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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMCONGEN, Istanbul

195
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 11, 1957
DATE

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	REC'D 10-21	OTHER CIA-12 OCB-1 USIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Memorandum of Conversation with Oecumenical Patriarch ATHENAGORAS

Attached is a memorandum of a recent conversation with the Oecumenical Patriarch, ATHENAGORAS. The conversation ranged over a variety of subjects. Perhaps the most notable remark was the Patriarch's strongly worded reiteration that he and his office were always at the disposition of the State Department to further in any way possible the foreign policy objectives of the United States.

Robert G. Miner
Robert G. Miner
American Consul General

Enclosure: ✓ *UT*
Memorandum of Conversation a/s

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Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 195
From Istanbul

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Place: Istanbul, Turkey
Date: October 11, 1957

Participants: Oecumenical Patriarch ATHENAGORAS
Mr. Robert G. Miner, American Consul General

I called on the Patriarch, Athenagoras, at my request, to inform him that I was departing for the United States and would carry any messages he wished to the State Department. He replied by reiterating that he and his office were always at the disposition of the State Department to further in any way possible the foreign policy objectives of the U.S. Government. He amplified this remark by saying he would personally undertake any mission or dispatch any of his clergymen anywhere he could to perform any task that would facilitate U.S. objectives. Although he has made similar remarks in the past, he was more emphatic and specific on this occasion.

The Patriarch stated that his information was that MAKARIOS' visit to the United States had not been particularly successful even with the Greek community. He said that Archbishop MICHAEL of New York had refrained from attending public gatherings honoring Makarios and had treated him only with the degree of courtesy required. The Patriarch had explained to his people and to visiting Greeks that the American coolness was no doubt the result of the statement of the President and the Secretary that they would not receive Makarios and this clearly indicated that the Archbishop's methods and policies were not approved.

On the local scene, the Patriarch had urged the Greek minority community to participate fully in the elections and to exercise their rights as Turkish subjects. It was his impression that the majority of the Greek minority would probably vote for the DP which had six minority representatives on its Istanbul list. He felt that many of them believed that voting for the F.P. would be throwing away their ballots and implied that the R.P.P. had never been popular with the minority elements.

The Patriarch remarked that the recent Russian demonstrations of power had made an impression here. He referred not only to the launching of the satellite but to the recent passage through the Straits of Marshal ZUKOV aboard a Soviet cruiser. There were, he said, many other ways, all of them quicker, to reach Belgrade from Moscow. Obviously the Russians had intended Zukov's trip through the Straits as a demonstration of their power and capabilities. He remained convinced that America's strength and potentialities were far beyond those of the Soviet Union and he lost no opportunity of pressing this on his flock and upon those who visited him.

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