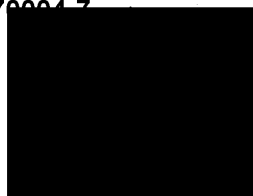


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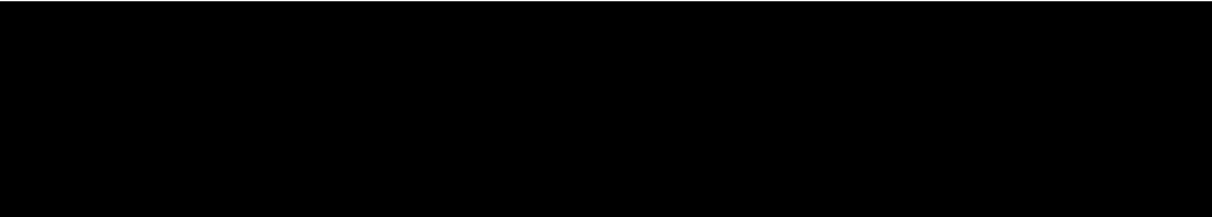


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1. When the news of Patriarch Maximos' mental condition was first made public, the Turkish authorities had planned to appoint a medical commission to visit the Patriarch and ascertain the nature of his illness, but up to now they have refrained from such action.
2. Informed Turkish circles admit that if a medical commission were to find the Patriarch's illness incurable, the Turkish authorities would insist upon his resignation and the immediate election of a successor, in order to end the present ambiguous situation at the Phanar.
3. At present the Turkish Government wishes to have the Phanar in charge of a powerful man, who could cope with Patriarch Alexei and the religious policies of Russia.
4. Turkish authorities reportedly would welcome Mgr. Thomas as the next Patriarch. He is well known to them as he has headed many patriarchal delegations to Ankara. He speaks fluent Turkish and comes of Anatolian stock. He is also known for his anti-Russian attitude and has been heard to express himself very strongly against the activities of Patriarch Alexei. Since Mgr. Thomas does not wish to be a candidate, the Turkish authorities would approve, as an alternative choice, Metropolitan Yacovas of Imbros, who was favored some years ago by the former Turkish Minister of Interior Sukru Kaya as his choice for Patriarch.

[Redacted] Mgr. Yacovas apparently still has a number of influential Turkish friends. 25X1X6

A Russian delegation, which did not succeed in obtaining a visa for Turkey, is now visiting Damascus, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Cairo, etc., and is keeping in close touch with the leading Arab personalities of the Orthodox faith.

[Redacted] It is possible that the above-mentioned visit refers to the Russian delegation, headed by Metropolitan Gregory of Leningrad, which visited Cairo, Alexandria, Jerusalem and Damascus in November and early December 1946. 25X1A6a

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6. It is reported that Phanar circles have categorically denied the statements published in Tanin on 26 January to the effect that a Russian delegation, headed by Metropolitan Gregory of Leningrad, was preparing to visit Patriarch Maximos, and that during the visit the historic wooden gateway at the entrance of the Patriarchate would be dismantled.

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 This is the gateway on which Patriarch Gregory V was hanged, by order of the Sultan in 1821, in retaliation for the Greek revolutionary movement.

7. Phanar circles reportedly contend that this newspaper report is based on a policy of provocation and this in spite of the fact that Yalgin, editor of Tanin, advocates close Turkish-Greek friendship.
8. It is stated that Turkish authorities have frequently requested that this gateway be dismantled, but that the Phanar will never consent to the destruction of this historic symbol of the early Greek revolutionary movement.

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