

Σχέδιο Χαιρετισμού
στο Δείπνο των Ομογενειακών Οργανώσεων
(RITZ CARLTON - 8.4.1996)

Χαίρω γιατί σε στιγμές σημαντικές για την Ελλάδα και το μέλλον του Ελληνισμού βρίσκομαι ανάμεσά σας, ανάμεσα σε ένα από τα πιο ζωντανά και σφριγηλά κομμάτια Ελλάδας. Όλοι γνωρίζουμε τις προκλήσεις της εποχής που διανύουμε. Προκλήσεις που συνεπάγονται πολλούς κινδύνους, πολλές δυσκολίες αλλά και ευκαιρίες για την ενίσχυση του Ελληνισμού, τις οποίες θα μπορέσουμε να εκμεταλλευθούμε μόνο εάν είμαστε άρρηκτα ενωμένοι.

Our goal is a Hellenism to be reckoned with. This requires a strong Greece, economically, militarily, as well as in terms of social cohesion. But it also requires a strong and united Diaspora.

Let us never forget the important role that Greek Diaspora assumed throughout history, from the colonization of the entire Mediterranean basin and beyond, in ancient times, up to the vigorous Diaspora of the present in either hemispheres, in countries rich or less affluent, in states powerful or in smaller ones. Let us also never forget that it was the Greek Diaspora that first organized Hellenism in its struggle to regain independence and to relay the torch of freedom down to our generation.

You have moreover the privilege to live in a prosperous and powerful country, where many Greek ideals were respectfully observed even in times when they were greatly suffering elsewhere: democracy, freedom, civic liberties, pioneer spirit. You are the living bridge of friendship between the cradle of these values and your new home. You are the living bridge not only because you are Greeks but also because by making correct use of these Hellenic values you acquired a prominent position in American society, in practically every field: politics, business, arts, science, sports. We in Greece are very proud of your achievements.

Your specific weight in the American society clearly goes far beyond the numerical proportions of the Greek-American Community. So does also the invaluable support you offered Greece in her efforts to protect her

ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΠΡΩΘΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ

rights and her integrity and in her endeavours to assert a new role in the difficult post-cold-war environment. This inevitably takes me back to the initial remarks of my address: a strong Greece in the Balkans and in the European Union exacts a strong and united Diaspora. It is also in this scope that we view a series of initiatives to enhance Hellenism all over the world, the "World Assembly of Hellenism" and the "Council for the Hellenes abroad" being the most eminent among them.

The Greek State is aware that in practice we did not always duefully recognise the services rendered by Greeks abroad. We are also aware that we have by no means completed our task through the initiatives already under way. Nevertheless, it is an important beginning that will be continued by, perhaps sometimes small but hopefully in any case solid steps towards the goal of weaving our own worldwide web that will unite Greeks no matter where they live.

It goes without saying that we do not wish the relationship between Greece and the Hellenic Diaspora to be lopsided, and although we rejoice at your success in your new countries, we do not want you to hesitate to appeal to your mother-country, should you ever be in need.

Επιτρέψτε μου να κλείσω τις σύντομες αυτές σκέψεις χωρίς μεγάλες εξαγγελίες ή καθησυχαστικές υποσχέσεις, πέραν του ότι οι χαλεποί καιροί μας δίνουν και ένα αισιόδοξο μήνυμα: Εάν τα δέκα επτά εκατομμύρια των απανταχού Ελλήνων εργασθούμε με σοβαρότητα και σύμπνοια για κοινούς στόχους, τότε είναι απολύτως βέβαιο ότι θα παραδώσουμε στις επερχόμενες γενεές έναν ισχυρότερο Ελληνισμό, μίαν ισχυρότερη Ελλάδα.

I want to repeat a few principles of the policy of the G. G. I stated today at the N.P.C.

μια Ελλάδα που θα έχει ρόλο, γαλήνη, ναοεισία