

CDP R2/12

Mr Burns

cc; ✓ PS/Prime Minister
PS/Secretary of State
Mr Ingham
Mr Thomas

DEVELOPMENTS IN ATHENS

Bombs in Athens

1. We spoke and I agreed to give you a short note. Three bombs exploded in Athens in the early hours of this morning; one outside the EC office; one outside the European Investment Bank and another outside a Greek office. Responsibility has been claimed by the Peoples Revolutionary Struggle (ELA), a terrorist group which has been active before but not considered to be a major threat. Half hour warnings were given about the bombs and no-one was hurt. The group described the bombs as a greeting for the leaders arriving for the Rhodes Summit.

Mrs Liani

2. Most of the Greek newspapers give prominence to the presence of Mrs Liani in Rhodes with Mr Papandreou. The continuing major theme is how Mrs Thatcher would react if introduced to Mrs Liani and speculation that she would decline a meeting. The Embassy are on record as denying that Mrs Thatcher has written a letter to urge her colleagues to ostracise Mrs Liani and have made it clear that she has expressed no view on the issue.

Taylor-Woodrow

3. The Greek Communist party has published an internal memo by Balflour Beattie commenting on Taylor-Woodrow's bid for the Acheloos River Project. I have asked for a copy to be sent by Fax. It suggests that Taylor-Woodrow have an inside track because of extensive fees paid to PASOK, backed by HMG. The Embassy has taken the line that what individual companies do is their business. HMG, like all other European Governments, gives political support to its companies bidding for large contracts.

Results of Rhodes Council

4. Two of the more reputable Athens newspapers carry reports based on a Le Monde article yesterday saying that the French expect Papandreou to spring some surprise at Rhodes to distract attention from his domestic difficulties. Others note that social space appear to have dropped out of the draft final communique and are suggesting that Papandreou has backed down.

J B Donnelly

J B DONNELLY
Counsellor
British Embassy, Athens

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