

Dimension



FALL 1987

Patriarch Dimitrios and Archbishop Iakovos on Visit to Middle East

NEW YORK, N.Y. — An historical event, which all Archons viewed with great interest, was the recent 24 day trip to the Middle East of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos with His All-Holiness Patriarch Dimitrios I. The visit took them to Egypt, Israel and Jordan, and the Patriarchates of Alexandria and Jerusalem.

The trip was viewed with interest by the Archons in that this historic visit of an Archbishop and Exarch of the Americas and the Patriarch of the Ecumenical Throne met at the Phanar and formulated a trust with the Turkish government which would have far reaching effects for the Ecumenical See.

Archbishop Iakovos, in describing the trip, said that it could be characterized neither as a pleasant nor as a triumphant journey. Rather it was a trip with distressing encounters: although the Patriarch and his entourage were zealously welcomed in Alexandria (and wherever they traveled), the once flourishing Greek Orthodox community there — as well as in Cairo and elsewhere — no longer exists. In its place is a very small community of approximately 3,000 people struggling to survive. St. Katherine's Monastery, a magnificent architectural achievement built by Emperor Justinian I, has only 14 monks today, while the Patriarchate of Jerusalem has no lay people at all — only clergy. Nevertheless, His Eminence said, "One cannot help but feel peace and serenity walking in the sacred places where Christ once lived and taught."

Among the Archbishop's fondest remembrances were: praying with the Patriarch on Mt. Sinai where Moses received God's Ten Commandments (the Archbishop later conducted midnight services there as a simple priest at the Chapel of the Burning Bush with the Patriarch and his entourage co-praying); receiving Holy Communion as the early Christians did when they hid in the catacombs; visiting Christ's tomb (the Holy Sepulchre); the sight of the Nativity in Bethlehem; and walking in the Desert of Nitria (which seemed "endless") en route to see the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx of Egypt.

During a subsequent bus ride through the desert the Archbishop said that all they saw were remnants of tanks and planes destroyed by the Israelis in the 1960's. "You never see anything green there at all, but you do see many black skeletons and modern-day weapons."

The Archbishop added that the trip did not include a visit to the Patriarch of Antioch, as was originally planned, because the Syrian government refused to give His All Holiness a visa.

At the question and answer portion of the press conference, His eminence was asked if the Patriarch is planning to visit the United States in the near future. In his reply the Archbishop said that the Patriarch "might consider this next year when we have the Clergy-Laity Congress in Boston and we begin the second 50 years of Holy Cross School of Theology."

In reference to His All Holiness' up-

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The New Patriarchal Building in Phanar

His Eminence announced that permission has been granted by the Turkish government to rebuild the Patriarchal building in Constantinople, and that construction is now underway, with plans for completion within a year. The ground-breaking took place with the Archbishop participating in the ceremonies as soon as he arrived in Constantinople. The event was conducted with a minimum of fanfare, since the Ecumenical Patriarch prefers a major, more elaborate celebration next year at the anticipated thyranoxia (opening). Hopefully the Archons will participate in this ceremony.

The new building will be four stories high with modern facilities, apartments for distinguished guests, and for the clergy of the Patriarchate, as well as a special hall for lectures, receptions, etc. Currently there are 30 people working eight hours a day on the structure. The newly remodeled Patriarchate "will add much space to the present building, as well as enhance the whole appearance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," His Eminence said.

To date the Archdiocese of North and South America has contributed \$1,275,000 for the reconstruction of the Patriarchate which was destroyed by fire on September 2, 1941. The Archbishop also said that he will be asking the faithful to contribute additional funds in the future.



Patriarch Dimitrios, Archbishop Iakovos and Patriarch of Alexandria Parthenios visiting the Pyramids.



Archbishop Iakovos kneeling on the Tomb of Christ in Jerusalem.



Groundbreaking ceremony (Blessing of the Waters) for new Patriarchal Headquarters in Constantinople.

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ARCHON PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY: CONSTANTINOPLE, SMYRNA, MYRA

Plans for the 1987 Pilgrimage to the Phanar, the Patriarchate of Constantinople, Smyrna, Antalya and Myra (Demre), have been finalized. Spiritual leader of the Pilgrimage is Bishop John of Atlanta and the plans call for the Pilgrimage from Friday, November 27 to Saturday, December 12.

The Pilgrimage will include visitations to the sacred shrines of Christendom in and around Constantinople, Smyrna, Ephesus, Anatolia, Myra, Aspendos, Perge and Side. Plans are already being made with Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra who is the Patriarchal leader of the Pilgrimage, and Chairman of the St. Nicholas Symposium in Antalya, Turkey. The Pilgrimage will also include a visit to the Patriarchate in an audience with His All Holiness, Patriarch Dimitrios, plus visitations to the Balukli Hospital and the ancient sites of Byzantium in and around the historical city of Constantinople. A flight and stopover in Athens will conclude the Pilgrimage before returning to New York.

People wishing to stay on beyond the December 12 date may do so. Cost per person is still to be determined, but will be approximately \$2,000 and will include transportation, hotels and most meals. If you are interested in this historical pilgrimage, please contact Fr. Efthimiou's office at the Archdiocese (212) 570-3551.

PATRIARCH DIMITRIOS VISITS RUSSIA

Patriarch Dimitrios visited the Soviet Union for the first top level contact between the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches in more than 400 years. His Holiness visited in Moscow between August 18th and 20th and the southern republic of Georgia between August 21st and 25th.

The visit to the Soviet Union was the beginning of a series of visits by the Patriarch to Orthodox churches in the Eastern bloc nations. In September he will meet with Orthodox church leaders of Serbia in Yugoslavia, followed by trips to Romania and Bulgaria. Before the end of 1987 he will also meet Pope John Paul II at the Vatican as well as visit Britain to confer with the Anglican Church leaders.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If any Archon has recently moved, or changed his telephone number, please notify or call the office at: (212) 570-3550.



Newly invested Archons (class '87) receiving their Offikion from Archbishop Iakovos on Sunday of Orthodoxy.

NEW ARCHONS TO ASSIST THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

New Archons invested on March 8, 1987, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, will be asked to help and work for the promotion and welfare of the center of Orthodoxy the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

1. These Archons, as in the past, will be asked to assist the Patriarchate and its institutions, such as the Balukli Hospital and the Orphanage, through personal efforts and financial assistance.

2. Educating political and religious leaders about the problem of human rights in Turkey and the persecution of our people and their institutions.
3. Publishing historical and informative material on the Patriarchate and its mission.
4. Communicating with Archons in the Americas and abroad about the Patriarchate, its needs and the problems it faces.
5. Supporting our Archdiocese and its institutions, extensions of the Patriarchate in this hemisphere.
6. Administering the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle as the only organized body of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

PATRIARCH DIMITRIOS AND ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS ON VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

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coming schedule, the Archbishop said that the Patriarch has extensive plans that will take him to Russia in August; to Greece, Holland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Romania in September; and to Rome, London, and Geneva in December. The Archbishop further explained that one of the reasons for this Middle East pastoral visit was to investigate the possibility of achieving a summit meeting of all Orthodox Patriarchs during their scheduled visit to the Soviet Union to commemorate the millennium of Orthodoxy in Russia.

"I think that as we approach the third millenium of Christendom," the Archbishop emphasized, "and as we are faced with the many problems of our times — which the Catholic Church has already addressed — the Orthodox Patriarchs have an obligation to confer and define the direction that our Church will take in the next century.

ARCHBISHOP IN TURKEY

The only Turkish official the Archbishop met with during his trip was Prime Minister Ozal. He said he had the opportunity to thank Mr. Ozal for the building permit to renovate the Patriarchate and for the positive spirit which the Turkish people have shown both for

the Greek people and the Patriarchate in Constantinople.

The Archbishop's conversation with Ozal also touched on Greek-Turkish political relations. Ozal said that the crisis existing between the two countries is unacceptable, reiterating that Turkey's willingness to present the Aegean issue before the International Court of the Hague was the beginning of a dialogue between the two countries that could lead to dialogues on other issues as well. Ozal pointed out that both Greece and Turkey must turn their attention to their economies since both countries are in a "serious economic crisis."

In response to the "citizenship" question, His Eminence emphasized that during his meeting with Ozal he did not discuss the possibility of obtaining Turkish citizenship, denying rumors once more that he wants to become Patriarch. "I believe that I can help the Church, as well as our national concerns, better as Archbishop of the Americas, than as Patriarch of Constantinople," he said.

ARCHBISHOP IN GREECE

The Archbishop said that his meetings with Greek officials in Athens were undertaken entirely on his own, without

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REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE AND REGIONAL COMMANDERS NEW APPOINTMENTS



Archbishop Iakovos and Commander A. Borden presenting to President Carter the Athenagorian Award for Human Rights.

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authorization from the Ecumenical Patriarch. Regarding the turbulent issue of Church and State in Greece, and the confiscation of Church property by the Greek government, His Eminence said he acted as a "middleman" in the situation. After requests by many hierarchs to intercede in the discussions, he offered to try to convince the government to change the new legislation concerning the socialization of the Church's real estate holdings.

His first meeting on this subject was with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karolos Papoulias, to whom the Archbishop proposed that the Church property discussions be put "in the deep freeze" until the initial furor was over, the excitement stilled, and all are able to act with the calmness that such matters demand.

The Archbishop then met with the Minister of Education and Religion, Antonios Tritsis, who asked the Archbishop to convince the many hierarchs not to politicize the subject of ecclesiastical property and the Greek government. Mr. Tritsis also agreed with the Archbishop that, indeed, the issue should be dealt with during a calmer climate when it can be re-examined with more clarity.

MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER PAPANDREOU

Answers to questions about Prime Minister Papandreou revealed that the Archbishop's meeting with him covered a number of subjects, including Turkish-Greek relations; the Church-government issue; and the Greek American community of the United States.

Mr. Papandreou assured His Eminence that he would personally try to resolve the problem between the Church of Greece and the State, in order to prevent further animosity and confrontations. In closing the press conference the Archbishop emphasized how pleased he was with this decision and said he believes that a middle ground will be achieved.

Also, the Regional/State Commanders have been asked to help in encouraging a positive response to the appeal made to all Archons for financial support by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos. In the fall, a one-day workshop will be held for all Regional/State Commanders, in order to give firmer direction to the goals and objectives of the Order.

The final reorganization of Regional/State commanders has been made and is shown below.

One of the chief concerns of the Regional/State Commanders are the needs and status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. A guideline kit has been sent to each commander with position papers and articles pertinent to the plight of the Patriarchate.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF ARCHON NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS SPRING/SUMMER '87

The National Council of the Order of St. Andrew meets monthly under the leadership of Commander Dr. Anthony Borden along with its members. As of spring 1987 the highlights of the meetings are as follows:

Meeting — April 28, 1987: Keeping in tune with the Easter Season, the meeting began appropriately with a prayer and the singing of "Christos Anesti." The entire meeting was devoted to the Sunday of Orthodoxy, held this year on March 7th and 8th. Father Efthimiou showed a condensed 2 hour version of a lengthy film highlighting the festivities of this weekend.

According to Father Efthimiou, a 1 hour documentary will be made of this tape which will include such highlights as the VIP reception with Jimmy Carter, the banquet, Sunday Morning Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and more.

Dr. Borden read his report which included a telegram by his Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos, informing him of the rebuilding of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Medical & Book Contribution: Also discussed by Dr. Borden with Dr. Jean Pappas was what became of the machines sent to Balukli Hospital. Apparently, the x-ray tubes in the machines were either lost or stolen.

Dr. Borden also read a letter about the "Ofikia" book. So far, all the pledges have not been collected for the book to date.

Prof. Deno Genakopoulos' Book: "The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople Through the Centuries" will become the official text of the Archons. Funding for this book by the Order has been passed.

Money Matters: More money matters were taken into account — Ellis Island Paintings — the bill was received and money is still being collected. According to the **Treasurer's Report**, there is still a deficit but it was less than that of last year.

Future Activities — Athenagoras Award: Recipients for this award are al-

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ready being considered for the new year.

Other future business made note that the Sunday Luncheon following the "Sunday of Orthodoxy" service should not be the responsibility of only the council and should therefore be shared by the Cathedral.

MEETING — June 4, 1987

Minutes — The publicity on the banquet was felt not to be large in the American press. Most probably because major newspapers were absent.

Sunday of Orthodoxy — It was considered the most successful one of these. Archon Steve Papadatos brought in 15 tables.

Commander's Report — \$10,000 will be donated for an ambulance to be sent to Vasiliko, the birthplace of the late Patriarch, Athenagoras. Also discussed were the ground breaking ceremonies of the Patriarchate building. No Archon participation was present because the Patriarchate and Holy Synod wanted to keep this a low key affair.

Treasurer's Report — From the period of Jan. 1 through June 3, 1987, a deficit of over \$5,000 has been created.

Discussions — Christo Daphnides will determine whether 3 or 4 statues of Athenagoras by sculptor, Nicko Ikaris are needed.

Money Matters — Financial burdens such as those of the Sunday of Orthodoxy Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy, should be shared by both the Order and the Cathedral as well.

It was also felt that a percentage of the Order's budget be used for philanthropic purposes, as per Archon Kalemkeris.

1987 St. Nicholas Symposium and Pilgrimage — Father Milton has been in touch with the Turkish travel agency. Christo Daphnides submitted ideas for brochures and posters which will be forthcoming. Once these arrive, they will be sent to all necessary channels and be publicized nationally. The Philoptochos will again participate and publicize this trip.

Regional/State Commanders — Discussion on the importance of active regional/state commanders and possible nationwide programs for disseminating material which would clarify goals and objectives of the Order of St. Andrew in relation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Dr. Borden asked how the national council can think about ways and means of making regional/state commanders roles more meaningful.

MEETING — July 15, 1987

The meeting began with a prayer and a hymn (St. Andrew). The previous minutes were approved.

Commander's Report — The Balukli Hospital in Istanbul received their x-ray machines as mentioned and were thanked for by Mr. Miltiades Tzambazoglu. \$5,000.00 will be sent to them

by the Order to repair the x-ray machines.

Treasurer's Report — According to the figures there still is a deficit of \$3,737.86.

Pilgrimage/Symposium — Father Milton met with Terry Peters of Peters Tours and approved the time table and brochure formats of the upcoming trip on Nov. 27. Negotiations are being made with Olympic Airlines to have the trip after Thanksgiving since KLM doesn't fly at that time.

Proposal of making the Order more Effective — Father Efthimiou presented this proposal in order to see how the Order, as a whole, and through "share participation", can be a more effective organization. Future discussions will be held. Teleconferencing via Satellite has also been proposed so other Archons in the U. S. can participate in the meetings.

MEETING — July 30, 1987

The traditional prayer and hymn began the meeting.

Symposium/Pilgrimage — The highly publicized trip will leave on Nov. 27, 1987 and return on Dec. 12. A visit to the Phanar and an audience with the Patriarchate are part of the festivities. The trip should cost about \$2,000. An extended stay is available through Peter's Tours. Look for publicity in the Orthodox Observer, Hellenic Chronicle, Hellenic Times and Greek Star, as well as Nea Yorki magazine.

Archbishop Appeal Letter — This was discussed in detail. It was suggested a September mailing would be best.

Archbishop Iakovos Report — His Eminence spoke at length about his trip "IERA PORIA" with Patriarch Demitrios to the Middle East. Highlights were: the need of \$1 million to rebuild Patriarchate . . . Halki School might be opened to Orthodox Theological Students from U.S.A. . . . Turkey is sensitive to the needs of the Patriarchate and may therefore enter the common market.

The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held Sept. 2nd, in order to accommodate his Eminence's busy September schedule. The dinner's agenda will include Fund Raising, Symposium and an update of construction of the building of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Archbishop.

"Shared Participation" — This topic was discussed for the remainder of the meeting and will be discussed further at the Sept. 2nd dinner.

Much has been accomplished during the spring/summer '87 season. The Archons hope to accomplish more in the coming year.

THE ARCHON

We still have the beautiful and informative book published by the Order of St. Andrew, THE ARCHON, price \$100 each.

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