

Skinny Economy Can't Support High-Powered Greek Defenses

By PRESTON GROVER

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—To fulfill its NATO commitments, Greece has loaded a jet defense system on an economy which can support it only with American aid.

Despite the poverty of its agriculture and the skininess of its industrial resources, Greece has proceeded with a military program that brings unstinted praise from American officers.

It has an army of 10 divisions in a good state of training and with acceptable equipment. These are divisions with a front-line striking force of about 10,000 men each. In addition, the Air Force has 150 jet planes and enough pilots to man them. It has seven small airbases and nine auxiliary fields, some of them on the island of Crete.

American aid, which has supported this, is being rapidly curtailed, to the dismay of the Greeks. It was 280 million dollars three years ago, 180 million two years ago, 80 million the past fiscal year.

The new foreign aid program outlined in mid-June called for only 20 million for Greece.

This hit right at the time Prime Minister Alexander Papagos was putting into force a new economic program.

Aside from "military assistance," Greece is getting other types of U. S. support: 100 million dollars of military "end items"—finished military equipment and supplies—each year and a backlog of Marshall Plan aid which last year amounted to another 100 million.

Little Greece, with about eight million population, has a total gross national income of only 30 trillion drachmas (about a billion dollars a year).

Papagos told a party of correspondents, touring the eastern countries of NATO, that Greece would continue to defend itself no matter what happened. But he added that he expected the United States and other NATO countries to be "understanding." It was clear Greece didn't expect this "understanding" to be covered by the proposed 20 million dollar aid appropriation for the coming year.

Gold-eyed, 71-year-old Papagos, term the powers almost of a dictator, is pushing through a kill-or-cure economic and governmental reform program that heartens some and frightens others.

No politician himself, nor economist, he is guided by a witty, brainy little Greek full of expan-

sive ideas. Spiros Markezinis, in his early 40s, is a bright Athenian lawyer who tried for years to hurl his 35 pounds high into government positions. Then last November the Greeks voted Papagos into power with a legislative majority of 246 to 54.

Markezinis was appointed minister for co-ordination, economics and foreign aid, the first Cabinet job he ever had. It allows him to put his thumb into almost every one of the 17 ministries in the Cabinet.

It is now eight months since the new government was elected, but in that brief period it has:

1. Formed a defense alliance with Turkey and Yugoslavia that multiplies their military potential.

2. Devalued the currency to recapture important foreign markets, wipe out a black market, and give time for internal economic reforms.

3. Merged two major banks with a hope—not yet realized—of lowering scandalous interest rates and purging greasy-fat payrolls.

4. Started a painfully slow reform and purging of the civil service ranks.

5. Started, perhaps a bit wide-eyed, a reform of government which included a caution to members of Parliament to stop going into the ministries to deal for favors for their friends.

American officials here indicated they expected Greece would have to trim its military program somewhat.

Of its total annual expenditure, Greece pours well over a third into its defense forces. The figures for this year are:

Total budget \$245,000,000

Military portion \$95,900,000

A part of the budget—the exact amount is hard to assess—is made up of American contributions. So, as these are cut, the total budget tends to drop.

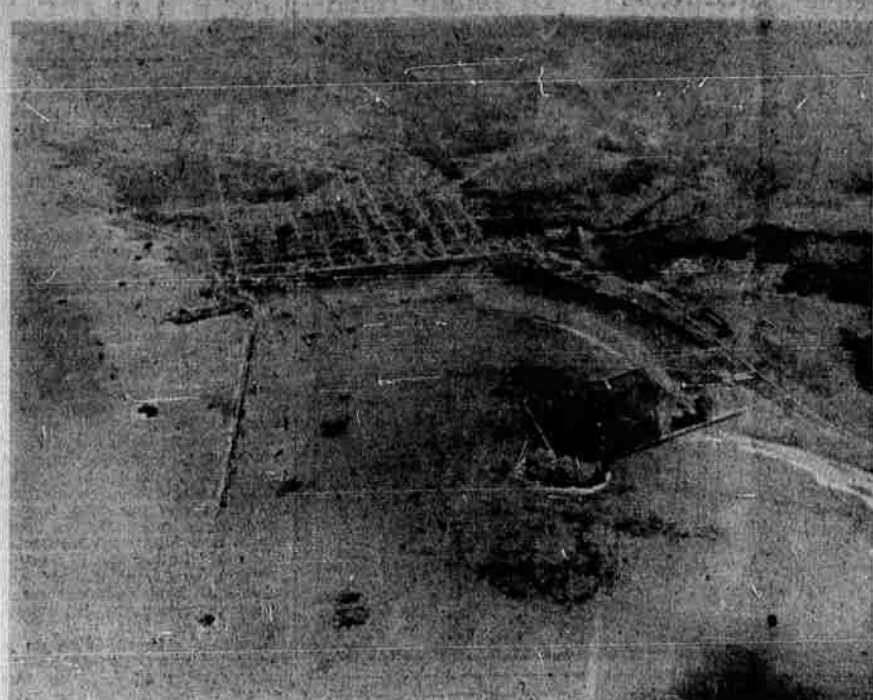
Just where any trimming should be made is hard to decide. The Greeks insist they need the number of soldiers they have to protect their frontiers, with Albania to the northeast and Bulgaria to the north. Both these Russian satellites are old-time enemies.

Moreover, American military strategists are happy to have Greek forces on these frontiers as a protection to a vital piece of defense territory—the Greek Peninsula itself.

There isn't anything to be saved in cutting the soldier's pay. He goes into the Army with a monthly salary of 60,000 drachmas. That is exactly \$2.

Despite low pay, the Greek soldiers looked good. A group of commandos with ropes scaled a 250-foot cliff in a matter of minutes, just to show how tough they were. Each man carried a gun and light pack.

The men and their officers, as well as the officers and men of the air wing visited by the correspondents, looked competent and alert. Many of them had already had direct combat with Communists in battle during the civil war that tore the country after the liberation.



THE MAIN BREAKWATER (left) at Crescent City Harbor was started in 1918 and extends from Battery Point out into the sea. Current plans, already recommended by the Army Engineers, would call for additional protection for the Northern California seaport town and facilitate handling of an ever increasing flow of Northwest-produced crops and material.

— Photo by Crescent City American

Visiting Florida Mayor Loses Snake in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Oscar, a 7½ foot boa constrictor—large enough to crush a man to death—a pet of Mayor Peaslee Streets of Lake Park, Fla., is missing from his cage atop the mayor's automobile.

Streets discovered Oscar's disappearance yesterday when he returned to his car in a Loop parking lot. He told police Oscar either had been stolen or someone had tampered with the cage door and Oscar had escaped.

Another snake, an unnamed purple indigo of similar length, was still in the cage.

Portland Boiler Blows; One Hurt

PORTLAND (AP)—A boiler blew up in a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant here Thursday near noon. Fire and a succession of chemical blasts followed.

Only one man, Richard Bauman, a chemist, was in the plant at the time. He suffered arm burns as he ran to safety. All other employees were out to lunch.

The plant, Northwest Laboratories, Inc., was destroyed with loss estimated by C. R. Jackson, president at \$20,000.

Streets said that Oscar is a pet and won't hurt anyone unless the person hurts him. He offered a \$50 reward for the return of Oscar—in good condition.

Streets, here to attend the International Association of Lions Clubs, also had a little trouble with two other pets, he brought along. They are alligators, Eloise and Napoleon, each about four feet long and weighing 50 pounds. He put them in the bathtub of his Loop hotel room.

But he received complaints from a hotel official that hotel maids and elevator girls were afraid of the alligators. Streets, his wife and the alligators moved last night to another Loop hotel.

League Doesn't Loan Dogs To Collect Fleas

CLEVELAND (AP)—It was an ordinary day at the Cleveland Animal Protective League office. Then the phone rang.

"I want to borrow a dog for a couple of days," shrieked an excited female voice.

"Why?" asked the league director, Henry J. Leffingwell.

"I've got fleas," said the voice. "I thought one of your dogs could roam around the house a couple of days and pick them up."

"We don't lend our dogs," said Leffingwell.

The receiver slammed on the other end.

"What would my dogs have thought?" he asked.

Pulp Workers Pact Reached

SEATTLE (AP)—Management and union negotiators reached agreement Wednesday on a contract calling for salary increases totaling \$2,500,000 for 18,000 workers in 24 West Coast pulp and paper plants.

The agreement was announced in a joint statement by the Pacific Coast Association of Pulp & Paper Manufacturers and two A.F.L. unions, International Brotherhood of Paper Makers and the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers.

While the joint statement gave no estimate of the wage increases granted, Anson B. Moody, Everett, president of the association, said it would exceed \$2,500,000.

Gains by union workers in Washington, Oregon and California plants included:

1. A general wage increase of 2 1/2 per cent per hour. This increases the hourly male rate 4 1/2 cents to 8 1/2 cents and established the male base rate at \$1.76 1/2 cents an hour. The female base rate is fixed at \$1.47 1/2 cents an hour. Average hourly earnings were increased to \$2.19 an hour, the statement said.

2. A revised procedure for selections and promotions within the mechanical structure.

3. Agreement by manufacturers to pay wages of one additional union delegate from each local while attending labor-management pulp and paper state safety conferences.

4. Removal of the war time

emergency man power provisions from the uniform labor agreement.

Al Brown, Portland, vice president of the IBPM, John Sherman, Tacoma, and Ivor Isaacson, Los Angeles, of the IBPSMW participated in the negotiations, while

S. M. Grimes, Portland, secretary of the association, represented management.



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Aluminum Co. Pact Reached

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Aluminum Company of America reached agreement Friday with two big unions on new contract terms which will give 30,000 employees an 8 1/2 cent hourly pay boost.

The CIO United Steelworkers signed a contract with Alcoa covering 17,000 production and maintenance workers. The increase is effective July 13. The pact will run until July 31, 1954.

The AFL Trades Council, representing 13,000 hourly paid workers signed a contract calling for a four-cent hourly increase effective July 1, and another 4 1/2 cents an hour effective July 13.

In addition to the wage boost, the CIO-USA pact calls for an additional two cents an hour across the board at plants in Alcoa, Tenn., Badin, N. C., Bauxite, Ark., Mobile, Ala., Richmond, Ind., and Rockdale, Tex.

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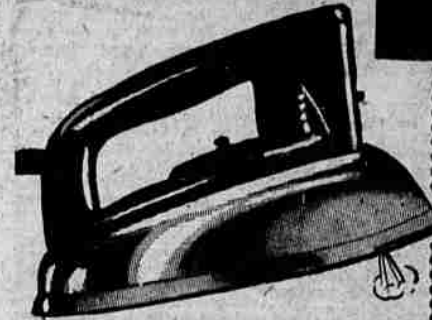
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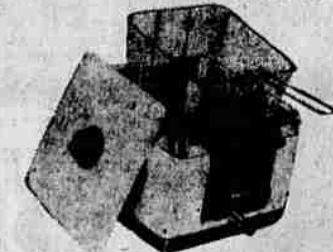
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