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A potential injury to bilateral relations with Greece

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) Dear Friends,

We thought you might be interested in our letter (below) to over 50 top American policymakers who can affect policy toward Greece. We took the opportunity of a US government blunder to remind these officials of Greece's often-overlooked importance to America.

Dear _____,

As you know, for over five decades and three generations, our family has worked to make bilateral relations with Greece optimal for America. It is in this vein that we bring to the attention of friends like you a potentially serious consequence of our officials' recent unwise treatment of the people of Greece.

At this pivotal juncture in Greek history, some economically devastated and fragile Greeks have been seeking a dramatic departure from the status quo and flirting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Some Greeks have questioned why their country never sees the benefits of using American access to their important military base in Souda Bay, Crete as a strategic card of negotiation, as Turkey always does with their Incirlik base.

Such sentiment could approach reality following the imminent

results of negotiations on the German-led economic bailout of Greece. The anticipated difficult situation could lead to yet another election. Such an election could produce a coalition government with much less favorable views about issues crucial to American security interests.

Amid this situation where many Greeks see German efforts as attempts to "humiliate" their injured country, our officials took an action seen by some Greeks as additional "humiliation." Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter recently invited the Greek people's Minister of Defense to Washington and then bizarrely refused to meet with him. He refused even a face-saving photo op or phone call, despite the invitation emerging from his office in the first place. Headlines in Greece shouted:

* "AN UNPRECEDENTED CHILLING FROM THE US", * "COLD SHOWER FOR THE GREEK SIDE FROM WASHINGTON'S DECISION", * "CLOSED DOOR BY AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, CANCELLED THE MEETING". This strange decision, though possibly satisfying some short-term goal, seems to have gone out of its way to send a dangerous message to the people of Greece. It could very well have a long-term negative impact on American interests in the region and on our incredibly positive historic relationship. These, after all, are the Greek people: (1) whose Souda Bay base has been crucial to thousands of our planes, ships and troops fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East; (2) who are our outpost of Western Democracy (with only Israel and Cyprus) in that rapidly retrogressing region; (3) who make up the country that was one of only seven that has been with us in every international conflict in the

20th Century; and (4) who were the first to defeat the Axis Forces in WWII, publicly oppose the Holocaust while occupied by Nazis and who Winston Churchill said were crucial to the defeat of Hitler.

Although probably unrelated to this meeting cancellation, just days later, the Greek Prime Minister began discussions with President Putin regarding plans for possible energy and economic cooperation between Russia and cash-strapped Greece. However, should another Greek election materialize with more Greek votes cast against America's interests, it could be related.

We should always treat the Greek people as the great allies they are. However, this should especially be the case during this era when: (1) we have spent virtually nothing to help our great ally's brutal economic catastrophe, while sending hundreds of millions elsewhere (like the tens of millions we give every year to Caribbean private businesses); and (2) American military efforts against the greatest threats on American lives emanating from the Eastern Mediterranean are dependent on Greece's Souda Bay's base. We ask that you, as a friend of Greece, urge others in the Administration to deal appropriately with our Greek allies.

Sincerely,

Andy

Manatos

Mike Manatos

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Top



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Tor is an encrypted anonymising network that makes it harder to intercept internet communications, or see where communications are coming from or going to.

(<https://www.torproject.org/>)

Tails is a live operating system, that you can start on almost any computer from a DVD, USB stick, or SD card. It aims at preserving your privacy and anonymity.

(<https://tails.boum.org/>)

The Courage Foundation is an international organisation that supports those who risk life or liberty to make significant contributions to the historical record.

(<https://www.couragefound.org/>)

Bitcoin uses peer-to-peer technology to operate with no central authority or banks; managing transactions and the issuing of bitcoins is carried out collectively by the network.

(<https://www.bitcoin.org/>)



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