

Communist Indoctrination of Greek Kids Has Compounded Major Hellenic Tragedy

EDITOR'S NOTE: The cold war is the stage of a modern Greek tragedy. Communist nations have been pumping Red propaganda for 7 years into about 28,000 Greek children abducted during the Greek civil war. Now the Reds are suddenly eager to return the hostages. Why? William L. Ryan has sought the answer in a survey of political, economic and military implications on the spot. This is the first of 3 dispatches.

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
Of The Associated Press

KASTORIA, Greece (AP)—A special train from Communist Bulgaria came to a halt on the Greek side of the frontier. A Greek in

his early 20s leaped from the train and, falling to his knees, kissed the Greek earth he had not seen for 7 years.

The young man wept as he proclaimed his joy at deliverance. He had been 1 of about 28,000 Greek children abducted by the Communists, along with thousands of adults, during the Greek Civil War of 1947-49.

Two weeks after his repatriation, Greek security police arrested this same young man. He was, they said, a trained Communist spy.

WHOLESALE KIDNAPING

The young man was more than that. He was an example of how communism sets about to capture a generation. He was part of a compounded tragedy which has become a major problem for Greece and a matter of concern

for Greece's friends, including the United States.

This area, within sight of the towering wild mountains—which mark the border of Communist Albania, was one of the hardest hit by a crime which shocked the civilized world—the wholesale kidnapping of Greek children.

Now the Communists seem suddenly eager to return thousands of those forced across the border and possibly some of the many who went willingly as the families of Red guerrilla fighters.

Many Greeks are asking: Why? Why, at this moment, after all these years and all the futile pleas of Greece before world opinion?

Up to now 3,700 have been repatriated in this way, but:

Of the 3,700 repatriates, 80 per cent are women. About 1,300 are over 60 and an equal number are children, most of them born across the border. Only 1,100 are in the 20 to 60 age group. Those coming back at the moment include many who will be burdens to their communities. Attached to their return is a condition that they must go to the villages or areas of their origin.

Even these few created problems for Greece. The Communists seemed fully aware of that. Poland suddenly offered to repatriate 6,000 in the dead of winter, when it would be most difficult to accommodate them. The number was too great for the Greeks to handle in one batch. They asked that it be scaled down to 2,000 and the time advanced to spring.

A STRONG RUMOR

There is now a strong rumor that the Communists replied with an offer raising the number to 11,000, to be moved in a single batch at once. It seemed an effort to embarrass the Greeks. Security screening alone is a long and arduous task, taxing Greek facilities to the utmost.

There might not be dangerous elements among the first batches. Repatriates here angrily deny that any of their number has any use for communism. But Greek officials are frankly worried about those to come—the children schooled for 7 years in a Communist vacuum.

Interrogation has shown that many of the children, grown to adulthood in isolation from their parents, have undergone the most thorough of indoctrination courses. Many had special treatment in special schools under the guidance of the Greek Communist party, now based largely abroad in the satellite countries. They had better treatment in

many cases than did the children of the native Romanians, Poles, Hungarians or Czechs.

In Romania, a big Bucharest building and 2 big villas were set aside for Greek children. They were kept to themselves under Greek Communist teachers. Village children from birth, in a hard mountain country, they had never seen a large European city. Budapest, Prague and Bucharest were proud old cities long before the Communists came along. Children would be impressed.

Security officials say many who left Greece as children now are indoctrinated Communists who would represent a new and serious nucleus for the outlawed Greek Communist party.

AN ILLUSTRATION

There was an illustration: Furtively, 2 teen-age boys agreed to slash their fingers.

They smeared the spurting blood on letters they were writing to their parents, still captive in a Communist country. The boys, long separated from their parents, had recently been repatriated from Romania.

On the blood-smeared sheets of paper they wrote: "This will show you how the monarcho-Fascists torture those who return here."

They wrote that they were cruelly beaten in Greece and that the blood showed it.

Since the boys, among the relative few who could be placed in a school for rehabilitation, were under observation at the time, the letter was read and stopped.

This story was told to me by a representative of the Queen's Fund, a charitable organization now devoting much of its considerable energy to the problem of the repatriated children.

Greece is salvaging some of them. But it is a slow and painful process.

Next: The making of a young Communist.



(AP Wirephoto)

REUNION IN SALONIKA—A young girl is kissed tenderly by a uniformed man during reunion of Greek repatriates from Romania at Salonika in Greece in October last year. Young miss is one of many Greek children who have been indoctrinated in Red metropolitan centers behind the Iron Curtain on the Continent and repatriated to their homeland.

Snow Made Progenitors Stand Erect

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Some experiments with chimpanzees have convinced a Virginia medical scientist that snow played a part in the development of man from apelike ancestors.

BEAVER!

PORTLAND, Me. (AP)—Crewmen of the Coast Guard cutter Cook Inlet found a way to live up to a recent 30-day weather patrol in the North Atlantic. They held a beard-growing contest.

The experiments involve a loosely constructed theory that snow and cold made man's ancestors uncomfortable, caused them to stand upright to escape the chilling wetness; that the upright position made their adrenal glands work harder because of the unnatural stress involved, and that the erect position resulted in an increased demand by the brain for blood. With the increased blood supply the brain developed and the creature be-

came the upright progenitor of man.

This hypothesis was presented to the Federated American Societies for Experimental Biology Wednesday by Dr. Sydney W. Britton of the University of Virginia Medical School.

Tallulah Suffers Indigestion Attack

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Actress Tallulah Bankhead suffered an attack of acute indigestion Tuesday night, forcing cancellation of the play "Dear Charles" after 1 act, but she was sufficiently recovered today to return to the stage for the matinee performance.

Miss Bankhead collapsed in her dressing room after the first act of the play at the American Theatre. Manager Paul Beisman said she had been taking cold pills which apparently upset her stomach.

But after a night's rest and treatment by a physician, Miss Bankhead notified Beisman she was ready to resume her role.

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