

Q. Do you think Jay Stephens should stay on at least to the end of the Rostenkowski—

The President. I support the Attorney General. She made the decision about what the best way to handle this was, since we were behind. And support her decision.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Jay Stephens is the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Signing the Greek Independence Day Proclamation

March 25, 1993

I just wanted to ask Mr. Stephanopoulos to come up here so I could remove all doubt about how I know what to do. *[Laughter]* Please sit, ladies and gentlemen, Archbishop.

I have a few remarks, but before I do, I want to formally sign this proclamation for Greek Independence Day and present it to the Archbishop.

[At this point, the President signed the proclamation.]

Thank you. Please be seated. I'd like to welcome all of you here to the White House and say a special word of welcome to Archbishop Iakovos, the spiritual leader of the Greek American community, with whom I have just had a wide-ranging discussion of many of the issues that I know that concern you. I'd also like to welcome the political leader of the Greek American community, my friend Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, and to say how delighted I am to sign this proclamation recognizing Greek Independence Day and celebrating the democracy that we share in the United States with Greece.

It is particularly timely that we celebrate democracy today at the very moment that our friends around the world who have been deprived of democracy are working hard against great odds to bring it to full flower. And I know, Archbishop, that our prayers are with the people in Russia today and throughout the world who are working hard to preserve and enhance their own democracy.

Greece, the birthplace of democracy, and the United States have long had a history of friendship and cooperation. The authors of our Nation's Declaration of Independence and our Constitution were inspired by Greece's commitment to liberty, to freedom, and to democracy. Indeed, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton wrote in the *Federalist Papers*, and I quote, "Among the confederacies of antiquity, the most considerable was that of the Grecian republics." Today, those ideas continue to strengthen the United States. And working together, Greece and the United States have worked to advance the cause of freedom around the world.

It is against that backdrop of longstanding and close cooperation between the United States and Greece that I want to say a brief word about two issues that I know concern this audience greatly: Cyprus and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

On Cyprus, I want to give you my personal assurance that I and my administration will stay fully engaged in the U.N. process of negotiations, that we will give our full energies to helping reach a fair and permanent solution to the Cyprus dispute, and that we will not rest until a solution is found. Already, in the first 2 months of my Presidency, I have had the opportunity to raise the issue of Cyprus in serious discussions in person with President Özal of Turkey and by a long telephone conversation with Prime Minister Demirel. You can count on the United States to be there until this issue is resolved.

On Macedonia: Here, also, I take seriously the concerns that have been raised by Greece. Like Athens, we believe that a solution to the dispute over the name of the former Yugoslav Republic must be found rapidly to avoid the spread of further instability. I have admired the steady hand of Prime Minister Mitsotakis, and I want to work closely with him to find an appropriate solution to this problem. Progress has already been made on this issue, as I'm sure you know, and I believe we can find a just solution with broad vision and flexibility. Again, you can be sure that the United States will not allow the security of such a close friend

and ally as Greece to be threatened in any way.

You know, I come from a State where Greek Americans make up only one-tenth of one percent of our population, and about half of them are in this room today. [Laughter] But their contributions to our State and to my life have been enormous.

Last night, my good friend from the time I was 9 years old, David Leopoulis, spent the night with me in the White House. He campaigned with me all over America. He became the symbol of an ordinary American who was for me. Think of it: Here I was, a WASP, not ordinary, supported by a Greek American who was ordinary. [Laughter] He appeared on television all over the country and worked with our campaign basically to talk about a lifetime of friendship and shared values. And our relationship, in that sense, is a mirror image of the relationship between the United States and Greece.

My personal health for many years has been in the hands of Dr. Drew Kampuris, whose father, Dr. Frank Kampuris, is an appointee of mine to the University of Arkansas board of trustees. There are others here in this audience and back home in Arkansas without whom I would not be here today.

My campaign and my administration have gained much from the talents of Greek Americans, including my close assistant and Director of Communications, George Stephanopoulos, who came up here a moment ago, who has become the heartthrob of the teen set of America. George's parents are in the audience today, and they did such a good job raising him I would like to ask them to stand up.

We did a little search for Greek Americans on the President's staff, and we discovered, notwithstanding some of their last names, the following fully qualify: my staff secretary, John Podesta; Sylvia Mathews, on the National Economic Commission staff—she hails from a little town in West Virginia, which just proves that you really are everywhere; Peter Pappas, my Associate Counsel; and George Tenet, my Special Assistant and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs at the National Security Council. Indeed, you might argue that I could have a reverse affirmative action suit for the over-representa-

tion of Greeks on the White House staff. [Laughter]

My good friend from New Jersey, Clay Constantinou, is here, who was with me from the beginning. There are others here in the audience who helped so much in the election. I want to note the presence of Angelo Zicapulous and many others who worked in the campaign for whom I'm very, very grateful.

And I also would like to ask us all to remember in our prayers my most formidable opponent in the Democratic primary, Paul Tsongas, as we pray for his recovery.

American politics has benefited greatly from the involvement of Greek Americans. In the Democratic Party, we had last year two great State party chairmen: Phil Angelides in California and Chris Spirou in New Hampshire. They each played an integral part in that election. And I can't help but say, and I hope the Republicans in the audience will forgive me, that it was rather unusual for a Democrat to carry either California or New Hampshire, and at least they think it was the Greek influence that put us over the top.

The Greek American community has always taken pride in and has been known for its commitment to the values that our country desperately needs more of today: commitment to family and neighborhood, to education and hard work, to freedom and the rule of law. These are the values that built America, shared still by the vast majority of Americans. But we know that for America to go where it needs to go, all Americans will have to embrace them again.

And so even as we look beyond our Nation's borders to the problems around the world, I ask those of you here in this wonderful house and those whom you represent throughout the country to lead our Nation in a re-embrace of these values born in the democracy of Greece, nourished in the democracy of the United States, now desperately needed in every city and hamlet in this country.

To Greece, the Nation that first shaped the political ideals we cherish, and to Greek Americans who help us every day, we are greatly indebted. And as I turn to the Archbishop for his remarks, let me say, courtesy

of my distinguished language instructor, Mr. Stephanopoulos, *Zeto e Hellas*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:38 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 6539—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 1993

March 25, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The people and Government of the United States join the people and Government of Greece in celebrating Greek Independence Day. The close and cordial ties between our nations are built upon the solid foundation of a common love of democratic values, strong cultural ties between our peoples, and a respect for human rights. Greek influence on American culture extends from the ideas of the great Hellenic thinkers to the many important contributions of Greek Americans today. These ties continue to strengthen the relationship between our nations and provide a solid and promising basis for the future.

Two thousand and five hundred years ago, Cleisthenes succeeded in instituting a series of reforms in Athens and across the Peninsula of Attica that expanded the rule of government to a much broader group of citizens. The concept of democracy was thus created and embodied in a series of rights and laws. The personal freedom that resulted from these reforms sparked a period of cultural growth in philosophy and the arts to which Western culture is eternally indebted.

The United States is proud to acknowledge the enormous debt it owes to the Greek philosophers and politicians. In creating a new Nation, the American Founding Fathers drew upon the Greek writings for inspiration as to the purpose of government and in order to define the common good of society. Hellenic ideals have also shaped our democracy through architecture. Across our Nation and

especially in the Nation's Capital, the seats of representative government are housed in buildings inspired by the grand proportions and beautiful lines of Greek temples. In both nations, these buildings remind us of the ideals of truth, justice, and faith in the human ability on which our societies are founded.

Our nations share not only the common bond of democratic philosophy but also the willingness to fight for self-determination and freedom and to be vigilant in protecting these hard-won rights. The Greek struggle for independence 172 years ago has long been admired by American citizens. In this century, the United States and Greece joined together to oppose threats to our democratic values from fascism and communism.

It is fitting, therefore, that our two great democracies pause to realize how much they have benefited and continue to benefit from each other. As part of this effort, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Ministry of Culture of Greece have gathered a landmark exhibit of sculptures from the 5th century B.C. These sculptures, many of which have never left Greek soil, document in art the birth of the concept of the individual. In return for these gracious loans from Greece, the two American museums have lent more than 70 major paintings from their permanent collections for an exhibit at the National Gallery of Greece in Athens. This summer the National Archives will also display artifacts from the 5th century B.C. which demonstrate the great degree of participation of Athenians in their government. It is appropriate that our own Constitution will be juxtaposed against these artifacts.

In recognition of the close bond that has been forged between the nations and peoples of the United States and Greece, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 22, has designated March 25th as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 25, 1993, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American De-