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ANNEX 10GREEK PRESS ATTACKS ON BULGARIA

In 1942, and again in 1944, two anti-Bulgarian pamphlets entitled "Such are the Bulgarians" and "Caitiff Bulgaria" were published in London by a Greek diplomat, Mr. Pipinelis, on behalf of the Greek Ministry of Information. These pamphlets, prompted by an unbridled hatred of all things Bulgarian, were a mass of extravagant historical distortions.

In 1944 a Greek, Georges Christopoulos, published in Chicago a book entitled "Bulgaria's Record", which was widely circulated through the efforts of the Greek Ministry of Information. This book was an extremely prejudiced account of Bulgarian history, and contained a number of offensive references to Bulgaria and the Bulgarians; who were described as "Balkan Huns", "Megalomaniacs", and "people with ignorant minds and animal souls", and with "Hun mentality".

In 1945, Mr. Kanelis published a book in Athens entitled "The Bulgars", presenting the Bulgarian people in a false and disparaging light.

On their return from the Crimea Conference, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Eden and General Alexander stopped in Athens, and on 14 February 1945 Mr. Churchill spoke to a meeting of some 20,000/25,000 Greeks in Constitution Square. He was followed by the Regent, Archbishop Damaskinos, whose speech was interrupted by cries of "To Sofia!", "To arms!", and "Long live Greater Greece!"

On 27 February 1945, the Regent Damaskinos paid a visit to Salonika. He was given a civic welcome and triumphal arches were raised in his honour, bearing the inscriptions "To Sofia!" and "Plovdiv!"

Damaskinos then delivered a provocative and anti-Bulgarian speech in the town square; this speech was interrupted by cries of "We want Sofia!" "We want Greek occupation of Bulgaria!"

The Athens correspondent of the Anatolia Agency said in a telegram that this speech had previously been approved by the President of the Council, General Illestiras, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sophianopoulos.

Referring to this occasion, the "Economist", a review published in London, stated in its issue of 10 March 1945 that:

"Archbishop Damaskinos's recent visit to "northern lands" served as an occasion for violent Chauvinistic demonstrations, which marched under such slogans as "Occupy Bulgaria for fifty-five years!" and "We want a frontier beyond the Struma!"

On 25 March 1945, "Elenikos Voras", organ of Venizelos Party, published in Salonika, printed a resolution by the Salonika Chamber of Commerce and Industry in which the Bulgarians were described as "cowardly and barbarian neighbours."

On 26 March 1945 "Socialistis", published in Salonika, gave a disparaging account of the Bulgarian policy of Slav unity, which it characterised as "unbounded impudence" and "mistaken and cowardly politics".

On 28 March 1945, the Istanbul morning press gave front-page prominence to the following telegram from the Anatolia agency's correspondent in Athens:

"Great enthusiasm was aroused among hundreds of thousands of Athenians by the parade of the new Greek Army during the National Holiday; as the troops passed by, cries of "To Sofia!" were raised".

On 28 March 1945, "Elenikos Voras" gave a detailed account of events at Salonika during the visit of General Scobie, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Greece. In the evening Nationalist students organized a torch-light procession, during which continual cries of "We want Greater Greece!" "We want Sofia, Sofia, Sofia!" and "Long live Scobie!" were heard.

On 18 April 1945, the Salonika paper "Phos" printed a provocative article in which the Bulgarians were described as "cowardly Bulgarian Hyenas" and "Balkan Hyenas".

During the period from 27 April to 1 May 1945, Venizelos's mouthpiece, "Macedonia", published in Salonika, printed a series of five articles under the heading of "The Bulgarians", in which an entirely false picture was given of many events in recent Bulgarian history, and effensive words and abusive epithets were applied to the Bulgarian people and their Government. On 1 May 1945, "Phos" described the Bulgarians as "shameless", "impudent", "cowardly" and "treacherous".

The next day the same newspaper stigmatized the Bulgarian attitude as "the height of effrontery, impudence and duplicity". The paper went on to say of the Bulgarians:

"How naive of them to think that their recent behaviour will be forgotten. They adopt the pose of a Magdalene ... Blameless doves! The Bulgarian vultures and wolves!"

In the Spring of 1945, Greek chauvinists set up a Commission of Enquiry, composed of University Professors, to investigate the actions of the Bulgarian authorities during their administration of Thrace and Macedonia. On 31 May 1945, this Commission presented its findings in the form of a monstrous collection of distorted and inaccurate statements, drawn up in unrestrained and by no means academic language.

"Macedonia" and "Phos" printed reports in their editions of 16 and 17 June 1945 of large meetings at Gummurdjina, Cavala and Dimotjka, at which offensive speeches were made against the Bulgarians and the slogans "We want Southern Bulgaria!" "We want Eastern Rumelia!" were raised.

On 8 July 1945, a meeting took place in Athens at which there were cries of "Death to Tito!", "Death to the Communists and Bulgarians!" and "Give us Sofia!"

On 30 September 1945, the Athens paper "Acropolis", describing the memorial service commemorating the anniversary of the so-called Drama incidents wrote as follows:

"There were many characteristic demonstrations of anger from the crowd particularly from the young people directed against Bulgaria. Cries of "To Sofia!" and "Revenge!" were on everybody's lips. Slogans such as "Greater Greece",

"Northern Epirus" and "Eastern Rumelia" were constantly raised. Sofoulis, Kafandaris and other political leaders took part in the memorial service."

In November 1945, the Greek journalist Evs. Tomopolos published in the Athens paper "Acropolis" a series of articles on the Bulgarians full of the basest slander and the most outrageous insults.

The Athens paper "Ethinikos Kirikos" on 24 December called the Bulgarians, the "Gangsters of the Balkans", presenting them in the most unfavourable light and applying to them a host of abusive epithets.

On 2 January 1946, the paper "Ethnos", in an article entitled "The Trial of Bulgarian Criminals", stated that the list of Bulgarian war criminals was not as yet completed and added:-

"The department concerned with the prosecution of war criminals is carrying out its preliminary investigations and enquiries on the spot in order to substantiate the claim for handing over of those primarily responsible for the devastation of Drama, Doxato, and so many other places which suffered atrocities under the BULGARIAN HYENA."

On 24 November 1946, the paper "Acropolis" published an article by its correspondent Evst. Tomopolis on the opening stages of the Kaltchev-Ravali trial. About the accused, Kaltchev, he wrote:-

"He is humble and somewhat scared, like all the "JACKALS OF HIS FILTHY RACE" when caught in the trap."

The paper "Laiki-Foni" (Salonika, 22 June 1946), describing a meeting arranged by the Greek nationalist and re-actionary organisations, stated that:

"The meeting degenerated into a wild Chauvinistic outbreak of anti-Balkan and anti-democratic sentiments. Claims to the territories belonging to Yugoslavia were voiced publicly for the first time and throughout the meeting the monarcho-fascist crowd kept on shouting "Sofia, Sofia". The authorities, treated this reactionary meeting with great tolerance. Only a small number of people attended. Shouts of "To Sofia, to Sofia!" were heard continually."

The paper "Prosfigikos Kosmos" (Athens, 30 June 1946) wrote as follows:

"However much the supporters of Bulgaria in the East and in the West may attempt to distort the truth, they will not succeed in distorting history. For historians one and all agree that the Bulgarians have always been and are still today the most perfidious, treacherous and brutal people in the world. Perfidy, treachery, brutality -- these three words sum up the whole history and the whole ethnological evolution of a tribe, or rather of a horde which, since its first appearance in this part of the world, has been a scourge for its neighbours and is mainly responsible for the misfortunes which the people of South-East Europe have suffered over so many centuries. The Bulgarians are not Slavs, they are of Mongol and Turkish descent. The name of this people has become a synonym for horror and for the wrath of God.

Our Mediterranean civilisation has for centuries endeavoured to civilise this people, but in vain. The beasts of the jungle, tigers and even hyenas can be tamed, but not Bulgarians."

The following extract is from an article by M. Kalougueropoulos, published in the paper "Prosfigikos Kosmos" (14 July 1946).

"The Bulgarians are monsters; they are beasts, false, treacherous and dishonest. They are anything one cares to call them since they themselves do not deny that they have these characteristics."

The paper "Ethnikos Kirikos" (13 August 1946) in a leading article against the Slavs emphasized that Greece was "the only State to oppose and reject Bolshevik slavery. The Greeks cannot tolerate the red Mongol dictatorship."

The paper "Elinikon Melon" (15 August 1946) published an article by the deputy, Christos Basilakis, pointing out that the Greeks were not able to come to an understanding with the Bulgarians because the latter were:

"a people steeped in traditions of cowardice and dishonesty, possessing a pathological greed, with only one ideal -- to pillage and massacre peaceful people. Having displayed these characteristics during thirteen centuries, how can they change now?"

In an article entitled "Bulgaria--The Nightmare of the Balkans", the paper "Ephimeris ton Hiton" (26 August 1946), outlined the characteristics of the Bulgarians, asserting among other things that:

"Until 1890 these jackals of the Balkans had no connection with the area south of the Stara-Planina. This horde, which calls itself Bulgarian people, has continued down to the present day to pursue its traditional policy which calls to mind the mass exterminations carried out by Attila and Ghengiz-Khan."

The paper "Ephimeris ton Hiton" (26 August 1946), published a large map with the following caption:

"A map of Greater Bulgaria as pictured by the hyenas of the Stara-Planina." In the text beneath the map, the Bulgarians are called, among other things, "the descendants of the brigand Isperick" and "past masters of slaughter and vile deeds."

In an article entitled "The Northern Frontiers of Greece", the paper "Elinikon Ema" (18 October 1946), commenting on the short-sighted diplomatic policy of the allies, stated that:

"While the German beasts have had to appear in Court and be condemned, the Bulgarian beasts, who have constantly been guilty of crimes against the Greek people and have constantly disturbed the peace of the world, have one of the greatest criminals of this last war as Minister Plenipotentiary in Paris."