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TELCON

Vice President Agnew/Mr. Kissinger

7/7/72 9:10 a.m.

VP: I am getting ready to leave Houston right now and I wanted to talk to you about the death of the Greek patriarch--I have talked to Yakavas this morning --it just so happens they are in session here in Houston--I spoke to him yesterday and he came up to see me to discuss this matter. Of course, they wanted very badly for me to attend the funeral; I don't see how, with my schedule, that is not going to be possible, but I made a suggestion to Haldeman that it would be very good if the President could designate the Archbishop to head an ecumenical delegation--he would like that very much to include Cardinal Cooke-----

HAK: Well, let me look into that because I have to see what this will involve--I have to make sure that this doesn't take sides in succession.

VP: Let me just say this much on that subject--of course, we know there is a tremendous amount of hard feeling between the Turkish _____ and the Greeks here in Yakavas' group, but we have got to bear in mind that the Turkish government is not involved as such in this and-----

HAK: Well, that's what I would like to find out--

VP: The Archdiocese of North and ^South America is where our ball game is --we have tremendous support in this great community by being too considerate of the Turkish bishops of no advantage to us whatsoever, we could get ourselves --

HAK: No, I don't give a damn about the Turkish bishops

VP:.....a very great block of supportive voters

HAK: I give a damn about the Turkish government, but let me look into it, can I call you in a couple of hours--I have just been....

VP: I am not talking about the Turkish government--they are not involved .

HAK: Yeh, but I want to know how they feel about this whole thing.



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VP: The Ambassador said he was going to send you something fairly quickly, I think on that. If you would track me down as soon as you have something--but would you write these names suggested for a delegation --Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop Yakavas--as the leader, Bishop John Hines of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Robert Marshall of the Luthern Church and Rabbi Mark Channenbaum of New York City.

HAK: Right, I'll get on that--I must run to the Preisident

VP: Gus Yatron a Greek Orthodox congressman who supports a lot better than some of those others that would kill us.

HAK: Right, let me get on that immediately.

VP: All right. And incidentally, will you let me know about Bill Rogers....

HAK: What about Bill Rogers?

VP: Whether he could attend

HAK: Okay, let me look into that

VP: He is over there right now.

HAK: Right, good, bye.

In a telephone conversation between Vice President Spiro Agnew and Henry Kissinger, Agnew recommends the U.S. send an ecumenical delegation to the funeral of Greek patriarch Athenagoras I. White House, 7 July 1972. U.S. Declassified Documents Online, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349550632/USDD?u=txshracd2542&sid=USDD&xid=797e49cd&pg=1. Accessed 8 Feb. 2021.