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.

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)

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
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 symposium 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 as Santa Clous).

The Archons will be met 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 Chores], Topkapi Palace where the Divine Liturgy was officiated by Metropolitan Chrysostomos and assisted by Father M. Efthimiou. It will be the first in 1200 years at this site.

The Archons will be met by the Chair 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 representatives of the Vatican, led by Cardinal Willebrand who is the Director of Ecumenical Relations with the Eastern Orthodox Churches.

The Archons will be escorted by representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and triarchs, primarily that of Patriarch Athenagoras as Coordinator of various events.

The Archons will be hosted for the Symposium. It will be an opportunity to hear many outstanding scholars and historians expound on the personnel, kitchen facilities and a 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 as

December 6, 1984, Feast Day of St. Nicholas. Services held over the tomb of St. Nicholas in Basilica Church.

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 1836 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.

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SOME THOUGHTS ON BALUKLI

Balukli is one of the oldest Christian institutions, which survives from the Byzantine era to the present day. It is situation outside the walls of Constantinople, on a summit across the so-called Golden Gate. It was originally a monastery, constructed in 560 AD 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 Theoktos 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.

The Divine Liturgy was officiated by Metropolitan Chrysostomos and assisted by Father M. Efthimiou.

It is very significant since these celebrations date back to Byzantine times when 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. Later the Archons will have a private meeting with the Patriarch.

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LETTER OF PRESIDENT OF BALUKLI HOSPITAL

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

"[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 257 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 the like.
- 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, but 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.
ANTICIPATED ARCHONS PROTEST DEMOLITION OF ST. GEORGE CHURCH, MAKROCHORI, ISTANBUL, 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.)