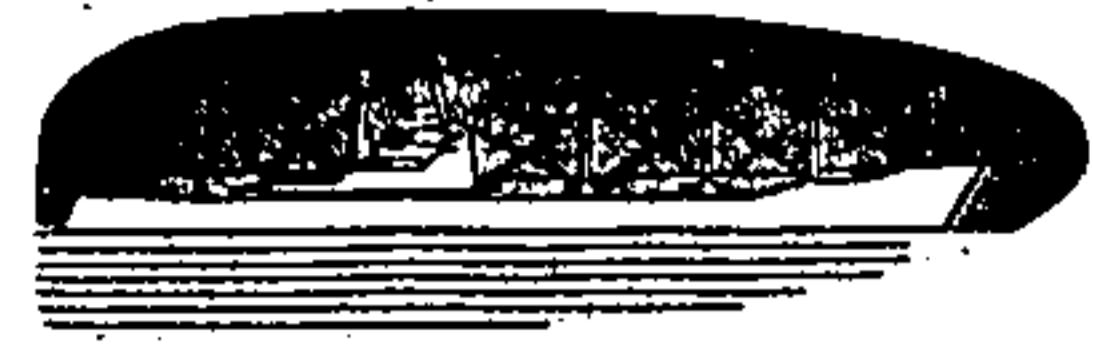


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Authority E.O. 12958
By LF NARA Date 5/19/03

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APPOINTMENT OFFICE	

PRUDENTIAL LINES, INC.

SPYROS P. SKOURAS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear Mr. President:

For some time, I have been trying to set up an appointment to see you for a few minutes to convey to you a message that was entrusted to me by one of the world's great religious leaders, His Holiness Patriarch Athenagoras I, of Constantinople.

Patriarch Athenagoras has rendered innumerable services to mankind, both in his present high spiritual office and as Archbishop of North and South America in New York, and the single most important one was the Ecumenical movement which he began, first with Pope John, for the unification of the Christian world. Then, when Pope Paul announced that he was going to visit Jerusalem, Patriarch Athenagoras sent him the now historic telegram saying: "I will meet you in Jerusalem", and they opened the dialogue that electrified the world and bridged the schism that had existed between these two great Churches for over 900 years.

The late General George Marshall, when he was Secretary of State, had chosen the then Archbishop Athenagoras to be elected as Patriarch because he and President Truman were apprehensive that someone might be chosen for this high and influential office who was not American-minded and who did not appreciate the importance of American policies abroad, particularly in the Communist countries, such as Russia and its Satellite states, which are are all at least 90% Greek Orthodox.

The message Patriarch Athenagoras entrusted to me to convey to you is an important one, bearing on his age, the state of his health, and his concern about his successor. This matter is just as serious today as it was when General Marshall, with President Truman's approval, convinced the Holy Synod to elect Archbishop Athenagoras as Patriarch, and the Turkish Government to approve his election, according to the terms of the Lausanne Treaty, executed between Greece and Turkey in 1922. I feel very strongly that the matter warrants the careful attention of yourself and the members of your Administration.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could spare a few minutes to see me before your departure for the meeting on Wake Island on June 8th, because on June 17th I have a meeting at Ankara with the Turkish Foreign Minister, H.E. Sabri Caglayangil, and it is necessary for me to tell you the purpose of my visit before I see him.

I hope to hear from you favorably soon, and with warmest good wishes, and kind regards,

Respectfully,

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

ONE WHITEHALL STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10004 CABLE PRUDESHIP • 212 WH 3-1040

SPS/na

Spyros Skouras, chairman of Prudential Lines, Inc., asks that he be granted a meeting with President Richard M. Nixon to present a message from Turkish Patriarch Athenagors I. Athenagors. White House, 4 June 1969. U.S. Declassified Documents Online, <http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/CFpHG6>. Accessed 16 Nov. 2019.