



SUMMER 1985

CONFERENCE ON THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY TO BE HELD IN 1986

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Harry J. Psomiades, Director of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of Queens College of the City University of New York, a conference on the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Contemporary History will be held at the C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center, 33 West 42 Street in New York on April 18, 19, 20, 1986. The conference will be sponsored jointly by the Order of St. Andrew, and the European and Modern Greek studies Program of Queens College.

The Conference will be in three parts:

- Part 1. The Ecumenical Patriarchate from the fall of Constantinople to the emergence of the Modern Greek State, 1453-1821.
- Part 2. The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek-Turkish Relations, 1821-1914.
- Part 3. The Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Turkish Republic, 1923-1986.

Assisting Dr. Psomiades will be: Rev. Dr. Miltiades B. Efthimiou, Executive Officer of the Order of St. Andrew and conference coordinator, Eleni Frangakis, Assistant Chairman of Conference, and newly appointed Professor of Modern Greek History, Queens College. Further information on conference will be given in forthcoming issues of Newsletter.

NATIONAL COUNCIL UNDERTAKES ADOPT-A-PATIENT PROGRAM

A plan, first introduced in Denver, Colorado by Archon George Bithos, in which Archons would have an opportunity to adopt a patient of the Balukli Hospital, was launched at a recent meeting of the National Council in New York.

The following was a letter that was sent to all members of the Order, and all regional and state commanders:

(Continued on page 3)



His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos addressing the Archons at the Banquet of Sunday of Orthodoxy held at the Waldorf-Astoria, 1985.



Archons attending the Divine Liturgy on Sunday of Orthodoxy held at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York.

CATHOLIC LEAGUE OF WISCONSIN URGES TURKEY TO RECOGNIZE RIGHTS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN TURKEY

A letter from the Wisconsin Catholic League urges Turkey to reject religious persecution and to authorize occasional Orthodox religious services in Hagia Sophia.

The League's President is Reverend Virgil C. Blum S.J., of Marquette University, and has on its Board of Directors, Bishop Joseph Francis of Newark, New Jersey, Michael Novak, resident scholar, American Enterprise Inst., Washington, D.C., Msgr. Edward J. O'Donnell, vicar general, Archdiocese of St. Louis, and other prominent people.

The text reads as follows:

Hon. Sukru Elekdag
Turkish Embassy
2523 Massachusetts
Washington, D.C. 20008
Your Excellency:

The friendship that exists between Turkey and the United States gives me the confidence to raise with you a matter of some delicacy, but one of great concern to those Americans who prize religious freedom.

It has been alleged that the Orthodox Christian minority in Turkey has suffered various

(Continued on page 4)

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FIRST PARTICIPATION BY ARCHONS IN ST. ANDREW'S DAY FESTIVITIES IN CONSTANTINOPLE AND ST. NICHOLAS SYMPOSIUM IN MYRA

The National Council of the Order of St. Andrew voted unanimously to participate for the first time in the celebration of St. Andrew's Day at the Patriarchate on November 30th this Fall.

A trip to Antalya will follow to join diplomats, theologians, scholars, historians and other distinguished clergy of major denominations in a 3-day sym-

Synod and representatives of the Vatican, led by Cardinal Willebrand who is the Director of Ecumenical Relations with the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Later the Archons will have a private meeting with the Patriarch.

The itinerary in Istanbul will include a visit to Hagia Sophia, Kahriye Mosque (Moni Tis Choras), Topkapi Palace where



December 6, 1984, Feast Day of St. Nicholas. Services held over the tomb of St. Nicholas in Basilica Church. The Divine Liturgy was officiated by Metropolitan Chrysostomos and assisted by Father M. Efthimiou. The service was the first in 1200 years at this site.

posium at the birthplace of the most celebrated Saint in Western Christianity, St. Nicholas of Myra (identified in America as Santa Claus).

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos, the trip will take place between November 27th and December 9th or 12th, with various extensions to such historical sites as Cappadocia and Pontus in the Black Sea.

The Chairman of this project assigned by the Council is Archon Dr. Kirk Kalemkeris, with Bishop Philotheos as Spiritual Leader of the group and Father Milton Efthimiou as Coordinator of various events.

Upon the arrival at the airport in Istanbul, Turkey, the Archons will be met by representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Archon participation on this occasion is very significant since these celebrations date back to Byzantine times when titled Archons were very active and most influential in relations between the Emperor and the Holy Sea of Phanari.

His Holiness, Patriarch Demetrios, will officiate along with members of the Holy Synod and representative of the Vatican, led by Cardinal Willebrand who is the Director of Ecumenical Relations with the Eastern Orthodox Churches.

the sarcophagos of Alexander the Great is on display, the Theological School of Halki and one of the highlights will be a visit to Balukli Hospital and a visit to pay our respects to the Tombs of the Patriarchs, primarily that of Patriarch Athenagoras where a Trisagion will be delivered.

On December 1st the group will depart for Izmir (Smyrna) and Ephessus. After visiting all the interesting spots, the Archons will continue by air on December 3rd to Antalya where participants from everywhere will have gathered for the Symposium. It will be an opportunity to hear many outstanding scholars and historians expound on St. Nicholas. For those who wish to visit other sites, optional tours will be available to ancient Greek cities in southern Turkey, to Cappadocia or to Pontus on the Black Sea.

On December 6th the titular Bishop of Myra (Demre) and successor to St. Nicholas, Metropolitan Chrysostomos, will officiate at the Divine Liturgy, assisted by other clergy and a large choir from the United States.

For all inquiries about the trip, please write or call the office of the Order of St. Andrew, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021. Tel. (212) 570-3500.

SOME THOUGHTS ON BALUKLI

Balukli is one of the oldest Christian institutions, which survives from the Byzantine era to the present day. It is situated outside the walls of Constantinople, on a summit across the so-called Golden Gate. It was originally a monastery, constructed in 560 A.D. by Emperor Justinian on that imposing spot of unsurpassed natural beauty. The area was selected for the existence there of a fountain, the water of which was believed to possess miraculous healing power. For this reason the monastery was dedicated to Theotokos Zoodochos Peghe.

For fifteen centuries this monastery, which in time became known as Balukli, shared the fate of the Polis and the Empire. Time and again it was ruined by earthquakes, each time rebuilt better than before, for it was considered a religious and ethnic shrine of extraordinary significance. Festivities, held there at certain days of the ecclesiastical year, gathered enormous crowds anxious to witness the miracles performed by the water of the fountain, as the historians of those days have recorded.

It suffered serious damage by the Bulgarians in 924, by the Crusaders during the 13th century, and finally was totally destroyed by the Turks at the fall of Constantinople in 1453. It remained in ruins till 1727, when a small church was erected over the miraculous fountain. Then, in 1794 some other improvements were made, ruined again totally in 1821 by the Janissaries. Finally, in 1838 an ambitious plan for a magnificent philanthropic center was initiated and put into effect. It was the time that Greeks in Turkey were still counted in the millions, a number of them well to do. Enthusiasm triumphed. There were built in Balukli large and well equipped departments for each and every medical specialty, and in some distance from them, a building for victims of tuberculosis, one for the aged, and another for the convalescents. The complex also included dormitories for the personnel, kitchen facilities and a pharmacy, and to top all of these a beautiful house of worship.

In the center of the business district of Constantinople, an imposing building housed the administration of Balukli, the executive board, the secretariat, the treasury and the accounting office.

The personnel, medical, professional as well as auxiliary, was consisted of Greeks, both men and women, serving with dignity, dedication and concern, mostly on a voluntary basis.

The income of the institution, deriving from grants and donations, was significant; not only sufficient for the current needs, but also enough to support other welfare agencies and philanthropic

(Continued on page 3)

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Archons gathering at the entrance of the Balukli Hospital.



Dr. Anthony Borden and other Archons visiting a patient.

LETTER OF PRESIDENT OF BALUKLI HOSPITAL

Below is a letter of Mr. Miltiades Tzambazoglou, President of Balukli Hospital Board of Directors, thanking the Order of St. Andrew for the contribution of \$5,000.00.

Ἐντιμολογιώτατον Ἀρχοντα Ἀκτουάριον τοῦ Τάγματος τῶν Ἱπποτῶν τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέου καὶ Πρόεδρον αὐτοῦ Κύριον Ἀντώνιον Βορεάδον
Εἰς Νέαν Ὑόρκην

Ἐντιμολογιώτατε Κύριε Πρόεδρε,

Ἡ Ἐφορεία τῶν Νοσοκομείων Βαλουκλῆ, ἐκπληροῦσα ἐπιτακτικόν καὶ εὐχάριστον συγχρόνως καθήκον, ἐκφράζει πρὸς ὑμᾶς καὶ πρὸς ἅπαντα τὰ ἀγαπητὰ μέλη τοῦ Τάγματος τῶν Ἱπποτῶν τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέου, τὴν βαθεῖαν εὐγνωμοσύνην καὶ τὰς ἀπείρους εὐχαριστίας αὐτῆς καὶ τῶν ἐν τῷ Ἰδρύματι ἡμῶν νοσηλευομένων καὶ γηροκομουμένων Ὀμογενῶν, διὰ τὴν πρόσφατον γενναίαν δωρεάν ὑμῶν τῶν 5.000 Δολλαρίων ὑπὲρ τῶν ἀναγκῶν τοῦ Νοσοκομείου καὶ Γηροκομείου καὶ ἰδιαίτερος διὰ τὸν ἐλαιοχρωματισμὸν τοῦ Γηροκομείου. Ἡ χειρονομία ὑμῶν αὕτη, ὡς καὶ αἱ μέχρι σήμερον γενόμεναι γενναῖαι δωρεαὶ πρὸς τὸ Ἰδρυμα εἶναι ἐνδεικτικαὶ τῆς ἀπεράντου ἀγάπης καὶ τοῦ θερμοῦ χριστιανικοῦ ἐνδιαφέροντος ὑμῶν διὰ τὸ Γηροκομεῖον Βαλουκλῆ, τὸ ἱερόν τοῦτο Ἄσυλον τοῦ εὐσεβοῦς ἡμῶν Γένους, τὸ ἔσχατον καταφύγιον τῶν ἀπόρων καὶ ἐνδεῶν ἀδελφῶν μας, τοῦ ὁποίου καὶ ὑμεῖς τυγχάνετε καλὸς φύλαξ Ἄγγελος. Θέλουν νὰ εἰσθε πλέον ἢ βέβαιοι ὅτι αἱ ἀποστελόμεναι ὑφ' ὑμῶν δωρεαὶ διατίθενται πάντοτε συμφώνως πρὸς τὴν ἐκάστοτε ἐκδηλουμένην ὑφ' ὑμῶν ἐπιθυμίαν, τὴν φορὰν δὲ ταύτην ἰδιαίτερος διὰ τὴν ἐλαιοβαφάν τοῦ Γηροκομείου.

Μὲ τὴν βεβαιότητα ὅτι καὶ μελλοντικῶς θέλετε συνεχίσει τὸ ζωηρόν καὶ ἀμείωτον ἐνδιαφέρον ὑμῶν διὰ τὸ Γηροκομεῖον Βαλουκλῆ, ἐκφράζομεν καὶ πάλιν τὰς θερμὰς ἡμῶν εὐχαριστίας καὶ εὐχόμενοι εἰς ὑμᾶς καρποφόρον δράσιν καὶ ἀμετάπτωτον ὑγείαν, διατελοῦμεν μετὰ περισσῆς τιμῆς καὶ πολλῆς ἀγάπης.

Ὁ Πρόεδρος τῆς Ἐφορείας
Μιλτιάδης Δζαμπάζογλου κ.α.α.

Ὁ Ἐφορος Δημ. Καραγιάννης

Σημ. Ὁ κ. Δζαμπάζογλου
ἀπουσιάζει εἰς Ἑλλάδα.

(Continued from page 2)

well as educational programs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It was also used to contribute to ransom slaves, free prisoners, endow poor girls, finance the education of worthy students and the like. And at this point, it must be emphasized that Balukli maintained in those days a total of 650 hospital beds, with the greatest majority offered free of charge to needy patients.

Balukli stood up functioning proudly for an entire century amidst hostile environment, against and in spite of myriads of obstacles and curtailments by the Turkish government. Yet, since the nineteen twenties the operation became problematic, and by necessity was limited to the care of a small number of sick and elderly people. This was the result of the reduction of the Greeks in Turkey to hardly 8,000, and above all, of the enforcement of an inhuman Turkish law prohibiting transfer of real estate by the Greeks to their charitable organizations, thus depriving our Balukli of its main sources

(Continued from page 1)

Re: ADOPT-A-PATIENT PLAN

Dear "Defenders of the Faith":

As one of our concerns as "Defenders of the Faith", the Balukli Hospital, as one of the major institutions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is in dire need of our help. This year's deficit is about \$40,000 and next year's will be about \$50,000. The people who suffer from this deficit are the patients themselves, all 275 of them, who are Greek, defenseless, abandoned, and with no one to turn to. The only ones left to help them are the Board of Directors, the remaining few doctors and hospital personnel, and, on this side of the ocean, the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

We are therefore writing you relative to a proposal that was brought to our attention, and which was adopted by the National Council. It is called "Adopt-A-Patient Plan". With this plan, each Archon has an opportunity to adopt a patient for \$50 a year. You may adopt more than one patient, and you may have members of your family, church, or any other group adopt a patient. Once the money is sent to the National Council, care of our Office at the Archdiocese, then you will be sent the name or names.

Your Regional/State Commanders have already been alerted and given instructions in order to be of assistance to you. Please call on them for any help you might need in order to bring this plan to a successful conclusion in your area. In aiding these patients in this charitable, Christian way, we are personalizing the deplorable plight of not only the hospital but its patients as well so that "their plight" will be perceived as our "plight" by all Archons and Orthodox Christians throughout the Archdiocese.

When you adopt a patient, you will be providing that patient with the following support:

- Personal Contact with the patient on Name-days through letters and cards.
- Easter and Christmas remembrances.
- In the event of physical need, perhaps a "small" gift or any other support that you might deem appropriate.
- A prayer link to that patient or patients for their spiritual well-being. Their names should be submitted to the local priest for commemoration and remembrances on special holidays and Feastdays.
- People who visit the Phanar would of course be encouraged to visit with the adopted patient or patients in the hospital.
- In the event of the death of adopted patient, memorial services and prayers would be held in the local parish for the deceased.

These are just some thoughts as we kick off this program. Remember, its success depends on you the "Defenders of the Faith", whose responsibility to God and His Church includes every living member who is part of that Church wherever they might be. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you all of God's blessings,

We remain, on behalf of the Order,
and in His Name,

The National Council

of revenue.

The visitor to Balukli today can still grasp some idea of the past glory, and, as he sees it in the light of the present pitiful conditions, he is overcome by grief, for it is evident that the future of this renowned establishment is very obscure and utterly uncertain, save for a miracle.

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ARCHONS PROTEST ANTICIPATED DEMOLITION OF ST. GEORGE CHURCH, MAKROCHORI, INSTANBUL, TURKEY

The order of St. Andrew sent telegrams of protest to the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, and Turkish Ambassador Elekdaj, on the anticipated demolition of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Makrochori, Istanbul, Turkey. The church built in 1830, was to be razed to make way for a sidewalk enlargement. (Protests were also lodged by the Greek Government and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America.)



Worker demolishing part of St. George church.

The telegram cited articles 37, 38 and 42 of the Treaty of Lausanne on the basis of which the church is considered a "preserved state-controlled property". Letters and telegrams were sent to all regional and state commanders to actively recruit members of the parishes, parish councils, youth organizations, etc., to also lodge protests for this flagrant violation of the Treaty of Lausanne and unacceptable insult to Christendom.

St. George had been proclaimed a monument worthy of preservation by the Turkish Ministry of Culture, it was learned by the Office of Archons in New York. After much research, this decision was published on January 11, 1977 in the Turkish Government Gazette.

THE ARCHON

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VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER DOLE, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ON SECURITY MCFARLANE, AND OTHERS MET WITH GREEK AMERICAN COMMUNITY

WASHINGTON, June 20—Key Government leaders met with about 60 leaders of the Greek American community, who were in Washington for a leadership gathering. Representing the Order of St. Andrew were several Archons, led by the Rev. Dr. Miltiades B. Efthimiou, Executive Officer of the Order, who also represented Dr. Anthony G. Borden, National Commander, who was not able to attend.

At Dole's invitation, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Alan Simpson and Senator Larry Pressler, Chairman of the European Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations, also met the group.

The Government leaders underscored the United States record of strong support for Greece and outlined the reasons for the enduring friendship between the American and Greek people: a common democratic heritage, mutual security interests as members of NATO and exten-

sive economic and commercial ties. Reflecting that friendship, Dole reminded the audience, "the United States has given nearly \$7 billion in foreign assistance since the end of World War II, more per capita than to any other nation except Israel". At the same time, he candidly acknowledged that there were currently some problems in American-Greek relations, involving such issues as American aid for Turkey, Cyprus and misunderstanding with the Papandreou government. The Ecumenical Patriarchate was also a main concern and topic of conversation.

In relation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Vice President Bush said that dialogue is the key to resolving problems. "We need dialogue between Greece and Turkey and, we in this country - the supporters of Greece like those in this room and the supporters of Turkey—we need to talk to each other, too."

(Continued from page 1)

forms of official and unofficial discrimination and harassment. Whether or not these allegations can be substantiated, their frequent repetition has evoked a certain measure of suspicion against the Turkish Government and sympathy for Turkish citizens of the Orthodox Christian faith.

This sympathy grows not only out of the natural concern for the rights of religious minorities anywhere, but also from the unique historical significance of present-day Turkey for the entire Christian world. Centuries ago, councils held on what is now Turkish soil, defined the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith for all time. Those events and the places where they occurred are revered by all Christians—Orthodox, Roman, Catholic, and Protestant alike.

Moreover, the city of Istanbul has historically been the center of Orthodox Christianity, and the Church of Hagia Sophia was the greatest place of worship in the Christian East.

That great church has now been secularized and serves as a museum. Yet, to all Orthodox Christians, it remains a holy place.

If your Government were to authorize occasional Orthodox religious services at Hagia Sophia, that would be a signal to the entire Christian world that Turkey rejects religious persecution and welcomes its Christian minority to full and equal citizenship. Such a step would raise the prestige of Turkey in the eyes of those who treasure religious freedom, and would help to rebut the criticism your Government receives from some human rights advocates.

We urge you, therefore, to transmit this request to your Government.

Respectfully,
Michael Schwartz
Director of Public Affairs

NEW ENGLAND ARCHONS DONATE \$4,000 FOR NEW DIOCESE OF BOSTON

On the grounds of the Cathedral Center in Brookline, Mass., a new Diocese building will be built, and the New England area Archons have donated \$4,000 toward the fulfillment of their pledge for the new edifice.

The new building will also house the Archon Room for meetings and display purposes. President of the Archons of New England is Gregory Demetrakas, Regional Commander for the National Council.

ARCHONS RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of the Order of St. Andrew recently passed away. The National Board and the regional and state commanders join His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos in expressing their condolences to the families of these deceased Archons. They are:

- Dr. Kenneth J. Conant, Massachusetts
- Theodore Hiotis, New Jersey
- Theodore Miller, New York
- Jerry Vallianos, New Jersey
- Charles Vardakis, New York
- Charles Kliros, Georgia
- George Tsaoussis, New York

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