



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

I attach

(a) a statement for use on arrival in Athens;

(b) a sentence in Greek which you could memorise on the aircraft (Mr Daint speaks Greek) - though I always find this kind of thing a little contrived;

(c) + (d) Toasts for me at Lunch + Dinner on Tuesday (no speeches).

Amul
- 2079

A

STATEMENT TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL: 22 SEPTEMBER

It is with very real pleasure that I am making the first visit to Greece by a British Prime Minister since Mr. Macmillan came here in 1958. The interval has been far too long, given the very close ties between our two countries and the multitude of interests which we have in common. There is little need to speak of our mutual friendship: it is legendary. That it continues is shown by the warm welcome I have just received. I have come in the hope of strengthening it still further and showing the importance which I attach to Greece and to Greece's friendship for Britain on the eve of your entry to the European Community.

My visit is at the invitation of your Prime Minister. Mr. Karamanlis invited me when he came to London last year and Mr. Rallis was good enough to renew the invitation. The main business of the visit will be the talks with him and his colleagues and a meeting with President Karamanlis. These will be talks between friends, particularly useful in preparing the way for a close and harmonious working partnership in the European Community.

European affairs and the effects of Greece's accession on 1 January will, of course, be one of the important subjects we shall want to discuss while I am in Athens. I shall be

/stressing

stressing my Government's firm commitment to the Community and I shall be looking forward to hearing what ideas your Government has for improving and strengthening it.

I hope also to discuss with Mr. Rallis other international and regional issues of concern to us all in the West and to the NATO alliance in particular. I shall, for example, want to learn your Government's views on the implications of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. I hope that Mr. Rallis will bring me up-to-date over the question of renewed Greek participation in the military structure of NATO, to which we attach the greatest importance.

We shall, of course, be reviewing the full range of relations between our two countries. I shall want to see what possibilities exist for strengthening our trading links and to discuss how our industry - and our consumers - can draw most benefit from the changes which will follow from Greece's accession to the European Community.

π
B

Χαίρω πολύ να είμαι μαζί σας σήμερα εδώ στην Ελλάδα

Hairo polí na ēēmé mazí sas sēēmera ethò steen Ellátha.

I am very happy to be with you today here in Greece.

15 SEP 1980



TOAST: LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT KARAMANLIS: 23 SEPTEMBER

Mr President

I recall with pleasure our earlier meetings: the first when I was in opposition: then, in October of last year when I was able, as Prime Minister, to welcome you to London.

Your experience and knowledge as the longest serving Prime Minister in Europe, was of special value to me in our discussions. It was no secret when we last met that your many years as Prime Minister were likely to be consummated this year with election to the highest office in your country, President of the Republic. It was with much personal pleasure that I learned that you had become President. I offer you my congratulations and those of all my Government.

One of the first acts of the Conservative Government on taking office was to sign the Treaty of Accession of Greece to the European Community. I am confident that posterity will see this accession not only as a milestone in history but also as an enrichment of Europe. This achievement is owed in large measure to your own political determination and authority. I congratulate you also on this success and on behalf of my country welcome most warmly Greece's accession as a partner in the Community.

TOAST: DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE: 23 SEPTEMBER

Anyone with a sense of history must be conscious in this building - the house of that great Greek patriot and friend of Britain, Mr Venizelos - of the close, the indissoluble, ties which unite our two countries. For a Conservative Prime Minister there is something especially fitting about welcoming you here on British soil. For it was here that no less than three of my distinguished predecessors met and talked with Greek friends and colleagues at critical periods of your history. Anthony Eden came here - as Foreign Secretary - in 1941 to pledge the British Government to the assistance of Greece against the Nazi invader. Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden and Harold Macmillan were all here in those dark days of December 1944 when for a time it looked as if liberation from Nazi occupation would end not in freedom but in the burden of a new tyranny. I am proud of the contribution we made then to Greek freedom and thus to the re-establishment of this country as a stable democracy, a member of the Western Alliance, and a country now about to take its rightful place in the European Community.

I take the warmest pleasure in welcoming you Mr Prime Minister, Mrs Rallis and your colleagues, and thanking you for the quality of your reception of me - and for your kindness to my husband and all our party during this visit.