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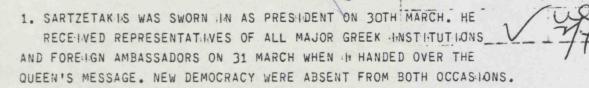
TELEGRAM NUMBER 188 OF 1 APRIL

PARMS, ROME, DUBLIM, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, ANKARA, NICOSNA,

LISBON AND MADRID.

MY .TELEGRAM NO 183: GREEK POLITICS.

SUMMARY.



2. PAPANDREOU HENTS AT EARLY ELECTHONS AND TAKES THE LENE THAT NEW DEMOCRACY ARE UNDERMINENDED THE HINST-ITUTIONS OF THE STATE BY THE IR BOYCOTT OF THE PRESENDENT. IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SURE OF THE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION OF RECENT EVENTS AND IN PARTICULAR ON VOTERS OF THE CENTRE. PASOK MAY NOT HAVE LOST SUBSTANTIALLY. THE MORE LIKELY OPTION SEEMS EARLY ELECTIONS: BUT THESE COULD PROBABLY NOT BE HELD BEFORE 9 JUNE GREEN PAPANDREOU'S HINTENTION TO PUT THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

DETAIL.

- 3. THE CEREMONY AT WHICH SARTZETAKIS WAS SWORN IN AT THE PARLHAMENT ON 30 MARCH WAS NOTABLE FOR THE ABSENCE OF MEMBERS OF NEW DEMOCRACY. PASOK, THE COMMUNISTS AND UNDEPENDENTS WERE ALL PRESENT. FOREIGN AMBASSADORS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. MOST (INCLUDING MYSELF) DID. THERE WAS A PASOK ORGANISED CROWD OUTSIDE THE PARLHAMENT TO CHEER SARTZETAKIS.
- 4. ON 31 MARCH SARTZETAKHS RECEIVED REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTHES (WHITH THE EXCEPTHON OF NEW DEMOCRACY) AND OTHER GREEK HASTALTUTHONS AS WELL AS FOREIGN AMBASSADORS. HET WAS A BRISK CEREMONY. HE HANDED OVER THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE TO SARTZETAKHS' DIPLOMATHIC ADVINSER WHO HAMEDHATELY TOLD THE PRESHDENT. WHEN HE GREETED SARTZETAKHS HE SAND THAT HE HAD THE MESSAGE AND WOULD BE REPLYING. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED TO HAVE RECEIVED HT. OF THE OTHER MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF STATE THAT FROM THE SUPREME SOVIET PRAESHDIM HAS BEEN GIVEN MUCH PUBLICATY AS HAVE THOSE FROM PRESHDENT KYPRHANOU OF CYPRUS AND A MESSAGE FROM ARAFAT. THE ONLY OTHER MESSAGE FROM A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HEAD OF STATE SO FAR PUBLICASED IS THAT FROM THE PRESHDENT OF THE FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC.

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- 5. PAPANDREOU IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS IN THE AEROPLANE
 RETURNING FROM THE BRUSSELS EC SUMMIT CRITTICISED THE ATTINTUDE
 OF NEW DEMOCRACY AS ''ANTIN-NATIONAL''. HE REMINDED JOURNALISTS
 THAT, THOUGH PASOK VOTED NEITHER FOR PRESIDENTS TSATSOS NOR
 KARAMANLIS, THEY HAD NEVER CAST DOUBT ON THE LEGALITY OF THESE
 ELECTIONS. WHAT NEW DEMOCRACY WERE DOING WAS MORE APPROPRIATE
 TO A ''GROUP OF ANARCHISTS'' THAN A RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL
 PARTY.
- 6. HE WAS ASKED ABOUT HIS STATEMENT THAT THE VERDICT OF THE PEOPLE ON WHAT HAD BEEN DONE ''WOULD COME SOON''. HE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST TAKE ANY DECISION ON EARLY ELECTHONS. THE GOVERNMENT MUST FIRST PUT THROUGH THEIR PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND SECONDLY ENTHER THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION OR HE HIMSELF MUST PROPOSE ELECTIONS FOR ''NATIONAL REASONS''. HE ADDED THAT POSSIBLY HIS VIEWS AND THOSE OF MITSOTAKIS COULD CONNCIDE IN THIS RESPECT: BUT ELECTIONS COULD NOT BE CALLED ON ANY OTHER GROUND THAN THOSE WHICH HE HAD COUTD.

COMMENT.

- 7. THE FEELING HIS GROWING THAT, BY THEHR BOYCOTT OF SARTZETAKES, NEW DEMOCRACY MAY BE PARINTHNG THEMSELVES WINTO A CORNER.

 THEMR MOTHON OF NO CONFINDENCE WIN THE CHARRANSHIP OF THE PARLHAMENT (PARAGRAPH 7 OF MY TELEGRAM 180) HIS LINKELY TO BE A NON-EVENT GIVEN PASOK'S MAJORITY. THEMR WINSHISTENCE ON CONTINUING TO REFER TO ALEVRAS AS THE ACTION PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLING CUTS LIMITLE HICE OUTSINDE THEMR OWN SUPPORTERS. WIT HIS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY TRY TO DISPUTE WIN THE COURTS ACTIONS (E.G. SHIGNATURE OF LEGISLATION) BY SARTZETAKHS. BUT THUS WOULD NOT BE LIMITLE OF FAR: THE COURTS ARE AN ANY CASE UNDER POLINTHICAL ANFLUENCE.

 PAPANDREOU, WIN THE TONE OF THE MAGNAMMMOUS VINCTOR, HAS SAND THAT HIS THE PERFECT RIGHT OF NEW DEMOCRACY TO CALL A DEMONSTRATION ON 5 APRIL: THE GOVERNMENT WHALL ENSURE THAT THUS RECENTUES SUNTABLE PUBLICATIVE BUT, HE SAND, NEW DEMOCRACY MUST REALMSE THAT THEMR ACTION HIS ''POLITICAL SUNCIDE''.
- 8. AGAINST THUS BACKGROUND AND GIVEN PASOK'S APPARENT RELIESH
 OF ''VINCTORY'', EARLY ELECTRONS SEEM LINKELY, THOUGH THE
 THE THE THE THE POPULATION OF PAPANDREOU'S
 CONSTRUCTIONAL PROPOSALS AND FOR THE EASTER HOLINDAYS SEEMS TO
 MAKE HIT HAPPOSSIBLE FOR THESE TO BE HELD BEFORE SUNDAY 9 JUNE.
 THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT PAPANDREOU WOULD PREFER TO HOLD
 ON UNTIL THE AUTUMN TO LET THE DUST SETTLE AND REDUCE HIS
 LIKELY LOSSES RESULTING FROM SHOCK OF CENTRE VOTERS AT RECENT
 EVENTS. RESENTMENT AT THE SPEED AND MANNER HAN WHICH THINGS HAVE
 BEEN HANDLED CANNOT BE DISMINSSED. SOME CENTRE VOTERS WHILL
 WHITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM PASOK. BUT WE CANNOT ASSESS THE LIKELY
 NUMBER: AND THE GENERAL GREEK ELECTORATE (EXCLUDING THE FEW

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MATURE AND WELL-EDUCATED) DISPLAYS A HARDY CYNTICISM TOWARS THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARLHAMENT. THEY DO NOT EXPECT POLITICS TO BE MUCH INFLUENCED BY MORAL PRINCIPLES.

9. FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

RHODES

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

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