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(13)

*Entered
Jan 7/82*



BRITISH EMBASSY,
ATHENS.

WSG 010/23 December 1981		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 16		
- 5 JAN 1982		
DECK OFFICE	PA	REGISTRY
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D C Wilson Esq
SED

Dear David,

(12)

1. You asked in your teletype WSG 010/1 of 14 December about Papandreou's drinking habits. There were persistent stories to the effect that he had a drinking problem about two years ago. More recently we have heard less of such stories.
2. Papandreou certainly enjoys his whisky and his ouzo but I have never seen him the worse for wear nor have I met anyone else who has done so. It is his habit, incidentally, to offer his interlocutor an ouzo in the Prime Minister's Office. He did this to me when I called on him on 4 November, and, when I asked for a coffee, he nevertheless proceeded to have an ouzo himself. He did the same to my Turkish colleague Alacam, which may be at the origin of Turkmen's story!
3. There have also been stories that Papandreou's health is suspect in other ways. He is currently working an enormously demanding schedule which will expose any physical weakness. For the moment one can only say not proven.

Yours ent,

Ijm

I J M Sutherland

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

WSS 010/1	
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 13	
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Private Secretary

MR PAPANDEOU AND THE DRINK PROBLEM

1. You minuted to Timothy Daunt on 11 December that Turkmen, when talking to the Secretary of State, had implied that Papandreou once had, and might still have, a drinking problem. I asked Iain Sutherland what he thought of this. He says that there were persistent stories about 2 years ago about a drinking problem. But less has been said about it recently. Apparently Papandreou still enjoys his whisky and his ouzo, but the Ambassador has never seen him the worse for wear or met anyone who claims to have done so.
2. Apparently Papandreou is in the habit of offering people who come to his office an ouzo instead of coffee and tends to take one himself. He apparently did this when the Turkish Ambassador called on him in Athens. This is probably the origin of the Turkmen story.
3. There are apparently stories that Papandreou's health is not too good in other ways and he is working at a very intense rate. There are no overt signs yet that he is cracking up with the strain.

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WORLD

LAST PAPER

D C Wilson
Southern European Department

6 January 1982

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