producer 20 oke yearly and a ration of 500 drames olive oil per head for the rest of the population.

Thus, the food supply situation will very soon become acute and a lot of deaths due to starvation will soon be expected.

Food requisitioned by the occupation authorities: The Germans are requisitioning potatoes, cauliflower and oil and are canning them.

Distribution of essential food: A 45 drama ration of bread issued in the provincial towns per head, seems barely sufficient to those who completely lack the means of buying food.

Black market: We learn that the local Italian Authorities cooperate with the Prefects in Black Market operations; Export and Import of food-stuffs are prohibited without their special permission in certain areas. Thus in Athens the enterprise P. Saloustros-Petyheki, 52 Academy Street, is patronized by many Italians, and practically forms a kind of sub-ministry of food supply.

The "Donsu-Zeitung" of the 8 December states that from the 11th of December '42, ration cards for tobacco will be necessary in Greece.

Cost of Life:- Up to the 21st November '42 the following prices were quoted in Athens:

Bread	8-9.000 drachmas	Elect. Wire (1,5 cm)	680 drs
Shoes	350.000 "	One tyre	500.000 "
Suit (local cloth)	450.000 "	Wood	Approx. 180 "
Elect. Bulbs	2.800 "		

On the 31st of December:-

Bread	3-5,000 "	Fish	25.000 drs.
Olive Oil	8-16.000 "	Butter	40-45.000 drs.
Cereals	14,000 "	Quinine per tube	1.500 drs.

The price of bread distributed by the Government is 200 drs. per oke.

The big lack of medicines is greatly felt in the country.

In Salonica life is some 40% cheaper, Rail fees between Salonica and Athens or plane fees are very cheap, but Black Market operators demand 70,000 drs for reservations on the railway and 200,000 drs for reservations on the plane.

ATHENS. The following prices have been noticed in January:
Wheat and cereals: 5,000, Meat: 10,000, Sugar: 9,000.

Prices in Bulgarian occupied territories.

Wheat: 50 leva, maize 40, meat 70-80, cheese 100 all per kilo.

Public kitchens. Salonica's newspaper APOCTHATINI states that public kitchens will soon begin functioning and German Authorities offered 10,000,000 drs for the upkeep. Further on it is a

announced that the public kitchens Committee definitely decided to put public kitchens in function for the refugees. It is estimated that 22-24000 rations are needed for the regular daily distribution; All necessary quantities of food and olive oil have been obtained.

For the organization of these public kitchens, 10 restaurants and 7 distributing centres will function in various quarters for the refugees.

At the same time great effort is being made to collect as much food as possible for the public kitchens.

The DONAUZEITUNG of 18 Dec. 1942 states: The Greek Government issued the following law: The proprietors of industrial enterprises and others are obliged to maintain public kitchens for their employees and workers twice per day. If they meet difficulties in obtaining the necessary food supplies, the owners must pay them the value of the rations.

U.S.A. contribution of the Country's food supply. According to information received from an employee of the Agricultural Bank who arrived in Turkey, the administration Committee of food despatch of the I.R.C., was periodically under the management of Mr. ZANNA, PAPASTRAPOS and POWMAN and proved very effective. However, on Sept. the management was undertaken by Swiss and Swedes under the supervision of Mr. Mon, but this change influenced the despatches as above people were not aware of the situation.

Goods sold without ration cards. According to information of 15th of Dec., meat in Salonica, is sold freely every Friday and Saturday; the same information states that any kind of food transport from the occupied German areas to the Italian occupied ones, is strictly prohibited. The frontier of the above areas is near Mount Olympus and by the railway Platamona. Only 15 kgs of food is allowed to each traveller going from Salonica to Athens.

Services of Public Welfare. The newspaper PROIA of the 15th of Nov states: Owing to the hours change (summer time) the Ministry of Communications has decided in order to economise electric current that the closing hours of offices will be 4 p.m. The use of electric stoves is not allowed. All consumers of electric current are advised to follow these regulations in order to avoid penalties. Owing to the fact that gas consumption has reached its limit, new customers can not obtain any permission. Many towns are without light owing to lack of petrol. Chalkis has no light as from two months ago. Athens has light during 24 hours. In Salonica some parts of the town such as offices and houses of Germans have electric current. There is a complete lack of electric articles, and if found, price is very high.

Agriculture - Commerce - Industry. At Larissa, the first despatch of 80 tons of potatoes and 10 tons of canned beans arrived. These supplies were delivered to the Greek Ministry of Food Supplies.

On the 23rd of Dec. The newspaper "DONAUZEITUNG" announces that an official German commerce Bureau was founded in Greece to help better the German Greek Relations. All factories apart from a few engaged in non-essential work have been taken over by the Germans.

This year's Salonica wheat crop is expected to be good, 35% however as well as 45% of the oil production and all the fruit crop was requisitioned by the Germans. From Oct. 42 no more light is allowed in the town except in the centre where certain streets from 1700-2030 hours; houses and offices occupied by Germans are supplied with electrical current.

The Germans do not allow farmers to transport their crops to the towns where they would exchange their goods for articles they need.

Minerals output for 1942 is as follows:-

Bauxite: 50,000 tons of which 30,000 were exported to Germany.

Nickel: 42,000 tons the whole production was sent via Trieste to Italy.

Chromium: 50,000 (40,000 from Macedonia). The whole production was sent to Germany.

Iron: No production this year. The Serife mines which usually produced some 200,000 tons yearly are in Italian hands.

White Stone (mainly Magnesium Oxide): No production during 1942. Last year's carry over of 10,000 tons was sent to Germany.

Iron sulphides: No production during 1942. The carry-over of last year's production was sent to Germany, via Salonice (Kassandra Mines)

Emerald stone: No production during 1942. Last year's carry-over sent to Italy

TOBACCO:- The Ministry of Economics states that at the time of the occupation 12 million okes of tobacco were in the hands of industrialists; these were not requisitioned by the occupation authorities. To-day the quantities which are being left by the Axis are to all practical purposes insufficient for local needs.

1940-41 crop came to 38,300,000 okes of which 19,356,000 were grown in Eastern Macedonia and Southern Thrace now in Bulgarian hands.

1941-42 crop came to 19,500,000 okes, 10,000,000 of which were produced in the above areas.

The Occupation authorities issued an order, buying all the crop and allowing German Tobacco factories to have the monopoly of purchase, either through their agents or directly.

We are not yet in possession of this year's crop but we believe that this is 50% lower than last year's. We also expect a new fall in the production figures. Up to Nov 1942 factories were producing a total of 500,000 okes monthly.

Owing to this rapid fall of production the tobacco factories formed a trust in order to secure the necessary quantities of tobacco for the manufacturing of cigarettes.

Various comparative crop figures: - (1942)

Wheat	375,000 tons	pre-war	800,000
potatoes	50,000 "	"	150,000
Raisins	40,000 "	"	140,000

Silk: (1940) Total crop: 880,000 kgs of dry cocoons.

150,000 kgs were bought by the A.T.E.
250,000 kgs remained in the producers hands and
500,000 kgs were bought by silk manufacturers.

The Germans requisitioned all the cocoons in possession of the A.T.E. plus 50,000 kgs from the producers. Also, the Germans took 100,000 cocoons and 50,000 kgs of silk representing 200,000 kgs of dry cocoons. In other words, the Germans took 300,000 kgs of cocoons. They paid 90% of the price demanded which were already 50% lower than the prices in other markets.

1941. Total crop 450,000 kgs of dry cocoons.

150,000 kgs was sent to Turkey in exchange of sugar, SO₄Cu, soap etc. From the remaining 250,000 kgs, 120,000 were requisitioned

by the Germans, without paying for it.

1942; Total crop: 285,000 kgs of dry cocoons.

100,000 kgs were used by local manufacturers.

ECONOMICS.

The Frankfurter Zeitung in an article on the 18th of December writes: -

" The economic situation of Greece at the end of the Balkan campaign was so strained, that it was impossible to expect any improvement or adaptation to new conditions of this already poor country. Thus owing to the war the situation has really become critical. Owing to the strategical importance of Greece the occupation expenses paid by the country were naturally increased. On the other hand we also have to consider that the two main sources of income of Greece have completely disappeared as a result of this war: the merchant marine, and foreign trade. Thus not only has the state's income decreased, but all possibilities of importing supplies from abroad disappeared. The only possible remaining transport routes are to Italy via ship, and to the rest of Europe via Epirus by rail.

Consequently everybody turned to agriculture in an effort to satisfy the country's daily needs in food. It would however be foolish to expect that after a trying unhappy war and after all the suffering that Greece had gone through that one could expect the country to depend on the already very much neglected agriculture.

It is true to say however that earlier governments had tried to render the country self-sufficient and that they had even taken measures of planting wheat in country suitable for other products

We also have to consider that a great number of economically important territories have been taken from the Greek Economical system; also that only half the Greek territory can be economically exploited. Therefore Greece can never be economically independent, and the wheat grown in the country will never be able to form a real basis to the country's economical structure. Instead other agricultural products such as raisins, wine, fruit etc.; should be cultivated and form as they always did the real foundations. Greece would then in the European system obtain wheat by exchanging those products for wheat. Greece would also have to readapt her customs and her consumption. She would have to reorganize her cultivated areas and better her wheat cultivation grounds. For instance instead of eating a 685 grams ration of bread daily, people in the country to comply with their economical possibilities would have to vegetables and fruit.

So, when we examine or criticize measures taken in Greece, we have to take the above facts into consideration. Also whilst Greece is part of a European economical system, under the pressure of war, all measures to adapt her to the requirements of the rest of Europe are only temporary. Her progress in that direction is only naturally slowed up, and the proper results cannot be reached in the time necessary for them to be effective.

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Prices have for a long time been the main theme in Greek economics. Their increase beyond any point of reason, upset any kind of notion of value, and have severely influenced not only the true financial standards but also generally speaking all the social ones. This situation was rendered far more acute in Greece as generally speaking Greeks are born merchants always ready to speculate for profit on any sort of market, but their speculations have not been able to stop this increase in prices yet. Sometimes the inconstancy of prices is due to outer political influence. These factors will affect the value of any English and American banknotes left in the country by the allies. When Allied operations are not reported to be progressing satisfactorily, a drop of the value of these banknotes will always be noticeable.

The inconsistency of prices, has deeply disturbed exchanges between the country and the towns. The farmers will only bring their produce to the town when they are in dire need of money. They are not interested in collecting depreciated bank-notes. The Government issued, without the slightest effect, laws compelling delivery and direct exchanges in order to improve the circulation of production within the country. Any such efforts would have in any case met with failure owing to the lack of communications, and to the fact that in some areas only one single product is cultivated. Certain areas with excessive olive oil supplies were unable to exchange it for other products which were of primary importance to them owing to the lack of transport.

A big demand, by the farmers, of buildings and other property in the towns is noticeable. Owing to the inflation the farmers and countrymen were able to pay the prices for property in the towns and establish themselves. Thus we have another important economical phenomena happening, a phenomena which is very much in a country's disfavour, the drifting of the agricultural population to the towns. This drift definitely undermines the agricultural ability of a country.

Great harm was caused by the inflation to employees enjoying a definite fixed salary. In spite of the fact that the Government ordered a 50% increase in their pay, this has not been sufficient to meet with the new requirements of the market, or the colossal increase in prices. All measures taken up to now to stop inflation such as bank moratoriums, and price fixations have not given the expected results. The Greek government has since asked for the help of numerous German and Italian agents, who in studying the situation are trying to restore order, and have already taken many measures to this effect. Their aim is to restore to the markets any goods that may have disappeared, to help in the exchange of goods, to prohibit the exportation of certain essential goods and to help in the importation of others. Generally speaking to help restore a proper economical circulation within the country. Some success has been noticed in their methods, but this only due to industrial importations into Greece.

The Drachma has not lost its value in comparison to the mark or the Liretta. It has been consequently possible to import Goods from the Axis at a reasonably low price. Thus Kotzamanis at a conference recently told the public that an imported hat costs in Lire value, 1000 - 1500 drachmas compared to what is offered on the Athens market at 120-150.000 drachmas. This particular state of affairs has allowed certain merchant to make tremendous profits. The general drift of prices and their tendency to increase cannot however be stopped owing to the increase of production costs.

Recently a German-Italo-Greek company was founded with the main object to increase the margin between the Drachma's real buying power and its market transaction value. The colossal profit derived from this kind of exchange operation will not go into the hands of commerce or speculation. It has been decided that it will be mainly

used to decrease export prices, the remainder to be credited to the occupation expenses account.

The value of the drachma has on the other hand already been fixed in conjunction with the mark and the Lira, and that so as to avoid any further increase of prices in transactions. This was considered to be a stabilising factor in the market. It is obvious however that the maintenance of prices in the future will be well impossible, and that no change can be affected whilst no actual stability is reached.

No definite measures for the balancing of the State's Budget can as yet be taken, and therefore the above-mentioned measure should be sufficient.

BULGARIAN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. The newspaper Slovo writes:

An economic evolution in Macedonia can only be obtained by improving communications and by a good choice of public servants, particularly those attached to economical departments. We consider that the following measures should be taken: Transfer of capitals to Macedonia Part of the capitals of people established in Bulgaria from Macedonia should be used to create a Bank with a Head Office at SKOPIA and Branches at SERRANS, DRAMA, KAVALLA, MONASTIRI, KOMOTINI. Also any teachers and priest who have left these areas should be made to return, so as to continue to educate and direct the people.

TAXES Syros: The local tax bureau has no more the right to increase or decrease taxes. Also the Ermopoulis customs office cannot regulate or control commerce. It has only to be present at any customs control exercised by the Italians and collect any taxes due on customs.

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION.

On the 31-3-41	currency in circulation came to	19371
30-6-41		24075
31-7-41		23060
31-8-41		29059
30-9-41		33842
31-10-41		30067
30-11-41		43528
31-12-41		48798
31-1-42		53014
28-2-42		58490
31-3-42		67068
30-4-42		79144
31-5-42		92184
30-6-42		10946
15-7-42		120520
31-8-42		155192

The PROIA of the 20th of Nov. 42 states: According to an order issued by the Ministry of Finance, the maximum limit of every kind of cash payment, is increased to 100,000 Drs. On the other hand 100,000 Drs are allowed to be drawn weekly in cash or by cheque from Banks or savings accounts. This modification to law 771/1941 aims at facilitating the circulation of cheques and payments to third parties and was greeted with great relief.

IONIAN ISLANDS. Italians have issued the banknotes and have prohibited the use of any other currency.

CHEQUES. We learn that towards the end of Nov. a counter-order was issued abolishing the order (No. 771/1941 para.3) which prohibited the endorsement or issue of cheques.

SYROS. A sum of 37,000,000 has been paid for the occupation expenses during six months, but 17,000,000 still remain unpaid. From the above expenses 1 million was paid in order to cover the expenses made for the reception of the ARGEAN Governor General, Admiral I. CAMBIANI.

LOANS. The newspaper VRADINI publishes the following:

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Order.

The owners of following state loans:

- 1) 5% 1900 (P. MELIGALA)
- 2) 4% 1902 (Greek Railways)
- 3) 6,5% 1922 (A. ANANGASTIKOU)
- 4) 6% 1926 (Exchanged)
- 5) 6% (Refugees Agriculture exchanges)

are informed that owing to the lack of paper capable of being beyond falsification and standing up to the daily wear and tear, the issue of coupons, for the time being, is suspended. Many shares are therefore, without coupons and payment of dividends has been postponed.

FINANCES. The following note was sent by a patriot organisation in GREECE: Nobody can deny the importance of the cultivation of potatoes. Our country is able to produce a sufficient quantity to cover its needs, but a big effort is necessary. Before the war plans for this had been made, but were frustrated with the outbreak of hostilities. On Nov. 21st a report was delivered to the Ministry of Finance emphasizing:

- a) That GREECE has already paid in advance for three years the occupation expenses.
- b) That owing to many requisitions and confiscations the economical situation in GREECE is critical.
- c) That the food supplies of the country is, very critical and the population suffers to a great extent starvation.
- d) That the inflation threatens to destroy the life of the country.
- e) That it is of a primary importance to immediately seize any further advance payments of occupation expenses. A conference at ROME resulted, and was decided that the expenses will come to 1,5 billion drs instead of 3,5 monthly and the promise to help GREECE economically.

A committee of food supply has determined that the lowest monthly limit of the country's needs concerning wheat, is 38,000 tons. All the food supplies demanded by the occupation forces have been delivered in spite of the fact that the local production is insufficient. Besides, the country is overcharged with expenses incurred by the constructing various military works necessary to the enemy only.

ECONOMICAL SITUATION OF NAVAL CIRCLES. No economic liaison exist between the merchant navy and occupied Greece. Ship owners who remained in Athens, live by drawing loans or their banked money in London and with this money help the families of the working on their ships crews, always supposing that these have not suffered from the consequences of war.

The people or organisation willing to advance loans to Ship owners are usually parties entirely foreign to naval circles and as basis of exchange pay 1/10 to 1/20 of the quoted value of the Gold Sterling in Greece. Thus, a gold sterling in these transactions is exchanged for 30.000 Drs. and Ship owners sign drafts for amounts received. They would however, get a better rate of exchange if they knew anything of the actual fate of their ships. Thus the families of crews in their employ abroad would be able to get more help. Tsolacoglou Government has recently accepted a proposition made by the shipowners Association to postpone collection of excess profits of taxes to be paid by shipowners remaining in GREECE.

This is done under a form of postponement of the payment which is approved by a special committee. On April 1942, 210 demands for postponement of excess profits tax payment were put in and all were accepted.

DRAFTS. The DONAUZEITUNG of the 4th of Dec. states: In the Official Gazette a law was published giving full power to the National Bank of GREECE to issue drafts payable to the bearer up to sums of 100-500,000 drs. valid for six months and repayable then in cash. These bills were mainly destined to be used by farmers who have plans to give up a part of their crop to the State. These farmers receive drafts worth 75% of the value of the delivered products.

<u>Cost of land in ATHENS:</u> A plot of 650 square yards	80,000,000
Smaller	30,000,000
A small flat	25,000,000

STOCK EXCHANGE. The progress of operations has had a very big influence on the value of the gold Sterling. Thus, according to information received in Dec. the value of the English Gold Pound decreased from 610,000 drs. to 150,000. The same fall was witnessed in SALONICA. The occupation of unoccupied France by the Germans produced a rise in the Gold Sterling value to 225,000 drs.

Inland Loans. Bulgarian occupied territories. The Newspaper ZORA states that at a meeting of the DRAMA's merchant under the direction of TSEKOF president of the Merchant Society, 2 million leva were subscribed for the Bulgarian inland Loan. It is expected that the total subscription of the DRAMA merchant will come to 5 million leva.

STATE ECONOMY. The following picture is given to us by refugees about the agricultural situation in GREECE. After the occupation the existing products were sold at a cheap price. Later on lack of supplies and the inflation found the farmers with insufficient means to face the winter difficulties. This situation, the increase of prices and the return of the demobilised soldiers to their old jobs, caused a more intensive circulation in spite of lack of manures and artificial fertilizers and other essential means. The cultivation owing to lack of machines and animals which were requisitioned by the enemy was carried out with tools and consequently not very fruitful. The farmers presumed that in spite of the fact that the Germans would requisition the whole production, they would live sufficient quantities to enable the farmers to face their needs.

In the mountainous areas of EPIRUS, AITOLOACAREVANIA and SALONICA, the bread problem becomes more and more acute. According to information received on Nov. 42, during the month of Sept 41 30%

Oct. 41	40%
Nov. 41	50%
Jan. 42	70%

Mar. 42 80-90% of the population was deprived of bread. Besides in these areas the new cultivation of maize and cereals failed owing to dry weather and therefore the population will be hard tried for food. These mountainous populations have no other sources of income apart from their agricultural production then consequently cannot afford to buy their essential supplies because the prices have reached impossible heights. The price of wheat in Salonica is 3000 Drs and in Athens 10.000. Besides the transport difficulties due to the lack of means and prohibitive orders issued by the occupation Authorities to move from one area to another do not help in the least.

Collective confiscations decrees from the Occupation Authorities. According to an order issued by the Germans at DIDIMOTHEON the whole tobacco crop is requisitioned and growers merchants have up to the 20th of Oct. to declare their stocks. According to the order No. 226/42 the all existing stocks of Silk cocoons are confiscated.

According to an order issued on 3rd July 1942 by the German Governor, all the existing leather is requisitioned. This confiscation of goods which are the sole production of certain areas and the extremely low payments for them, will cause an economic crisis in future production.

From information received in January 1943 the main products of CHIOS have been confiscated by the Germans and despatched to Salonica. In the same way, Italians have requisitioned in the CYCLADES potatoes, onions etc and despatched them to the RODECANESSE.

The Bulgarian paper "BETSER" writes that the whole of olive oil production of the AEGEAN has been placed at the disposal of the Bulgarians for export and purchase of cereals.

The DOMUZITUNG of 30 Dec. 1942 writes that the Bulgarian directorate of commerce and corn has undertaken the harvest and distillation of the olive oil crop.

All the above information show us to what extent the occupation Authorities are thieving the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture fearing the total extinction of cattle, has prohibited any further slaughter of animals. Besides, orders were given to the Agricultural Bank to accord loans to cattlebreeders and to help the exchange cattle breeding by-products for animal feed. In spite of all that the disappearance of cattle is inevitable and nearly all available animals have been slaughtered to meet the lack of food. Even dogs and cats have been killed. As for cattle feed it seems that it is now quite often used for human consumption and therefore, the maintenance of animals is impossible. The occupation Authorities, in order to maintain the remaining animals are pressing the Ministry of Agriculture to take strong measures in this respect.

MINES. The KIRKIS mine, is situated 1,5 hours from the KIRKIS Railway station and North East of Kirkis village. The mine manager is German. Lead, iron, chromium and little silver are extracted from it. The mine gallery's superintendants are German. 50 workers and 110 technicians work in this mine and their salary varies between 50-110 leva. The workers receive 600 grams of bread and the miners 800. They also receive daily from the public kitchens 5 potatoes or a ration of broth. No medical help of any sort is available, and the mine resembles thus a cemetery because the miners suffer enormously. The workers refusing to work are beaten with iron by the German Bayer. 2nd/Lt DARADOUKAS a reserve officer of the Greek army working in the mine was shot at by the Bulgarian inspector and was forced to jump into a crevice 6,5 feet deep to save himself. Owing to the workers resistance and their unwillingness to help the enemy, no ore dispatches have yet taken place.

FORESTS. According to information received, Italians and Germans have destroyed all the pine tree forests around Athens. Should they carry on that way we very much fear that soon the whole of Attiki will be bereft of trees.

LABOUR. The increase of salaries is not at all in proportion with the rise in the cost of life. Few industries are in function to day. All mines especially the lignite mines are working for the benefit of the axis. The axis are trying to intensify the production of the Athens lignite Mine.

The Germans are hard pressed to find workmen for their factories and mines and they are constantly discharging and changing them. Also employment agencies are forced to insert labour adverts in papers so as to procure labour for various axis run enterprises. The Italian deputy gave a gift of money recently so as to buy shoes for the workers in GREECE. We can well see that most of them are bare-footed and that the Axis partners have realized the importance of providing shoes for workers in heavy industries.

We must accentuate that if the situation of workmen in the Athens area is so bad then that of the others in far off districts must be tragic. Even since the occupation the civil service started disintegrating as:

- a) The public employees realized that their work was benefitting the enemy and they therefore avoid work as much as possible.
- b) The critical food supply situation in GREECE, compels the employed to search for food rather than employment. The Germans after the first civil servants strike, threatened that any future strike would be considered as an act of sabotage.

- c) No transports or means of intercommunication exist for public service.
- d) There is a complete lack of raw material for the completion of technical and public works.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Railways. Railways are run for the benefit of the Axis occupant. Greeks are allowed to travel only once a week and to do so have to obtain various special permission from the Occupation Authorities, who usually, refuse to issue them. After the destruction of GORGO-POTAMOS bridge by the patriots, the journey from ATHENS to SALONICA which usually took only 40 hours was increased to 65-100 hours. From information received towards the end of Dec. 42 the use of the railway north of SALONICA is prohibited to Greeks.

Owing to the fact that the enemy has confiscated all cars, and to the lack of petrol, communication by cars is nonexistent.

The trams are run only for sporadically in towns. The Salonica's tramways have been altered and are now using wood for fuel.

Merchant Navy. Communication by sea is very difficult, dangerous and rather impossible. The few ships spared by air attacks in April and May 41 and those which have been repaired such as SS "NICHOLAS A. SHELEN CANELLOPOULOS", "MILOS", "ACROPOLIS" etc have been requisitioned by the German Naval Authorities. Caiques over 100 tons are also requisitioned and run by the SEETRANSPORTSTELLE. Many of the large caiques were lost when the Germans tried the sea borne invasion of CRETE during the battle for the island. Those not requisitioned are small or old using their sailonly or petrol sold clandestinely by German or Italian officers at very high prices. The freight is colossal.

The Germans promised SALONICA to their Allies. However, they clearly show a desire to keep the town. The German paper DONAUZEITUNG writes: Salonica's Municipality, influenced by the Germans, has decided to start executing embellishment works of the town. We don't think that Germans are so polite and superior so as to embellish the town before handing it over.

INTERCOMMUNICATIONS. According to information received the cost of correspondence, telegraphs, and telephone communications has been doubled.

EDUCATION - CHURCH.

Universities. Universities are not functioning regularly. Students are unable to attend courses either because they are too weak to attend and go to ATHENS from the suburbs where most of them live, or because the professors are in trouble with the occupation Authorities and therefore unable to teach or because the students are taking part in the National resistance and going on strike.

According to information received, the Ministry of Education decided that the entrance exams to the National METSOVION school of technology are postponed until the 19th of Oct.

The paper "KATHIMERINI" of the 22nd of Nov. announces that the courses at the University will begin on the 1st of Dec. The paper advises that holidays should be abolished this year so that students may make up for lost time.

Lately we learnt that the courses would commence after the 28th of Oct. We cannot conclude that courses began and were stopped again or whether they were not resumed since.

Secondary Education. The paper "KATHIMERINI" writes: The schools have finished this year's exams. Next year's course will be resumed on the 1st of Feb. 43. Many professors from CORFU were transferred to ATHENS because they refused to submit and obey the new Italian regulations.

Primary Education. This is carried out, very imperfectly. Children are unable to attend the courses owing to lack of shoes and clothes and starvation. Generally speaking there are few teachers either because they have chosen other more profitable jobs or because many of them are in trouble with the Occupation Authorities and are being pursued.

From the 14th of Dec. issue of the paper ECONOMICOS TA HYDROMOS we learn that 400 professors and teachers have been nominated for the Macedonian schools, thus these will be able to function instead of closing through lack of teachers.

The Occupation Authorities created German Italian and Bulgarian schools in GREECE.

From information received from SYROS at the beginning of Sept. we learn that the Italians have forbidden the singing of the National Anthem and any national songs in the schools. Also it is forbidden to hold any school feast without first obtaining their permission. Teachers are persecuted without any reason or because they show patriotic feelings. The Information bulletin adds that we should be proud of the Grand and firm attitude adopted by our preachers teachers and school children.

CHURCH According to information received the clergy offers big services in the National fight with their preaching and conduct. Many priests are interned at the AVROFF and TREKKALA criminals prisons. The patriotic activities of the Salonica, Kozani and Castoria bishops are outstanding.

PRESS - RADIO - LITERATURE - ART - THEATRE.

The "EPOGEVATINI" writes: In Germany, besides the classical Gymnasium, there is a practical one which prepares young people for technical and practical jobs. Foreign languages are also being taught. However, two languages constitute the main basis of human civilisation, Greek and Latin and the only ones which come in contact with the ancient world of Greece and ROME. Therefore the teaching of the Greek and Latin languages are of primary importance.

The understanding of the Historical phenomenon called "Hellenism" constitutes the first phase of the lessons in Germany. After that comes the education in the Greek spirit and civilisation. The Greek lessons aim to serve the reformation work of the creative evolution of the German Nation according to the new order and social ideas. The principal means to reach this high aim is the study and understanding of the Greek philosophy and philology, particularly of the works of Platon, Sofokles, Thoukidides, the deep understanding of the master pieces of the Greek Art and of the Greek fighting spirit.

The Bulgarian paper "SLOVO" writes: Now that the old Bulgarian aims of occupying the present Bulgaria occupied Greece have been fulfilled, it is necessary to inspire the territory with Bulgarian nationalist spirit. To be able to do this he adds we should a) re-establish exiled Bulgarian from the areas and b) organise the foreigners (Greeks) living in them.

The Bulgarians at present carry out this by transferring whole Bulgarian families to these territories and are ill-treating, exiling and killing the Greek population there.

RADIO. The German Government of the EVROS prefecture has issued an order prohibiting the listening in of foreign broadcasts. Any contravention is punished by confiscation of the set.

From another source of information we learn, that the Germans have confiscated all sets in the EVROS prefecture and using them for themselves. The German Military Police has stopped communicating news and even MERLIN does not broadcast the news in Greek any more to avoid any chance soldiers taking the opportunity of listening to enemy stations which would contribute to the lowering of their moral.

No radio sets are allowed in SALONICA. Any person giving news or spreading rumors is punished by death.

At the CYCLADES islands radio sets are also prohibited. The inhabitants were being informed by loud speakers of the Axis communiques but the Authorities understood that the listeners were

indirectly able to conclude the truth. Consequently, the broadcasting of the communiqué was stopped, giving as reason the breakdown of the radios.

MUSEUMS.

According to information the Italian Governor of SYROS island, Brigadier DOUKA, has taken away from DELLOS Museum antiquities of great value. However the Brigadier was compelled after the interference of the Ministry of Education to return these antiquities, with which he intended to decorate his office.

Cairo 20th April 1943

the
Hellenic Intelligence Service

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For correct Translation
The TRANSLATIONS DEPT.