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Greece at NATO

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ATHENS

LAST PAPER

Your reference

Our reference

Date  
30 December 1980

PAPANDREOU AND NATO

1. Many thanks for your undated letter 014/6. I was interested that you, like me, blinked slightly at Papandreu's extraordinary statement to the Secretary of State.
2. Nonetheless, he did indeed say exactly what I put in the record. I would not myself take it seriously, however, given the oddly nervous state in which he seemed to be performing. Whether because of his prospective talk at Chatham House, or whether because the Secretary of State (who was being extremely genial) had nonetheless unbalanced him by pressing him somewhat on his NATO policies, I do not know. But throughout the conversation, and especially at that point, he gave the impression of running after Lord Carrington, trying to express views which would expose the least possible diversion of view. The only words I can remember omitting from the record sounded positively silly. He actually said "... if you like, we could even remain in the military organisation of NATO...".
3. In other words, I fear all this reflects more on Papandreu's personality, alas, than on his NATO policies.

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