

Dollis promises a 'more liveable' Greece

As Greece was gripped in nationwide strikes and rioting on Wednesday, over 60 representatives from Greek organisations met with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, Dimitris Dollis, during a function on Wednesday night in Melbourne.

Since retiring from Victorian parliament in 1992, the former Greek Australian politician has carved a significant political career in the PASOK Socialist Party, in both opposition and now Greek Government.

Speaking at the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne, Victoria, (GOCMV), Mr Dollis discussed the Greek government's plans to work with Greek Australian organisations to create cultural and educational exchange programs. A departure from the past will be the way Modern Greek is supported by Greece.

Speaking to Neos Kosmos, Mr Dollis said, he wanted to make "the Greek language an attractive language" to third generation Greek Australians. Through the training of Greek Australian teachers rather than sending Greek teachers to Australia.

"If you have teachers here from Greece with no idea of the Australian environment, who do not speak English well, and cannot communicate with kids whose Greek is very poor, the possibility of those kids being attracted to Greek are small," he said, adding "we believe that teachers need to be aware of Australian culture".

On the issue of Greece's financial crisis and social unrest Mr Dollis was cautiously optimistic.

"People will strike, they are dealing with deep cuts. Crises bring out the best and worst of people but we are as a government trying to harness the best out of people".

He said that the Papandreou So-



Dep. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dimitris Dollis with the President of the Greek Community of Melbourne Bill Papastergiadis last week.

cialist Government wants to secure "growth through investment as a way for Greeks to see a light at the end of the tunnel."

"We lived beyond our means for a very long time" Mr Dollis said, underscoring the need to stop wasting time in "accusing each other, or for looking where the guilt lies and rather harness energy and all our efforts in finding solutions to Greece's predicament."

Also on the PASOK Government's agenda will be to create more liveable cities through a Regional Government approach seeking "to connect the city with the country."

Mr Dollis highlighted Papanandreu's focus on harnessing Greece's sun and winds to create new sources of energy. "Green development is to the forefront of our agenda, through creating new energy sources and ways we build our houses with a focus on our capacity to develop renewable energy," he said.

Easing the labyrinth of paper work, which creates an obstacle to foreign investment, will also generate much

need growth in Greece, Mr Dollis said. A major bill, "Fast Tracking" has been passed, cutting Greece's dense red tape to "absolute minimum."

"No one wants to invest in a nation which is difficult to negotiate through. We already have a number of projects in the pipe line; all we need to do is complete them and people need to see them," Mr Dollis said.

Future challenges are inevitable for the debt riddled nation, but this is the first government attempting to change the nature of Greek nepotism, a sclerotic public service and business services and wide spread tax evasion, while enhancing "civic duty", Mr Dollis said.

"The Prime Minister was clear in his statements that whether we like it, or not, whether we have to drag people kicking and screaming, we will get out of this crisis and the Greece that will emerge will not only be a stronger one but it will be a more liveable one."

Article from Neos Kosmos

In Brief

Murder probe Guns found in home of man held for killing 30-year-old woman

A 46-year-old Greek man faced a prosecutor yesterday charged with the murder of a 30-year-old woman in September at his home in Corinth. The woman, who was said to be foreign though her ethnic origin was not determined, had been reported missing on September 25. Police investigating her disappearance said they were approached on Monday by a friend of the 46-year-old who allegedly admitted to helping the suspect bury the woman's body, which bore several gunshot wounds. Police said they confiscated several guns from the suspect's home including a submachine gun, assault rifle and dozens of rounds of ammunition.

Landfill protests Keratea residents arrested

Residents of Keratea, southeast of the capital, clashed with riot police, continuing their protests against the government's plans to build a landfill in the area. Similar clashes on Wednesday at the same spot led to seven arrests, police said. A court yesterday started hearing the appeals of residents and local authorities against the creation of a landfill in Keratea.

Holiday events

St Paul's Anglican Church, at 27 Filellinon Street near Syntagma Square, is hosting a Christmas concert today at 8.30 p.m. (tickets cost 15 euros; 10 euros for students) and a sing-along on Sunday at 7 p.m. (minimum contribution 5 euros). The Holy Apostles Catholic Church in Voula (Karamanli & Dafnis), meanwhile, invites children to bring gifts that will be donated to a local orphanage as part of its Christmas carol service on Friday at 7 p.m.

School raid

Police in Thessaloniki said yesterday that they were seeking the unidentified robber who fled with an estimated 1,900 euros after threatening the 50-year-old owner of a cramming school in the Analipsi district at knifepoint. According to the owner's testimony, the assailant entered the school shortly after all the teachers and students had left and demanded that she hand over the money. There were no injuries.

Antiquities trading

Three Bulgarian nationals were to face a prosecutor in the Peloponnesian town of Sparta after they allegedly tried to sell an undercover policeman six ancient coins for 60,000 euros. The coins are all bronze and date to the Byzantine and Roman eras. State archaeologists have been asked to assess the value of the coins.

Weeded out

An Iraqi national was in detention in the town of Neapoli in Laconia yesterday after allegedly trying to sell half a kilogram of cannabis to a policeman. Posing as a potential buyer, the policeman had telephoned the suspect and expressed interest in buying the drugs for 800 euros. Police seized the cannabis the suspect brought to the meeting and confiscated another 320 grams of the drug from the Iraqi's home.

Tasso Kavvadia passes away



Tasso Kavvadia with film director Haris Papadopoulos, November 1996

Actress Tasso Kavvadia, the legendary female villain from the hey-day of Greek cinema, has passed away at the age of 91 and is to be buried at the Athens first cemetery on Wednesday.

She made her name in film by playing the parts of harsh and unforgiving older women that gave the romantic leads a hard time - she was the bad mother-in-law, the unfeeling mother or disapproving sister that tried to prevent things from following their natural course.

She participated in some 30 films between 1955 and 2001, her last roles being that of the grandmother in the 2000 film "Beware the Greeks" and the 2002 film "Alexander and Aishe".

Apart from films, she had also worked in theatre and television, where her repertoire was considerably more diverse, while she also did work in radio and as a journalist, a writer and a translator, especially of pop culture British novels.