

For a Lasting Peace, for a Peoples Democracy!

## **THE GREEK PEOPLE FIGHT ANGLO-AMERICAN INTERVENTION**

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Transcription, Editing and Markup: Sam Richards and Paul Saba

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For close on eight years now the freedom-loving people of Greece have been defending their independence and freedom against foreign imperialists. The first invaders were the Italian-German fascists. Some 700,000 Greeks lost their lives fighting the occupation forces. Afterwards when the People's Army — ELAS — following the entry of Soviet troops into the Balkans, had liberated the country from the Germans, the monarchist-fascist clique was imposed on the people of Greece by British arms. And again the people of Greece had to take up arms in defence of their freedom. British policy in Greece suffered a fiasco as a result of the operations of the democratic army. But Truman and Marshall hastened to replace Attlee and Bevin, with the result that the past 12 months of Truman "aid to Greece" have been 12 months of economic chaos and rampant terror.

In January the "New York Herald Tribune" wrote that Greece and Turkey were chosen, in all probability not so much because they needed aid but because they are strategic gates leading to the Black Sea. This is proved by the dally provocations of the monarchist-fascists against the people's republics—Greece's neighbours.

During the three years that have passed since the Hitlerites were driven out of the country Britain and the United States have appropriated more than one and a half billion dollars, ostensibly "for the Greek people", but actually for the monarchist-fascists. What are the results of this "economic aid"? The New Statesman wrote in January that Greece was the only country in the Balkans and in Europe where there were no signs of construction. The journal wrote that there was incredible starvation in the country, that there was not a trace left of the 400 million dollar UNRRA aid or of the 528 million dollars granted by Britain. (After this the Truman Doctrine earmarked 300 million dollars. followed by a supplementary 200 million dollars. while the Marshall Plan allocated another 230 million dollars).

However, this aid will not save the Sophoulis-Tsaldaris Cabinet from de feat just as it did not save the preceding 13 cabinets of Anglo-American puppets. The monarchist fascists are losing because they are bartering the country to the imperialists and are upholding a reign of

terror and starvation. Sixty to seventy thousand democrats are languishing in jails and concentration camps, 1,420 patriots, including 150 ELAS men have been shot by court martial and some 10,000 have been murdered.

The Sophoulis-Tsaldaris Government dispatched punitive expeditions to different parts of the country only to meet with defeat, while the democratic army emerged from each operation more tempered and numerically stronger. During the 12 months between April 1947 and April 1948 the monarchist-fascist army lost no less than 25,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. The partisans brought down 25 enemy planes and damaged another 75, despite the complete absence of partisan aircraft.

A series of partisan raids on Florina, Edessa, Nausa, Komotini Ksanti, Githion, Egion, Kalamata, Grevena, Kilkis, Metsovo, Almiros, Sparta, etc., the shelling of Salonika and the fighting in Athens during February threw the monarchist-fascists into a panic.

The war of liberation waged by the democratic army is today the principal form of the people's struggle and the dominating factor in the internal life of Greece. The struggle for independence and democracy is being carried on under the slogan of "All to arms, all for victory!"

All forms of the mass movement are subordinate to this struggle. The Communists and other democrats are working in difficult conditions of terror and daily shootings in the cities which the monarchist-fascists are trying to convert into concentration camps. The Communist Party newspaper "Rizospastis" and other popular newspapers and leaflets are issued illegally and the "Free Greece" broadcasts are widely circulated.

The American imperialists and their monarchist-fascist servants have failed to sidetrack the bulk of the Greek people from the correct path of the people's democracy. Growing popular resistance and the successes of the democratic army helped to form the Provisional democratic government last year, which is now guiding the liberation struggle. The new people's power in the form of people's councils, people's courts and other bodies, is taking root on the liberated territory. The people are doing everything to help their government and democratic army.

The operations of the democratic army have reduced the camp of reaction to a state of perpetual crisis. "The Athens Government could hardly remain in power for 24 hours without the support of the Americans," wrote the French paper "Tribune de Nacion".

There is again talk in Athens about the need of infusing "new blood" into the Sophoulis-Tsaldaris Cabinet, about its possible replacement. In the meantime preparations are being made to establish a new military dictatorship without the "democratic" mantle.

The American missions now flooding the country have taken control of her economy, brought 150,000 tons of military equipment for their puppets and then taken over leadership of the monarchist-fascist army. They are now building military aerodromes and are steadily pushing their vassals into new military ventures. The Americans have armed up to 250,000 men (the army, gendarmerie, "National Guard", gangsters). But there is one article that the Wall Street missionaries cannot supply to Sophoulis, Tsaldaris and their ilk, and that is morale. Cases of soldiers of the Athens army joining the democrats are increasing. In the

Peloponnesus, a onetime bastion of reaction, one of the two battalions routed in March took part in the fighting against the monarchist-fascists the very next day.

The capitalist press has much to say about the "Greek miracle". The "miracle" of the Greek people lies in the fact that they love their country, their glorious traditions and freedom. They don't want their beautiful country to be ruled by insolent American gangsters and corrupt pseudo-patriots in Athens. They want to build their life, their future on a new progressive, people's democratic foundation. This is the key to their great moral strength which fears no sacrifice. And that the people have been educated in this spirit is to the credit of the Communist Party of Greece.

The people of Greece believe in the justice of their cause a cause which fights imperialism and champions peace and the friendship of peoples. They are deeply grateful for the aid and solidarity displayed by other nations, for this aid is a contribution to universal peace and progress.

**P.R.**