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**THE PERSPECTIVE AND CONSEQUENCES
OF THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEM**

**By Dr. Photos Ja. Photiades,
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An article by Mr. George Rallis, ex Greek Prime Minister, on the 12.12.1992 in a German Swiss paper and the fact that many uninformed foreigners and Greeks are wondering why such agitation about the use of a name or a symbol and why Greece has not, for so many years reacted to the name "Macedonia" of Skopjæ has prompted me to write this paper with the hope that its objective readers will be able to understand why the whole Macedonian question. The ancient emblems of the Greek civilization of Macedonia denote and conceal far more than a mere squabble for the use of a name and some emblems by Skopjæ.

The article will also attempt to explain why Greece for so long could not react to the usurpation of the Macedonian name and emblems by Skopjæ and give both to Greeks and non-Greeks who are and indeed should be interested in this unfair and unjust problem, those arguments and facts necessary to defend the rights of the Greek nation and civilization, everywhere.

The Macedonian question in a historical perspective

The historical facts which are set out hereunder in a clear and simple form should, it is believed, convince every right-thinking and fair minded person that the new democracy of Skopjæ should not be allowed to give its democracy the name "Macedonia", because should this happen history, justice and peace will inevitably suffer.

1. Historical truths

(a) The Macedonian civilization existed and flourished in Greece and indeed extended throughout most of the southern Balkan peninsula for at least a millennium before the appearance of the slavs (who are the historical ancestors of the Skopjans) in the Balkans.

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(b) The Macedonian dynasty has as of the fourth century B.C. become an international power, for the then known world, which developed a unique and purely Greek civilization which extended far beyond the boundaries of Greece. This has been reaffirmed by the recent archaeological excavations in Vergina in Northern Greece, which was the seat of the Greek Macedonian civilization. It is further proven and confirmed by the indelible and indisputably Greek historical remnants of the glorious march of Alexander the Great and the spread and development of the Greek civilization throughout the Middle East and upto India.

2. When, how and why the Macedonian name was usurped

Soon after the Second World War, Tito, the President of Yugoslavia, who wanted to take the lead for the promotion of the old idea of panslavism, which was hovering over the Balkans for at least a century, taking advantage of a devastated Greece which was still striving to survive and recover from the complete destruction caused by the Nazi occupation as well as from the very bloody civil war that followed, and which Tito himself aided in many ways within the spirit of international communism, conceived the idea of establishing the tiny state of "Macedonia" at Skopjæ with two primary targets:

- (a) To overtake Bulgaria, which as the other leg to the panslavic idea, under notorious Dimitrof, the Secretary General of Comintern had similar aspirations and
- (b) To establish a claim for an outlet to the Aegean sea by conquering Greek territories.

For this purpose, Tito exploited every advantage and used the renegade Greek Communist guerrillas under Zachariades, who had taken refuge in Yugoslavia after their failure to impose communism in Greece, by forming an alliance with them against Greece.

Skopjae refer to "Greater Macedonia" extending upto the Aegean Sea.

The leaders of Skopjae have declared from the first day of the establishment of the new democracy of Skopjae that this is merely the nucleus and the stepping stone towards a "Greater Macedonia" which will one day incorporate the so called "Bulgarian Macedonia" and especially Greek Macedonia upto the Aegean Sea.

3. Why Greece did not react forcefully at the time and is doing so today.

It must be easily understood by everybody, especially the Europeans, that in the state Greece was found after the second World War, was so weakened and isolated, that it was utterly incapable to confront the then almighty communist block. It is well known that Greece was the first European country to put forth military resistance against the invading Italian and German forces and scored the first allied victory of the Second World War, thus reviving the low morale of the other European States. In sacrificing itself to a holocaust with unequal bloody battles, Greece managed to delay Nazi war plans for at least six months, a fact which as many great politicians have admitted, may have changed the course of the war in favour of the Allies. The Greek holocaust was completed with the bloody civil war which followed immediately after the end of the Second World War.

Greece put the interests of its Western Allies above its own national interests.

Although the usurpation of the Macedonian name permanently poisoned Greek relations with Yugoslavia, Greece was unable, as explained above, to confront the communist block. Matters grew worse for Greece when Tito broke away from Moscow. He then became the "enfant gade" of the West, especially of the NATO Alliance, of which Greece was part. NATO considered Tito's "neutrality" important in the East-West conflict. In the interests of its Western Allies Greece suffered in silence and avoided an open confrontation with Belgrade at the time, thus placing the interests of the alliance above its own interests.

Furthermore, Skopjæ was at the time only a district of Yugoslavia which had full controlled over it. The situation changed radically to the worse though, after the dissolution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the formation of the Republic of Skopjæ with obvious aggressive intentions and claims against Greek territories, namely:

- (a) By providing in their new constitution specifically that "it is the duty of the new democracy to care for and further the interests of their brothers living outside the borders of the state", an obvious reference to Greeks residing in the Greek territories of Macedonia.
- (b) By printing a map of their Republic which bears the name "Macedonia" incorporating the Northern territories of the Greek State, including Thesallonica, which is the capital of Northern Greece.
- (c) By continuing Tito's tactics in every way, for the fabrication of a new "Macedonian National Consciousness", and the invention of a "Macedonian Language" which is derived from local slavic idioms.
- (d) By claiming as its own, Greek territories and indisputable Greek historical monuments, which are within the state of Greece, such as the tombs of the Macedonian King Philip the Second, as well as the White Tower found in the heart of Thesallonica, which is the emblem of the town. Both are provocatively being used as propaganda material distributed by Skopjaen expansionists.
- (e) By usurping the golden star depicted on the coffin of king Philip the Second, which was the emblem of the Macedonian Dynasty of the fourth century B.C., a

dynasty which was established and flourished a whole millenium before their slav ancestors descended to the Balkans. This golden star has now been made their emblem and it appears on their flag.

An unprovoked challenge to Greece

All these factors constitute resounding provocations against Greece. Any fair minded and objective individual with common sense, irrespective of origin, cannot but realise by reading these lines that Skopjans with all their above activities in promoting their Republic under the name Macedonia, prove that they have aggressive and expansionist intentions against their neighbours, even before they have been recognised as a state. One can easily predict the sort of problems these people, with such mentality and intentions, can stir up in the whole area once they are established as a state and especially if by a U.N.O recognition of their State with the name Macedonia become more audacious and arrogant.

They use the name Macedonia to justify territorial claims.

For the leaders of Skopjæ the name Macedonia is not used just as a name. Indeed, if it were so there could not be a serious problem. But they are using the name Macedonia as a symbol and a pretext through which they proclaim that themselves, alone, are the true descendants of Alexander the Great, so that they can lay claim to the whole of Macedonia upto the Aegean sea. All this, in spite of the fact that Alexander the Great was Greek, spoke Greek (as opposed to slavic), felt like a Greek, thought like a Greek and lived many centuries before the ancestors of the Skopjans arrived in the area.

The frontiers of Greece which are presently also the borders of Europe and NATO will be under constant threat.

Greece was repeatedly forced during its recent history, most notably between 1860 and 1950, into several bloody and violent wars because of the expansionist and imperialistic policies of

its neighbours and especially because of the panslavism idea, a concept adopted today by the new democracy of Skopjæ. It is more than certain that Greece will be dragged into conflicts again by Skopjæ with unforeseen consequences, in order to defend the peace in the region, if the E.C. and the U.N.O. encourage them by recognising their state with the name Macedonia. By so doing the frontier of Greece will be constantly under threat. Our European friends and NATO Allies should not forget that the borders of Greece are now their own borders as well.

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Rewarding an expansionist policy against a member state of the U.N.O., the E.C. and NATO undermines their very existence

The tolerance which Greece has displayed for so many years, for the reasons explained above, which today has been proved wrong, has made the Skopjeans arrogant and audacious. The ambiguous stand of some Europeans, unfortunately, is encouraging them further. Should this historically unfounded and unjustified claim of the Republic of Skopjæ be adopted by the U.N.O. by recognising the republic with the name Macedonia, this will be a reward of expansionism against a member state of the U.N.O. the NATO the E.C. and will be the cause of new violent and bloody wars. Should the International Community, allows states such as Skopjæ, who display such obvious expansionist intentions and such unlawful and absurd territorial claims against U.N.O. fellow member states, then the International Community itself is undermining and eroding its own foundations.

DR. PHOTOS JA. PHOTIADES

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