

MACEDONIAN AGENDA



16 essays on the development of Macedonian culture in Australia. Includes cultural values, language, religion, arts, identity, women's issues, the elderly, immigration, politics, the "child refugees", human rights and more

**Editor
Victor Bivell**

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*Front cover: February 2, 1960, Bitola Railway Station, Macedonia:
Mr Aleksandar Kolupacev is farewelled by his village, Gjavato, as he
sets out for a new life in Port Kembla, Australia.*

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Submission On The 28,000 Ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees"

Aegean Macedonian Association of Australia

This submission was made by the Aegean Macedonian Association of Australia to the Federal Government's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade: Human Rights Sub Committee, July 16, 1993.

Subject Matter: 28,000 Ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" Of The Greek Civil War (1946-1949)

More than 28,000 ethnic Macedonian children between the ages of 2 - 14 became "Child Refugees" as a consequence of the Greek Civil War (1946-1949).

The Times, December 3, 1948, reported - by the spring of 1949, the estimated total was approaching 30,000.

The plight of the ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees", who went into exile and lived in refugee camps and hostels provided by Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania is best illustrated in the 40th anniversary book titled "1948-1988: The Exodus of the Children from the Aegean Part of Macedonia", a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

This tragic event led to the United Nations on November 27, 1948 adopting unanimously Resolution 193 C (III) reproduced hereunder:

"The General Assembly recommends the return to Greece of Greek children at present away from their homes when the children, their father or mother, in his or her absence, their closest relative, express a wish to that effect;

"Invites all the Members of the United Nations and other states on whose territory these children are to be found, to take the necessary measures for implementation of the present recommendation;

"Instructs the Secretary-General to request the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to organize and ensure liaison with the National Red Cross organizations of the states concerned with a view to empowering the national Red Cross organizations to adopt measures in the respective

countries for implementing the present recommendation".

Ethnic Greek refugees from the Civil War have been allowed to repatriate to Greece. The most notable is Markos Vafiades, commander of the communist guerillas and illegal "Prime Minister" during the 1946-1949 Greek Civil War, who was allowed to return to Greece from exile after which he became a Socialist MP in 1989 and 1990. The Times, February 24, 1992 at page 13 "Obituary Column" gave a historical perspective of him, a copy of which is annexed and marked with the letter "A".

Refugees from other crises have also been allowed to enter Greece. On March 1, 1990 the Greek Government made an application to the Council of Europe (EEC) to part finance a program for the reception and re-settlement of 100,000 people of Greek origin who are refugees from the USSR, a copy of the front page of which is annexed and marked with the letter "B".

However, the ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" have been legally denied repatriation to their homes in Greece to reclaim their citizenship and ancestral property. This is evidenced by the following specific current legislation:

1. On December 28, 1982 the Greek Parliament passed Law 106841/82 which allows only political emigrants who are "Greek by origin" (ethnic Greeks) to repatriate to Greece and the effect of this law is to clearly discriminate against ethnic Macedonians.

2. On April 10, 1985, the Greek Parliament passed Law 1540/85 which deals with the return of property seized by the Greek state in the wake of the Civil War from political refugees and internees, and blatantly discriminates against ethnic Macedonians by limiting the definition of political emigrants to only "Greek by origin" (ethnic Greeks).

A Case History

Apostolis Radis, an ethnic Macedonian living in Poland, is just one such "Child Refugee" whose application to repatriate to his home in Greece was refused by the Greek Government on the grounds that Mr Radis is not a refugee of "Greek origin" pursuant to Law 106841/82.

The relevant correspondence in this regard is annexed hereto and marked with the letter "C" -

1. Letter from the Greek Ministry of Interior dated January 16, 1984.
2. Letter from the Greek Ministry of Interior dated March 24, 1986.
3. Letter from the United Nations Centre for Human Rights dated April 11, 1986.

4. Letter from Apostolos Radis to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights dated June 14, 1986.

5. Letter from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Greece in Geneva dated January 19, 1987.

6. Letter from United Nations Centre for Human Rights dated May 5, 1987.

7. Letter by Apostolos Radis to United Nations Centre for Human Rights Geneva dated September 20, 1987.

International Covenant

The Greek Law 106841/82 contravenes the General Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, particularly Article 13, which states:

"2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

This law removes the right of ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to return to their own country (Greece).

The Greek Law 1540/85 contravenes the General Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, particularly Article 17, which states:

"No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property."

This law removes the right of ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to claim their ancestral homes.

The Australian Perspective

There are currently 550 ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" living in Australia. These Australian citizens are deprived by the Greek Government from repatriating to Greece and claiming their ancestral property.

Many of these Australian citizens have on numerous occasions tried to journey back to Greece by crossing the Greek/Macedonian border only to be refused the right of entry.

On one such occasion in 1988, the 40th anniversary of their exile from Greece, more than 100 Australian Macedonian "Child Refugees" were among 3,000 Macedonian "Child Refugees" who took part in a reunion in Skopje, Macedonia. About 50 Western Australians were believed to be among 250 "Child Refugees" who were stopped at the Greek border and held under duress. This event was reported by the Perth Sunday Times, July 17, 1988 in an article titled "Perth Group in Border Block", a copy of which is annexed and marked "D".

An insightful discussion of the issues pertaining to the Macedonian "Child Refugees", combined with an analysis of anti-Macedonian Greek laws, is contained in the book "What Europe Has Forgotten: The Struggle of the Aegean Macedonians" annexed herewith.

Conclusions

It is clear that the Greek Government has failed to comply with United Nations Resolution 193 C (III) of November 27, 1948 in respect to the repatriation of the ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to Greece.

It is well documented that ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" are denied their basic human rights by the Greek Government, particularly their right to repatriate to their homes in Greece, and reclaim their citizenship (denied by Law 106841/82) and ancestral property (denied by Law 1540/85).

It is noted that Law 106841/82 was used by the Greek Government to deny the application for repatriation to Greece of one, Apostolos Radis (an ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugee" residing in Poland).

Ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" such as Apostolos Radis, who have been denied the return of their citizenship by virtue of Law 106841/82 are consequently unable to reclaim their confiscated ancestral property pursuant to Law 1540/85.

Proposals

The Australian Government to use its good offices in the United Nations to raise the issue of the repatriation of the ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to Greece, in compliance with UN Resolution 193 C (III) of November 27, 1948.

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece its refusal to allow repatriation of the ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to Greece.

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece the nature and effect of discriminatory law of 106841/82 as it applies to ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees".

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece its refusal to allow ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to claim their ancestral property in Greece, which was confiscated by the Greek Government after the Greek Civil War of 1946-1949.

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece the nature and effect of discriminatory law 1540/85 as it applies to ethnic

Macedonian "Child Refugees".

In the alternative:

The Australian Government to use its good offices in the United Nations to raise the issue of the repatriation to Greece of the 550 Australian citizens who are ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees", in compliance with UN Resolution 193 C (III) of November 27, 1948.

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece its refusal to allow the repatriation of the 550 Australian citizens who are ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to Greece.

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece the nature and effect of discriminatory law of 106841/82 as it applies to the 550 Australian citizens who are ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees".

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece its refusal to allow 550 Australian citizens who are ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" to claim their ancestral property in Greece confiscated by the Greek Government after the Greek Civil War of 1946-1949.

The Australian Government to raise with the Government of Greece the nature and effect of discriminatory law 1540/85 as it applies to 550 Australian citizens who are ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees".

The Association would like to thank the members of the Committee for the opportunity to make this submission in respect to the tragic plight of the ethnic Macedonian "Child Refugees" from Greece.

OBITUARIES

MARKOS VAFIADES

Markos Vafiades, who fought with ELAS partisans against the Germans in occupied Greece and subsequently commanded the communist forces in the Greek civil war of 1946-49, died in Athens on February 22 aged 84. He was born on January 28, 1906, in Theodosia, now Tisia, in Asia Minor.

MARKOS Vafiades, or "General Markos" as he was known in his subsequent days, fought with the communist ELAS resistance to German occupation of Greece during the war years and then took command of the communist armies in their attempt to ensure that Greece remained within the communist fold. Highly successful in the first undertaking, in the second he and the communists were totally defeated. But it was a close-run thing. Only against American and to the nationalist forces in the wake of alarmed British warnings in the USA about the extent of communist success, and the sealing off of their Yugoslav havens by a Tito who had by then fallen out with the Russians, turned the tide in 1947 when everything seemed to be going the communists' way. The realiser early in the Soviet Union was Markos's lot, an increasingly uncomfortable experience as Soviet gratitude for his efforts for the cause wore thin. Eventually Vafiades was allowed to return to Greece where he served as a socialist member of parliament until his death.

Markos Vafiades was the sixth of seven children of a teacher in one of the Greek cities of Asia Minor. He received a decent elementary school education but was orphaned at the age of 14 when he moved to Istanbul, taking odd jobs to support his two sisters. He came to Greece as a refugee in 1923 in the aftermath of the Asia Minor disaster — the Greek invasion of Turkey that cost Greece enclaves on the Ionian coastline which had been Greek for more than 2,500 years. Vafiades obtained work as a tobacco labourer in the north-eastern city of Kavala.

He joined the Greek communist party (KKE) while still in his teens and soon appointed to the central committee of the party's youth movement. During the 1930s he was several times sentenced to imprisonment and internal exile before and during the right wing dictatorship of General Ioannis (Tzile



John) Metaxas. When, in April 1941, the Germans invaded Greece, Vafiades was enjoying one such period of exile at Gavdos, Greece's southernmost island, off Crete. He escaped and joined the ELAS communist resistance movement. He was soon appointed political leader of the Macedonian Command Committee in his capacity as a central committee member of the KKE. It was at this time that he first demonstrated the flair for soldiering and the readiness to learn from the Greek regular army officers active with the guerrillas that were to give him a lead role in the subsequent civil war.

The first communist attempt to seize power in Greece was defeated in December 1944 with the help of British troops who had moved into

Greece as the Germans pulled out, with the aim of preserving the country as a predominantly western interest. This was a concession Churchill had extracted from Stalin, in exchange for a recognition of Soviet rights over Bulgaria and Romania. In the bargaining between the three allied leaders over the appointment of post-war spheres of influence.

The second attempt to seize power, which led to the 1946-49 civil war, opened with the formation of the Greek Democratic Army, the communist successor to the partisan ELAS. Appointed its commander, Vafiades adopted the title "General Markos" and provided strong and able leadership. By September 1946 he had set up communist outposts in northern Greece from which to

launch hit and run attacks — tactics which he so soon extended back to his study of their usage by Mao Tse-tung during the revolutionary struggle in China. He was, perhaps not rightly, convinced that they provided the sole hope of eventual victory for the communists in Greece.

The communist movement appeared to be well on the way to victory early in 1947 when enormous difficulties forced Britain to warn the Americans that it would have to discontinue military aid to the Greek government and withdraw its troops. The United States responded with the Truman Doctrine, the pledge by President Harry S. Truman of assistance to "free peoples against movements seeking to impose on them totalitarian regimes". This translated into military backing for the Greek government that virtually assured communist defeat, though the civil war was to continue for another two years. When a Greek communist "provisional democratic government" was set up in exile in Albania, Vafiades became its prime minister and defence minister and commander in the field of the communist forces. However, this government failed to secure recognition even from the Soviet Union and

the three Balkan countries — Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria — which provided it with aid and refuge. The government in exile was also defeated in successive attempts to seize a Greek town at seat of government.

A conflict developed between Vafiades and the Greek communist party leader, Nikos Zachariades, who forced him, against his better judgment, to abandon his successful hit and run tactics for conventional warfare in the open fields. When this led to military reverses, Zachariades was able not only to accuse him of being an incompetent but also to charge him with being a British agent. Vafiades was dismissed from all his posts and expelled from the communist party in 1948. The new withdrew the asylum in Yugoslavia to which the communist forces had been accustomed and Albania and Bulgaria were also dealt to them. Zachariades launched a desperate all-out final attack in Greece but was defeated at the battles of Gramos and Vitsi on the Greek side of the mountain border. In the summer of 1949, and the civil war was over.

Vafiades fled to Albania where, for some months he was under house

arrest in the Albanian capital. Eventually he was allowed to go to the Soviet Union in 1949, but did so virtually in disgrace, having fallen out with his own party and being under the twin stigma of being variously an agent of British and Yugoslav intelligence. Since, by then, Tito was Stalin's *bête noir* for having taken Yugoslavia out of the Soviet bloc, these were difficult times for Vafiades and like-minded Greek communists who had taken refuge in the USSR. Following Stalin's death in 1953, Markos and his companions were rehabilitated at the sixth congress of the Greek communist party, which now excluded Zachariades. But the fear of successive Greek centrist and right wing governments still ensured that Vafiades and his fellow exiles received no invitation home. Vafiades spent the next 34 years working at a watch repairer in a provincial town, under the name Vassili Ioannou Kulev. Indeed, at the years went by there were about 25,000 Greeks, many of them children of the original exiles, in the Soviet Union, concentrated mainly on the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, where they kept up their culture and traditions.

However, in 1982, with the socialist (PASOK) party of Andreas Papandrou in power, Markos was reunited with other communists and he returned to Greece on March 25, the anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman empire in 1921. He wrote his memoirs in two volumes and, though never joining the socialist party, was elected in 1989 as an independent member of the Greek parliament on the PASOK ticket.

Vafiades was a man who could always raise a smile for public scrutiny but was nevertheless often bitter at heart. In a final television interview last December he was still declaring his faith in communism as an ideology, blaming the policies of Mikhail Gorbachev for the dissolution of the Soviet Union. He recognised that the Greek communists had only themselves to blame for their defeat, acknowledging that it would have been wiser if they had participated in elections in 1946.

Married in 1956, he is survived by his wife and a son, Vladimir, who are still living somewhere in the former Soviet Union.

KATE TER HORST

Kate Ter Horst, "the angel of Arnhem", died in a road accident on February 21 aged 85. She was born on July 6, 1906.

KATE Ter Horst, a gifted, determined and courageous Dutch woman, won a unique place in the hearts of the 1st British Airborne Division through her heroism during the nine days of desperate action in September 1944 to secure the Arnhem Bridge. The affection in which she was held was demonstrated by the many veterans of the battle who visited her every year, to whom she was known as "the angel of Arnhem".

Kate Arriens was the daughter of a Dutch naval officer. Married in 1930 to a lawyer, Jan ter Horst, she came in 1941 to live in the old pastor's house at Hoversleek, a small town in the west of Arnhem. It was this house which quickly became a British medical post when the airborne troops landed on September 17, 1944, at the start of the Battle of Arnhem.

Her husband was cut off from the house by the fighting but she remained there with her five children throughout the eight days of the battle. The house was badly damaged in the ferocious fighting; one shell went straight through it, but in the basement she ministered continuously to the wounded and dying; more than 200 lay packed on the floor at any one time, as shared everything she had with them. At the height of the fighting she read aloud Psalm 91, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress..." a scene portrayed movingly by Iris Ulman in the film *Bridge Too Far*. When the

battle was over more than 80 British soldiers were buried in a grave in her garden and she and her children were forced to leave their home immediately with small quantities of possessions. But some years later the horrors of the battle returned tragically when her first son jumped from a tree in her garden on to an unexploded mine and was killed instantly.

Kate Ter Horst was a reserved participant rather than a communitarian of the battle of Arnhem initiated by her husband, as mayor of Hoversleek, and by General Urquhart, who had commanded the 1st Airborne Division throughout the battle.

The veterans, from general to private soldier, who came to her year after year had a special place in her heart. Her profound spiritual strength, which had carried her through the ordeal of the battle of Arnhem, was felt by all who knew her. She was a person of great modesty, but was intensely proud of the honorary OBE which had been awarded to her.



APPRECIATION

Robin Johnston

YOUR excellent account (February 21) of Robin Johnston's wartime record as a reconnaissance fighter pilot made no mention of his post-war

and concludes on thoughts of Robin did not see and this... On the strength of this briefing Mr Strachey had the Governor, Sir Edward Twining, the following day that

"B"

COUNCIL
OF EUROPE



CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg 20 March 1990
P932.90
900-21/3/90-4-B

Confidential
Fonds/Projet 932 (1990)

Or. Fr.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Application of 1 March 1990
from the Greek Government on behalf of the
Agricultural Bank of Greece (ABG) for a loan
of USD 300,000,000 or ECU 247,524,800
to part-finance a programme for the reception
and resettlement of 100,000 refugees of Greek
origin from the USSR

- I. Governor's report on the technical and financial aspects of the project (pages 2 and 3).
- II. Opinion of the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement on the Social Development Fund as to admissibility (pages 4 and 5).
- III. Referral to the Administrative Council and Governor's recommendation (page 6).

APPENDIX - Project abstract (page 7).



FOURTY YEARS
Council of Europe
Quarante ans
Conseil de l'Europe

This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΗ
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ

ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ

Αθήνα, 16 Δεκεμβρίου 1983
Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 68 5746/83

ΚΟΙΝΗ: 1. ΥΠ.Σ.Α. - Β1/2
Ε.Υ.Σ.Ο.Θ.Α
2. Τμήμα Α' Ιθαγένειας.

ΘΕΜΑ: Απορρίπτεται αίτημα ανακτήσεως Ελληνικής Ιθαγένειας του
Αποστολίου Ράδισ, υιού Δημητρίου και Ευδοκίας
Α.Η.Σ.Ο.Α.Γ.Η
Ο ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

Έχοντας υπόψη:

1. Τις διατάξεις του άρθρου 19 του Ν.Α/τος 3370/55 "περί Κώδικα Ελληνικής Ιθαγένειας".
2. Την από 17.10.1983 αίτηση του Αποστολίου Ράδισ, υιού Δημητρίου και Ευδοκίας, περί ανακτήσεως της ελληνικής ιθαγένειας που τούτο απαιτήθηκε με την από 21.10.1983 απόφαση του Υπουργείου, δυνάμει των διατάξεων του ανωτέρω άρθρου.
3. Το 8/39452-362021/Α-12-1983 έγγραφο της ΥΠ.Ε.Α.
4. Την 11.5.1983, 27.12.1983 γνωμοδότηση του Συμβουλίου Ιθαγένειας, σύμφωνα με την οποία δεν συντρέχουν λόγοι που να δικαιολογούν την ανάκληση της απαίτησης της Ελληνικής ιθαγένειας τούτου, εν λόγω και για τους λόγους που ειδικότερα αναφέρονται ο'αυτή

Α Π Ο Φ Α Σ Η

Απορρίπτεται το αίτημα του Αποστολίου Ράδισ, υιού Δημητρίου και Ευδοκίας, περί ανακτήσεως της Ελληνικής ιθαγένειας.

Υπογραφή: [Signature]

Ο Γεν. Γραμματέας
[Signature]

Ο Υπουργός
[Signature]
ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΙΜΑΤΑΣ

Translation of enclosure 10

Confidential

Republic of Greece
Ministry of Interior
Department of Citizenship
Citizenship Section

Duplicate

Athens, 16.01.1984
No EII 5746/83

1. Office of Public Security - B1/2 - local -
2. Citizenship Section - I

Ref: the rejection of the demand of Mr Apostolos Radis, the son of Dimitr and Evdokia, for the recovery of Greek citizenship.

The Decision
The Minister of Interior

According to:

1. The regulation clause 19 Law No ND/3370/55 - Code of Greek Citizenship.
2. The above mentioned application dated 17.10.1983 in the matter of the recovery of Greek citizenship, which on January 21, 1960 was taken away from him by the Minister's Order on the basis of the Act L-2/1947.
3. The letter of the Office of Public Security - No 8/39452-362021 dated 2.12.1983.
4. The regulation of the Council for Affairs of Citizenship, in accordance with that regulation there is a lack of reasons justifying the recovery of Greek citizenship.

We have decided:

to reject the demand of Mr Apostolos Radis, the son of Dimitr and Evdokia, for the recovery of Greek citizenship.

The signatures:

- 1-/ Members of Commission unreadable signatures
- 1-/ Secretary Pandeli Tsuras
- 1-/ Chairman Georgios Gennimatas

100 (1)

Enclosure 6

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΚΑΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ
ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΝΕΣΤΟΡΙΟΥ
Αριθ. Πρωτ. 425
Αριθ. Πρωτ.



ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΟ

Ο ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ
ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΕΙ ΟΤΙ:

ο Ράδης Αναστάσιος
του Δημητρίου και της Ευδοκίας
το γένος Βαγγιλιώτη γεννημένος στ Ολιανόχωρι
επίσης νύμφη Μαρίνη είναι γάμος
στο Μετρώ Αρρένων με επίσημη αριθ. 59
και έτος γεννήσεως Θάρα Σπυριδίου Τριάντη Επτά (1937) πο
και ότι είναι Έλληνας ορθόδοξος και χριστιανός ορθόδοξος από γονείς Έλληνες και ορ
θόδοξους. Επάγγελμα Ε. Αρμόλιος
Το πιστοποιητικό αυτό εκδόθηκε ύστερα από αίτησή του, για να το χρησιμοποιή
σει για κάθε χρήση

Νεστόριου 24-3 1986

Ο ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ

Translation of enclosure 6
Ministry of Interior
Province Kastoria
District Nestorion
No 425

The Certificate
The Head of District states:

Mr Apostolis Radis, the son of Dimitr and Evdokia (nee Barba), born in Giannochori, presently living in Athens, is in our Birth's Book under the number 59, the year of birth 1937, as a holder of orthodox religion, of orthodox Greek parents. He is not a Greek Citizen because Greek Citizenship was taken away from him.
The above certificate was issued on the basis of the petitioner's request for his general use.

Nestorion, 24.03.1986
The Head of District Nestorion
/-/ unreadable signature

(Note: There is a mistake in the above certificate. Mr Radis did not live in Athens in 1986. He lives in Gdynia, Poland.)

"C" (3)

Enclosure 7

OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES A GENÈVE

CENTRE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Télégrammes : UNATIONS, GENÈVE

Télex : 28 96 96

Téléphone : 34 60 11 31 02 11

REF. N°:

(à reporter dans la réponse)

G/SO 215/1 GEN (GREE/POLA)

Palais des Nations

CH - 1211 GENÈVE 10



11 April 1986

Dear Mr. Radis,

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 4 September 1985 which reached this Office only recently due to the necessity of translation into a working language of the United Nations' Secretariat. No previous letter from you has, however, been received by the Centre for Human Rights.

.....
Please be informed that communications alleging violations of human rights may be handled in accordance with a procedure governed by the enclosed resolutions. This means that a copy of the communication is transmitted to the authorities of the State concerned and a summary of it is confidentially submitted to the Members of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

If you wish to avail yourself of that procedure with respect to the problem described in your letter, you may do so by addressing a new communication to this Office - preferably in English, French or Spanish - giving more details, e.g. your place and date of birth, names and nationality of your parents (if possible attach a copy of birth certificate), mentioning under which circumstances and by whom you were brought to Poland and stating why you did not try to return to Greece immediately after the end of the civil war. You are also kindly requested to mention again the steps you took with respect to the Greek authorities to be allowed to return to that country (if possible, attach a copy of any letters), whether you have any close family members in Greece (names and addresses) and whether you have approached the Polish authorities in order to obtain an exit visa.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. N. W." with a flourish.

Mrs. Meike Noll-Wagenfeld
Officer-in-Charge
Communications Unit
Centre for Human Rights

Mr. Apostolos Radis
Ul. Olchowa 13
81526 GDYNIA
Pologne

Mr Apostolos Radis
ul. Olchowa 13/2
81-525 Gdansk, POLAND

Gdynia, June 14th, 1986

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10

For the attention of Mrs. Meike Koll-Wagenfeld

Dear Sirs,

Greek Citizenship

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11 April 1986, Ref.No. G/80 215/1 (GK/GREE/POLA), and accordingly send some particulars concerning my personal details and steps I have taken to obtain Greek citizenship.

I, Apostolos/Christian name/ Radis/surname/ was born in Janochori, Greece, on September 18th, 1937. My parents, father Dimitrios Radis, mother Eudokia nee Barba, were Greeks.

These details are conformable to the birth certificate, record No.425, issued on March 24th, 1968 from by rural district Kastoria, province of Kastoria, where I have been registered in Register Book under No.59. The Certificate is signed by Athanasios Kiriakow, president of the rural district.

My father was a Greek citizen, served in the Greek armed forces, fought against Nazi occupants during World War II, and lost his life heroically in a battle in 1944; he is buried in a Greek town Kilkis. Here lies in the grave my mother, deceased in 1970.

I am an orphan and have no family members in Greece. The situation that arose in Greece during the civil war 1946-49 forced my mother to consign me to the countries of people's democracy.

I could not return to Greece so long as there reigned dictatorial power.

After a law was adopted ^{in Dec. 1984} permitting the emigrants to return to Greece I submitted my application to the Greek embassy in February 1983, but up to date I received no answer.

On January 27, 1984 I also sent my papers to the Ministry for Internal Affairs in Athens but they have remained without answer till today.

On April 19th, 1984 I repeated my request to the Ministry for Internal Affairs to give an answer, but without result. In the Ministry for Internal Affairs I am registered under No. B 17.580.

I also wrote letters to the prime minister Papandreu and the president Constantinos, but they gave me no answer.

The Greek Embassy neither wants to give me a visa to visit

- 2 -

my country nor a tourist visa to visit my father's grave.

Polish authorities make no difficulties and issued me the required travel documents.

Please find enclosed a copy of my birth certificate, a copy of an answer from the Ministry for Internal Affairs confirming receipt of my papers, and a copy of registering my application of April 9th, 1984.

In this connection I communicate that I have no citizenship papers, which makes my life very difficult for me in my profession as seaman.

I ask you kindly to intercede with the Greek authorities for me to be given Greek citizenship.

Yours sincerely,

Apostolos Radis

/Apostolos Radis/

"C" (5)

Enclosure 11

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA GRÈCE
GENÈVE

No. F. 6171.1311/1/AS 89

REGISTRY	
23 JAN 1987	
A 1111	
To:	
1	Mr. J. SCHULER
2
3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Att. requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ack. requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Att. Required
Initials	

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office in Geneva present their compliments to the Centre for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Note No. G/SO 215/1 G-REE/30.9.1986 have the honour to inform them that, according to information received from the competent Hellenic Authorities, APOSTOLOS RADIS, a resident of Warsaw - Poland, had been informed with document No 262/24.1.84 that his demand for the recovery of the Greek Citizenship had been rejected because of lack of the reasons justifying it. (Ministerial Decision No. ET5.46/83/16.1.84 in accordance with the opinion of the Citizenship Council's session No 1115/17.12.1983)

With the above-mentioned document of the Greek Ministry of Interior and those in reply to his later demands No. 6102/27.1.84 and ET 1620/84, Mr. Radis had been as well informed that according to the Ministerial Decision No. ET 1073/28.12.83 his case did not apply to the joint Ministerial Decision of the Ministers of Interior and Public Order No. 106841/29.12.82 which concerns the free repatriation of political refugees of greek origin.

The Permanent Mission of Greece avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Centre for Human Rights the assurances of their highest consideration.

Geneva, 19th of January 1987

Centre for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
Geneva



"C" (6)

Enclosure 9

OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES A GENÈVE
CENTRE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Télégrammes : UNATIONS, GENÈVE
Télex : 28 35 95
Téléphone : 34 80 11 31 02 11
RÉF. N°: G/SO 215/1 GREE
(à reporter dans la réponse)

Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 GENÈVE 10



5 May 1987

Dear Mr. Radis,

..... Further to our letter of 30 September 1986 in response to your communication of 14 June 1986, please find enclosed a copy of a reply, dated 19 January 1987, from the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva concerning the matter raised in your communication in reference. The enclosed copy is sent to you with the consent of the Permanent Mission.

I regret to inform you, that the United Nations cannot be of further assistance to you in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jakob Th. Möller in cursive script.
Jakob Th. Möller
Chief, Communications Unit
Centre for Human Rights

Mr. Apostolos Radis
ul. Olchowa 13/2
81-526 Gdynia
Pologne

"C" (7)

Enclosure 12

Radis Apostolis

Gdynia 20th Sept, 1967

ul. Olchowa 13/2

81-526 Gdynia

POLAND

case Ref. No G/SO 215/1 GREE

to CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Geneva

I would like to inform you that I have received your letter of 5th May 1967, No. F.6171.1311/1/HS 89, presenting the reply of the Stationary Diplomatic of Greece in Geneva.

I have also received a reply from the Greek Ministry of Interior Affairs. The reply gives very many numbers of the clauses concerning my case. Here I have to admit that I am feeling very much disappointed with the way my case has been settled. In my opinion - the enumeration of some base clauses does not explain nor convince me, why I was deprived of Greek citizenship in 1960, and still - why I have not been restored to rights of Greek citizenship now.

I would feel much better if Greek authorities would develop the clauses cited in their reply in words, as I have no possibility to reach any documents dealing with that clauses in Poland. Besides, I am deeply convinced that base clauses, no matter how many of them, shouldn't and cannot determine one's life.

If Greek authorities do not investigate my case a second time and if they do not send me a full explanation concerning my deprivation of my rights as a Greek citizen - I wish to request to be given rights as a citizen of the world so as to regulate my situation in the view of the international law.

I have got to remind here that I am a travelling seaman and I have no citizenship. This, obviously, has been giving me, and still is, a lot of troubles at my work as all immigration authorities always ask me about my citizenship.

Please, send me all necessary forms, I will fill them and send back to you.

I wish to stress once again the unsincere intentions and violation of national minorities' rights by Greek authorities, because I am of opinion it is the only way to understand the chauvinistic reply I got from Greek authorities.

I am enclosing a xerox of the document stating that my own father served in Greek army which consequently means that he was the Greek citizen - and also a copy of the enigmatic reply to my request about the Greek citizenship I had from Greece. These documents are in Greek language as were issued.

Yours sincerely

/-/ Apostolos Radis



□ Nick Andonovski . . . blocked from the land of his birth.

Perth group in border block

By CHRIS MANLY

ABOUT 50 Western Australians are believed to be among 250 people caught in a border dispute which has blocked their way into Greece from Yugoslavia.

And the blockade could cost the tourists hundreds of dollars paid for hotel bookings and travel tickets inside Greece.

The 250, all Macedoni-

an-born, but travelling on Australian, Canadian and US passports, were among 3000 people who journeyed back to celebrate in Skopje.

More than 100 WA people are believed to have joined the giant reunion, organised to

mark the 40th anniversary of their exodus from Greece as a result of the Greek civil war.

The war, which flared soon after the end of World War II, forced many Macedonians to flee to surrounding

eastern bloc nations as refugees.

Many eventually arrived in Australia and others made their way to Canada and the US.

A concerned Macedonian community in Perth is unsure of the exact movements of 250

people on the five tour buses.

But community secretary, John Caidovski, said that once the tour was turned back at the Greek border, it continued into Bulgaria and was planning another attempt to enter Greece at the Bulgarian border.

Macedonian language newspapers reported the 250 people were kept under armed guard at the Greek border for two hours in 42C.

The WA Macedonian community says what was once Macedonia was split between Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania in 1912-13 after the Balkan wars.

The 250 people, among them Perth businessman Nick Andonovski and his wife, wanted to return to the country they left as children because of the civil war and had not seen for 40 years.

Macedonian Community president, Lou Ogenov, said he was worried by the problems at the border but was unsure if the buses would be allowed in if they tried again.

"Some may try and others may just give up the ghost," he said.

SUNDAY TIMES

PERTH

JULY 17, 1988.

"D"