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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

63034

COUNTRY Turkey/Greece

SUBJECT Order for Arrest of Lay Attaches
of the Phanar; Return to Athens of
Skeferis, Greek Ambassador in Ankara
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ORIGIN [REDACTED]
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DATE: 25X1A

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT

1. At a recent meeting in the Patriarchate, Mgr. Yacovas, Metropolitan of Imbros, is reported to have raised the question of the recent scandal in connection with the execution of the Sideridis legacy. The late Sideridis had bequeathed a considerable portion of his fortune to the Greek Government and Greek institutions in Istanbul (in particular to the National School at the Phanar) with the remainder going to his natural heirs.
2. It would seem, however, that in 1940 the four prominent Greek lawyers retained by the Patriarchate, as well as by the Greek Embassy and Consulate General, had forged all the necessary documents to deprive the Greek Government and even certain Greek institutions of their share in the legacy. Although this forgery was soon discovered, the Greek Government refrained from taking legal proceedings on account of the war. In early February 1947 the Criminal Courts of Athens condemned in absentia the four lawyers concerned and issued warrants for their arrest should they be found in Greek territory. These lawyers are:
 - (a) Mirmiroglou, lawyer, spokesman and legal adviser of the Patriarchate; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the above institutions.
 - (b) Alexander Tsanis, ex-cashier of the Patriarchate.
 - (c) Yokas, lawyer, Grand Logothete and legal adviser of the Patriarchate; personal adviser to Patriarch Maximos; legal counselor of the Greek Embassy in Ankara, Greek Consulate General and Hellenic Club.
 - (d) Moschos.
3. Metropolitan Yacovas inquired of the members of the Holy Synod why the Greek Embassy and Consulate continued to retain the legal services of these men whose reputations were so definitely compromised. He went further and requested the Holy Synod to take the necessary steps with the Greek Embassy to release Yokas from his embassy duties, pending the conclusion of legal proceedings.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: As Patriarch Maximos was in complete charge of the Patriarchate in 1940 when the late Patriarch Benjamin was ill, certain elements in the Phanar wish Maximos to assume some of the responsibility for this scandal.

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- 4. The Greek Ambassador in Ankara, Pericles Skafaris, who was recently called to Athens for consultation, will confer with his government regarding the above-mentioned scandal. He will also take up the question of refugees from Western Thrace.

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