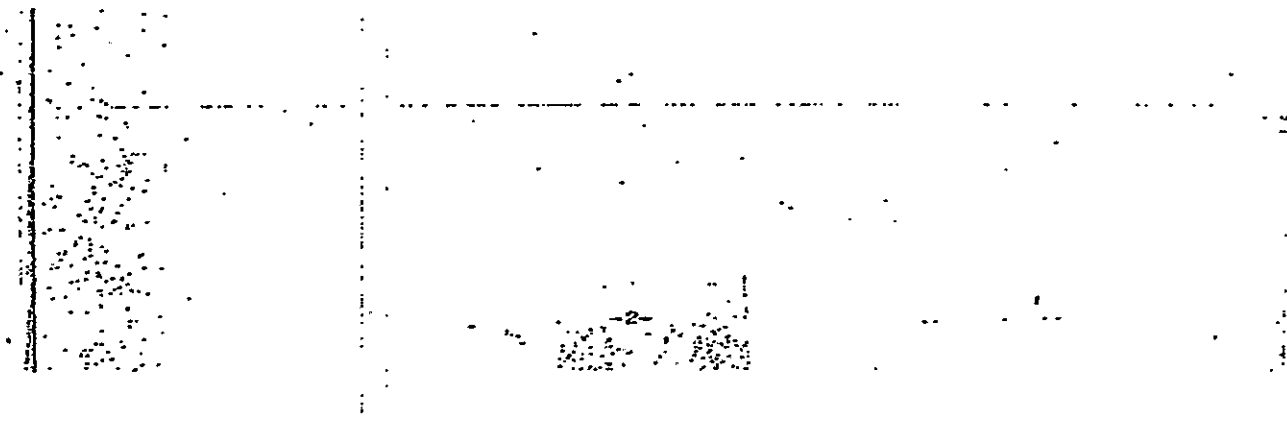


3 December 1952

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13. In regard to my participation in the Polk investigation in 1948, I should like to state some facts which are not possibly known.

14. Mr. George Polk was a CBS correspondent who was killed in Salonika, Greece on May 9, 1948. His body was found floating in Salonika Bay a week later. At that time a coalition government of Liberals and Populists was governing Greece. The Greek Armed forces were involved in a series of unsuccessful operations against the Communist guerrillas. The Greek Government was blaming the death of Mr. Polk on the Communists and the Communists on the Greek Rightists and the British Secret Intelligence Services.

15. The Greek Government started an investigation of the case and kept the American Embassy in Athens informed on some developments.

16. The Overseas Correspondents Association asked General W. J. Donovan to go to Greece to supervise the investigation. In the midst of the charges and countercharges, the Association insisted that the culprits be found and brought to court.

17. At that time, I was assigned to the Directorate of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, Washington, D.C.

18. General Donovan asked the Department of Defense to detail me to him for 30-45 days in connection with this investigation.

19. I was faced with a dilemma. On the one hand I knew the Polk case was politically a "loaded affair" and I would be hurt; on the other hand, my loyalty to General Donovan as my Commanding General during World War II demanded that I take the risk. Although my orders were already issued, certain high officials in the Air Force advised me to pull out because they detected additional complications. The Greek Government and the American Embassy in

Athens were, to say the least, viewing the Correspondents Association's participation in the investigation with considerable displeasure.

20. I met General Donovan on or about the 30th of May 1948 at the Metropolitan Club in Washington and suggested a list of candidates as replacements for the job. The General made no comment.

21. On the 4th of June 1948 I visited the Greek Ambassador in Washington to request issuance of a visa. The Ambassador asked me to get a letter from the Air Force and come back by the 7th at which time he would issue the visa.

The Ambassador was aware of my wartime service with the Greek underground;

The 7th of June 1948, I was granted a visa to accompany General Donovan to Greece.

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24. General Donovan and I landed in Greece the 16th of June 1946. The General ordered me to supervise the investigation and insure that "a vigorous, impartial and penetrating investigation is carried out." With Tsaldaris, the American Embassy and some correspondents on my neck, I felt like a pinch hitter with the bases loaded and two strikes against me. Needless to say, I plunged into the job without any hesitation.

25. The second day after our arrival General Donovan visited the Foreign Minister, Mr. Tsaldaris, at the Foreign Office.

26. During my entire stay in Greece (45 days) I encountered much direct and indirect sabotage by certain members of the American Embassy. At any rate, I took the position that I was detailed by the Department of Defense to General Donovan and I would carry out my mission in accordance with his orders. It is regrettable that the Charge d'Affaires and the two men in the Embassy monitoring the Polk case, took a negative position. He once asked me "Why are you killing yourself over the Polk case? If you or I were killed, like the Consul General in Jerusalem, nobody would care." Obviously the Charge d'Affaires was willing to forfeit many principles over which many Americans died in the past and are willing to die today. Freedom of the press was a light matter for him.

As for the Embassy men monitoring the case, their attitude is understood. They wanted no outsiders in the case. They felt they could monitor the case adequately hence my presence there was unwarranted. This I could understand, however, I couldn't understand the underhanded way in which they chose to undermine me.

27. After 40 days of hard work, my working day lasted from 15-20 hours, I compiled a list of ten suspects. In this list were some officials of the Greek Government. Considering the obstacles I encountered so far, I decided to visit the Charge d'Affaires and ask for permission to send a cable to General Donovan through the Embassy notifying him of my desire to be relieved from this investigation. I later contacted General Donovan through other means and upon his return to Greece he allowed me to return to the U.S.

28. There have been many charges and countercharges in this investigation. Some were substantiated and some were not. The fact remains that at the initial stage of the investigation, the Greek authorities were negligent and to some degree so were the American authorities. When General Donovan arrived in Greece he shook many of those people out of their lethargy and caused them to move. General Donovan reviewed very carefully all of the ten suspects that I had submitted to him in my confidential report, and asked the

Chief Greek Investigator to concentrate on one, a Greek newspaperman. Within sixty days this newspaperman confessed complicity in the crime. It is possible that if it were not for my basic investigation and its screening and evaluation by General Donovan that this crime might have never been solved.

29. We reviewed everything carefully and investigated in all directions. We could not overlook any group, party or individual. To point out how complex things can be in determining the political motivation behind the Polit murder, one need only look at the convicted accomplice. This man was a crypto-Communist, he was an agent of the British Intelligence Services and was also a member of a Greek Rightist organization.

30. Upon completion of my 45 days in Greece I returned at my own initiative to the United States.

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JAMES G. L. KELLY