

Minister inflames 'genocide' row between Turkey and Canberra

A STATE Labor minister has inflamed tensions between Turkey and Canberra about a "genocide" by accepting an invitation to address a 20,000-strong rally in Greece on the sensitive issue.

South Australian Attorney-General Michael Atkinson sparked outrage from the Turkish Government this year after he described the "genocide" of Pontian Greeks by Turkish nationalists between 1916 and 1923.

Mr Atkinson, who also is the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, inflamed the row by declaring that anyone who disputed this version of history was practising a form of "Holocaust denial".

As reported by The Australian last month, the Turkish ambassador to Australia, Murat Ersavci, protested to Foreign Minister Stephen Smith about

the "defamation" of his country, and warned that thousands of Turkish Australians feared discrimination because of the situation in South Australia.

But last night, a defiant Mr Atkinson said he was "honoured" to have accepted an invitation to speak at an annual assembly in Greece, commemorating the Pontian Greeks, and would leave on Friday as a guest of the Pan-Pontian Federation of Greece. Mr Ersavci said Mr Atkinson's decision to address next Tuesday's rally was "deeply regrettable".

Mr Atkinson and the state parliament, which passed a motion of support on April 30, "could very easily bring the friendship between Turkey and Australia to a halt", Mr Ersavci warned.

"Australian citizens of Turkish origin naturally fear that a deliberate climate of hostility is being

created towards them and that there is a strong racist undercurrent to it," he said.

Australia's ambassador to Turkey, Peter Doyle, said South Australia's position "does not reflect the approach of the Australian Government".

Mr Atkinson said he had been "overwhelmed" by the response from the Greek, Armenian and Cypriot communities to his stance. "There are many Greek-Australians who have been deeply affected by the genocide," he said. Mr Ersavci accused Mr Atkinson of rewriting history to lever votes for the ALP, a charge Mr Atkinson denied. But Mr Atkinson has written to thousands of voters from Greek, Assyrian, Syrian Orthodox and Armenian backgrounds in eight state seats in Adelaide on the matter.

Article from The Australia

Greek President of the NSW Board of Studies Tom Alegounarias

The State Government has appointed Tom Alegounarias to head the NSW Board of Studies. The Minister for Education, Verity Firth, confirmed the appointment after what she said had been an impromptu cabinet meeting this morning. Mr Alegounarias is now the chief executive of the NSW Institute of Teachers and represents NSW on the National Curriculum Board. He has worked within the NSW education bureaucracy for 17 years. Mr Alegounarias is ideal for this position. He is acknowledged across the country for his key role in policy development in relation to teacher quality. He has been instrumental in the establishment of the Institute of Teachers and currently represents New South Wales on the national curriculum board. Under Mr Alegounarias leadership, New South Wales became the first state to include syllabus content knowledge in teacher standards and introduced minimum content knowledge in teacher training courses.

JAMES STAVRIDIS: A Greek-American Admiral appointed NATO Supreme Commander

The NATO military alliance announced that it has appointed U.S. Navy Admiral James G. Stavridis as its top military commander.

Adm. Stavridis, who was a senior adviser to former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, is currently the chief of US Southern Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in Latin America. With the confirmation of his appointment on Tuesday, Adm Stavridis becomes the first naval officer to hold the top NATO military post. He replaces U.S. General John Craddock as Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), and like his predecessor, Adm Stavridis will now also serve as commander of U.S. forces in Europe.



The NATO Defense Planning Committee's announcement appointing Adm Stavridis as the alliance's supreme commander comes after President Barack Obama approved his nomination in March to become NATO chief and head of U.S. European Command. In an article published about Admiral Stavridis two years ago in the journal of the National Defense University "The Message Board" we read that his father George served as a colonel in the Marine Corps and the family lived in Athens from 1962 to 1965 while the older man, who remains today one of his heroes, was the US naval attaché there.

His paternal grandparents were immigrants from Greece. Stavridis recalled with feeling the fact that "the whole immigrant experience is very real to me, part of my life experience."

Stavridis' grandfather immigrated to the United States in the 1920s, opening up a restaurant. "I love to cook," the SOUTHCOM commander says. "I have been around cooks and cooking my whole life and my mom is a wonderful hand in the kitchen." Was cooking the road not taken, he was asked? "It is," he responded, laughing. "That is a very perceptive

question. That is a pursuit that would be of interest to me in another, parallel, life.

Stavridis says that the passions of his youth are still those that move him now—and also include reading and playing sports, particularly racket sports. In high school he played varsity tennis and even junior varsity basketball, "counter-intuitively because I am not the tallest guy in the world, but I love basketball." Then, like now, Stavridis was 5'6"—"on a good day." He also played tennis and squash on the varsity teams at the Naval Academy.

"My other activities tended to revolve around writing," he recalled. "I was the editor of my school newspaper in high school, at McClintock? High School in Tempe, Arizona, for my last two years. At the Naval Academy I was the editor of the Log magazine, which is the publication of the Naval Academy. I was also involved in leadership opportunities—I was what was called a midshipman commander, and was one of the brigade leaders as a first classman, or a senior."

Stavridis says he grew up wanting to be an officer in the Marine Corps, like his dad, and went off to the Naval Academy convinced that was his path. However, while at the Naval Academy he went off to sea on a ship. "I loved it," he said. "I knew immediately then that what I wanted to do was to be a captain of a warship. So I followed my father's steps into the service but veered off from the Marines into the Navy."

Stavridis, who has been married 28 years, met his wife Laura Hall, when he was eight and she was three years old in Athens, where her father was the assistant naval attaché.

"We played together as small children, our families stayed in touch over the years and we met again and fell in love when I was a young junior officer in the Navy in the early 1980s," he recalled. "We got married in 1981."

Napoleon makes over Wollongong

The lipstick legend, the guru of gloss, the emperor of eyeshadow Napoleon Perdis swept into Wollongong yesterday for a six-hour make-up session at David Jones.

About 25 women paid \$499 each for a product showbag and to have their faces transformed by the make-up maestro - a former western Sydney Greek boy who conquered Hollywood with his eponymous cosmetics line.

Wearing silver high-tops, red trousers and his trademark bronzer, Perdis flitted from face to face armed with a caseload of application brushes.

"I think Wollongong is as international as any major city," Perdis told the Mercury.

"But I would like to see more lashes, fake lashes are really in as well, so lash, lash, lash. "And as we are going into winter it is very nice to do a flush blush cheek because it looks really healthy, kind of a bedroom flush."



Wollongong's Helen Craig and her daughters Susannah, 18, and Lisa, 22, all treated themselves to the Perdis touch and later showed off their new looks by going out to dinner.

"I used to watch Napoleon when he was on Australia's Next Top Model," Susannah said.

"It was really good to meet him."