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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

17 June 1985

**REMARKS BY THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER  
ABOUT BRITAIN**

Thank you for your letter of 14 June enclosing a copy of a letter from the Greek Ambassador about Mr. Papandreou's remarks about Britain.

The Prime Minister agrees that it would not be right for her to send any sort of message to Mr. Papandreou in the light of his remarks but does not wish to pursue the matter further.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 June 1985

Prime Minister  
 Very inadequate  
 excuses from  
 Greeks: but  
 nothing to be  
 gained from  
 a jus. corp.  
 14/6

Dear Charles,

Remarks by the Greek Prime Minister about Britain

You will recall that, following Mr Papandreou's remarks about Britain made on 31 May at the end of his election campaign, Lady Young summoned the Greek Ambassador on 6 June. I now enclose a copy of a letter from the Greek Ambassador, of 12 June, in reply to Lady Young's representations. The Ambassador encloses a statement made by the Government Spokesman in Athens on 11 June and asks that his letter be shown to the Prime Minister.

The Greek statement falls well short of a recantation, but the Foreign Secretary - who also expressed concern about Mr Papandreou's remarks to the Greek Foreign Minister at the EC Foreign Ministers' meeting at Stresa - feels that it is the best we are likely to get. He does not believe that in these circumstances even a low-key message of congratulation to Mr Papandreou on the formation of his new Government on 17 June would be appropriate. But the absence of a message from the Prime Minister has already been used by one Greek Ministry (with what justification we cannot say) as a reason why a UK firm has failed to land a confirmed contract and our commercial interests in Greece could suffer if we were to press the matter further. Sir Geoffrey Howe therefore proposes that we should make it clear in response to press enquiries that we have noted the Greek Spokesman's statement and do not intend to pursue the matter further. Our new Ambassador in Athens will be guided accordingly when he makes his initial calls on Mr Papandreou and other Greek Ministers next week.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
 10 Downing Street

The Ambassador

SED  
Greek Embassy  
London

12 June 1985

Dear Minister of State,

I am enclosing herewith the text of a statement made by the Government Spokesman in Athens yesterday on the matter about which you expressed the grave concern of Her Britannic Majesty's Government during our meeting last Thursday.

I trust that this statement will dispel any misunderstanding that there may have been about the Prime Minister's reference to England in the course of his electoral speech in Athens on Friday, May 31st.

I would be grateful if you would bring this statement also to the attention of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State.

Your sincere  
Nikos Kyriazides

Nikos Kyriazides

The Rt.Hon.The Baroness Young,PC,  
Minister of State for  
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
King Charles Street,  
London SW1A 2AH.

We believe that the British Government has fully understood that the controversial sentences did not refer to Britain nor were they intended as a comment on the policies followed in that country.

Their purpose was to describe the consequences and implications of such an economic program in Greece, with particular reference to past Greek experience from the implementation of a policy similar to that of the United Kingdom with which the leader of the opposition New Democracy Party Mr. Mitsotakis had identified himself.

On the contrary, we believe that our relations with Great Britain have always been excellent and will remain so despite any differences of outlook on economic programs. Moreover, differences in outlook notwithstanding, it is also well known that Mr. Papandreou maintains good personal relations with the British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

(to whom  
I wonder?)

R 14/6 .



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 June, 1985

Dear Charles,

Mr Papandreou's Remarks

I enclose a copy of a telegram reporting Lady Young's meeting with the Greek Ambassador this morning which is being despatched to Athens this afternoon.

As he left the FCO Mr Kyriazides told the assembled press that he had offered Lady Young an explanation of Mr Papandreou's remarks, which he emphasised had not been intended as a slight to Britain. In answer to questions he confirmed that Lady Young had made a formal protest, which he would be transmitting to his Government.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
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ZCZC 1  
 GRS 2  
 CLASS 3  
 CAVEATS 4  
 DESKBY 5  
 FM FCO 6  
 PRE/ADD 7  
 TEL NO 8

9  
 10 YOUR TELNO 262: CRITICISM OF THE UK BY PAPANDREOU  
 11 1. Lady Young summoned the Greek Ambassador at 12.30 today.  
 12 2. Lady Young said our two countries had been friends and  
 13 allies for a long time. We had fought together in the struggle  
 14 against Fascism in the last War. Many Britons had lost their  
 15 lives in that struggle. Against this background we had been  
 16 particularly saddened to hear certain references made about  
 17 Britain by Papandreou in a speech in Athens on 31 May.  
 18 3. We took particular exception to the reference to Britain  
 19 as a police state. Lady Young asked the Ambassador to offer  
 20 an explanation, and to make clear to his government that we  
 21 took a very serious view of these misrepresentations.  
 22 4. The Ambassador replied that Papandreou had not intended  
 23 to refer to England as a police state. His aim had been to  
 24 show that the introduction of New Democracy's economic policy  
 25 in Greece would bring about an autocratic state, a police

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File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) C R BUDD		
Telephone number		
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

		Classification and Caveats	Page 2
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 state and false trade union leaders - of all of which Greece  
 had had recent experience. The Ambassador argued that the  
 same policy could bring about different results in different  
 countries, depending on their individual histories. The  
 Ambassador emphasised that Papandreou's remarks concerned  
 Greece and not Britain.  
 5. Lady Young said that a British audience would not  
 place this interpretation on the remarks. If this was  
 really what Papandreou had intended he should now use a  
 suitable public opportunity, perhaps on television, to make  
 clear to the Greek people that he had not meant to imply that  
 Britain was a police state.  
 6. Lady Young asked the Ambassador to transmit her remarks  
 to his Government. The Ambassador undertook to report fully,  
 while reaffirming that it had not been Papandreou's intention  
 to cast aspersions on Britain.

HOWE  
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FM ATHENS 040615Z JUN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FOO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 259 OF 4 JUNE 1985

FOLLOWING FOR NEILSON, SED

CRITICISM OF THE UK BY PAPANDEOU

1. IN HIS SPEECH IN CENTRAL ATHENS ON FRIDAY, PAPANDEOU MADE A NUMBER OF DISOBLIGING REMARKS ABOUT CONSERVATIVE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. IN PARTICULAR HE USED 'ENGLAND' REPEATEDLY AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN EXPLOITATIVE CAPITALIST ECONOMY OF THE SORT TO WHICH HE CLAIMS NEW DEMOCRACY'S NEW-FOUND 'LIBERALISM' ASPIRES. MOST OF THIS IS FAMILIAR PAPANDEOU DEMAGOGUERY AND CAN BE IGNORED. HOWEVER ONE PASSAGE WAS PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE. AFTER CLAIMING THAT NEW DEMOCRACY AIMS AT THE ABOLITION OF THE WELFARE STATE AND THE IMPOVERISHMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE HE SAID THE FOLLOWING:-

'IT (I.E. NEW DEMOCRACY'S ECONOMIC POLICY) MEANS THE UNDERMINING OF THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE FARMING FAMILY. BUT FOR THIS TO COME ABOUT THERE HAS TO BE, AS IN ENGLAND, AN AUTOCRATIC STATE, A POLICE STATE, A STATE OF REPRESSION. ALSO LIMITATIONS ON COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AND THE FAKE TRADE UNION LEADERSHIPS OF THE PAST'. THESE REMARKS WERE HEARD BY THE MAJORITY OF THE GREEK POPULATION, SINCE THEY WERE BROADCAST ON TELEVISION, AND WERE ALSO REPRODUCED IN THE PRESS THE FOLLOWING DAY. I FEEL THAT THE IMPLICATION THAT 'ENGLAND' IS A POLICE STATE SHOULD NOT PASS WITHOUT COMMENT. IF YOU AGREE, I PROPOSE TO SEND A LETTER ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES TO PAPANDEOU.

'IN YOUR SPEECH AT THE SYNTAGMA RALLY ON 31 MAY, I NOTED A NUMBER OF CRITICAL REFERENCES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. AT ONE POINT YOU SUGGESTED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW DEMOCRACY'S ECONOMIC POLICY COULD NOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT THE EXISTENCE OF AN AUTOCRATIC AND REPRESSIVE POLICE STATE 'AS IN ENGLAND'. THIS DESCRIPTION OF MY COUNTRY BEARS NO RELATIONSHIP WITH REALITY AND I WAS VERY SORRY TO HEAR IT. MY GOVERNMENT HAS NO DESIRE AT ALL TO BE INVOLVED IN INTERNAL GREEK AFFAIRS SEMI COLON THE REFERENCE TO CIRCUMSTANCES IN MY OWN COUNTRY THEREFORE SEEMS TO BE PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRIATE. MOREOVER IT SADDENS ME THAT YOU SHOULD FIND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE A REFERENCE OF THIS SORT TO A COUNTRY WHICH IS AN ALLY AND A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, IN ADDITION TO BEING A FRIEND OF GREECE'.

HULSE

Charles

We shall consult the Foreign Secy as soon as we can, & then come back to you. Colin

4/6

GREEK RELATS.

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2 3 4  
5 6 7  
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24 Jun 1944