

ΑΘΗΝΑΪΚΟ
ΠΡΑΚΤΟΡΕΙΟ ΕΙΔΗΣΕΩΝ
ΓΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΗΣ

Αθήνα 10.7.97

Κυρία Πρόεδρος,

Λας υπέρω το κωμικόν
ταίριον τω οργισμένω "Hermes". Λας
ευχαριστώ για το υπέρω σίρα για
την οργισμένη βανδία τω οργισμένω τω.

Με εκτίμησιν

[Signature]

GREECE TODAY

No 13 July 1997

Hermes

DIONYSIAN DELIGHT

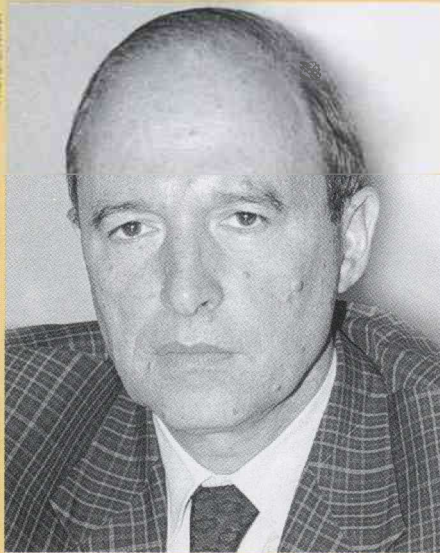
Better quality, variety spell success
for Greek winemaking

An article by Prime Minister Costas Simitis

An interview with Alexandria Patriarch Petros
Athens ready to host World Athletics Championships

A GREECE OF CREATION, OF SUCCESS

An article by Prime Minister Costas Simitis



At the dawn of the 21st century Greece stands before an important crossroads, faced with new and great challenges. The remaining few years will be critical for the nation's course, its European strategy and its ability to effectively deal with the country's great problems and overcome delays of decades. That is why the country's modernising programme must proceed with resolve.

We must wage battle with the appropriate weapons, abandon outdated methods of thinking and plan new strategies demanded by this new era. We must proceed with large-scale structural changes that contribute to the development of competitiveness and the country's evolution, changes that will address the system's weaknesses.

The PASOK government has already dared to clash even with aspects of its own political tradition and culture, overcoming the fear of political cost and without succumbing to the sirens of easy and unreasonable giveaways and political patronage. This is because the government feels a great responsibility towards the thousands of citizens who seek a new political vision, radical reform and a realistic policy that will bring the country closer to the future.

Its choice is none other than to intervene in the way our society func-

tions, which at times seems to reward the lesser effort, doesn't include ethics in its motivation, and which unfortunately, still displays the image of a mediocre society.

Our goal is to build a strong Greece, a Greece where both economic indicators and individuals prosper, a Greece which commands the respect of friends and foes alike. If we want to succeed, if we want to open the way to the 21st century, we must give priority to the "Greece of creation". Because the Greece of creation will be the "Greece of successes."

No one, neither the government, the labour force nor business should forget that:

- Nothing can be gained without work
- Nothing can be won without sacrifices
- Nothing can be safeguarded without effort
- Nothing can be secured without exceeding our limitations

Throughout Greece there are industrious and proud people imbued with a disposition for productive effort. These people are fed up with "grandiose, but empty words." They want to see things done, they desire the language of truth, of action, of renewal and progress. They want solutions to their problems, bold decision-making, innovation in both thought and action. They are fully aware that in our era appeasement, obsession with the past and inflexibility are keys to certain failure. All these people feel that the Greece of the next century should clash with whatever delays, prevents and undermines its course towards the future.

All these people comprise a different Greece. They are the people who labour, struggle and create. They are the farmers who have turned to more competitive and productive crops.

They are the business people who have boldly shattered the tradition of state protectionism and have dynamically and successfully entered international competition. They are the forces in the country's universities who implement pioneering research programmes, the unexploited forces in the public administration who could work wonders, but are asphyxiated within the current bureaucratic framework. They are the trade unionists whose labour policy and political speech are in tune with the European labour movement's most advanced thinking and practices - This is the nation of creativity, work, ethical choices, great aspirations and unlimited horizons. This is the nation of successes, of inexhaustible forces, valuable human resources and optimism. This should be the Greece of the future. This is exactly the Greece we should bring forth.

There is, however, the "other Greece," which we all know very well. It is the nation of parasites, "fast money", the underground economy and illegality. The Greece of bribes, kickbacks and pay-offs. The Greece of interrelated self-interests, political patronage system, of fiefdoms and preservation of privileges. This "Greece" must become a thing of the past.

The government's policy has one goal: To free and mobilise all the productive forces and to create the conditions for personal and collective effort in order to chart a new and creative course. Because a strong Greece in the 21st century is not just the responsibility of one government - it is an issue for all Greeks and all social partners, who have a duty to look beyond today and beyond their narrowly defined "self-interests".

We all have a responsibility to dream and work for the Greece of the 21st century.