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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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March 22, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Harold H. Saunders *the*

SUBJECT: Information Memo on Demetracopoulos

Attached is the information memo you requested on the recent Demetracopoulos flap.

This is g not going forward to the Pres.

Dr. K has seen.

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DOS, OSD, NSS reviews completed.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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INFORMATION

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: The Demetracopoulos Affair

You may have heard some repercussions from the recent flap over a request by Greek "journalist" and resistance leader, Elias Demetracopoulos, to return to Greece to see his sick father. In his behalf, Senators Moss, Gravel, Burdick and Hartke had wired our embassy to convey a message to the Greek government asking that it guarantee safe conduct during the trip since he is a political exile. Our embassy delivered the messages and was told that the Greek embassy in Washington would be instructed to inform Demetracopoulos to apply for a laissez-passer. Under Secretary Palamas in Athens left Ambassador Tasca with the impression that the government would make no difficulty for him.

The long and the short of it is that Demetracopoulos never got in touch with the embassy here--although State had advised him to do that--nor did the embassy get in touch with him. In the interim, his father died and he--along with the Senators who at that point had not had direct reply to their telegram to the Greek government--blamed the White House and State for inhumane mishandling of the affair. The Senators subsequently wrote a very critical letter to you. Bill Timmons signed a reply which I cleared clarifying that our government had done everything appropriate and that Demetracopoulos could have gone had he applied to the embassy here. The issue died down very quickly.

Since Demetracopoulos has such a following in Congress and has an outlet in Rowland Evans, I thought you might be interested in knowing that he has long been an irritant in U. S. -Greek relations. Among his intrigues--which have included selling himself as a trusted U. S. agent to anyone and everyone--he has touched off a record number of controversies and embarrassments between Greek and American officials. Through various journalistic enterprises, he has somehow managed to gain access to press and government circles. State, Defense and

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USIA have repeatedly warned officials about Demetracopoulos; yet he managed, for example, to get an exclusive interview with then Vice-President Lyndon Johnson in 1961. He has had similar success elsewhere in the government and on the Hill. Whether the Senators are fully informed on Demetracopoulos' background is unclear. Nevertheless, they find him a convenient peg on which to hang a lot of complaints about our policy in Greece.

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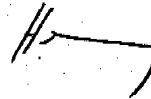
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1971

Dear Henry,

I was interested to read the saga you sent me, following the most recent bout with Demetracopoulos. He and his ilk are troublesome, but the issue here at least seems relatively quiet.

Warm regards,



Henry A. Kissinger

The Honorable
Henry J. Tasca
Embassy of the United States of America
Athens

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