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March 26, 1981

Iakovos

Dear Archbishop Iakovos:

The President has asked me to thank you for your kind invitation to meet together to offer him the prayers and best wishes from the Americans of Greek heritage.

Particular notation is being made of your invitation and, should an opportunity arise when the President could accept, I will be in touch with you. In the meantime, please know that the President appreciates your thoughtfulness and sends you his best wishes.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

file

The Most Reverend Iakovos
Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox
Church in North and
South America
10 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021

cc and copy of incoming: Mary Rawlins
Red Cavaney

GJN:MR:lrc
GJN-20

Morton *FYI and future ref.*

MAR 30 REC'D

37
Sched. 6:15

Archbishop Iakovos
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church
in North and South America

012749

March 5, 1981

Dear Mr. President:

It has been one of my privileges as Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America for the past twenty-two years to pay a courtesy call upon the newly-elected President of our great Nation. I would like to personally offer you my prayers and the best wishes of Americans of Greek heritage as you dedicatedly proceed in the realization of your noble dream to lead our country unto a "new beginning."

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you with an always clear vision of the future and the wisdom and strength to initiate the new beginning and chart it on a course of national renewal.

Faithfully yours,
Archbishop Iakovos

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Religious
Cases

August 19, 1982

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos:

I take great pleasure in joining the Cyprus Relief Fund of America, Cyprus Children's Fund, and the Makarios Scholarship Fund in honoring you on this auspicious occasion.

file

As Prelate of the Greek Orthodox community of North and South America, you have repeatedly demonstrated strong and bold leadership in helping direct humanitarian efforts on behalf of Cypriot refugees. Your efforts have played an instrumental role in helping supply acutely needed food, housing, and medical care for thousands of misplaced Cypriots. I commend your deep concern for the suffering of the people of a troubled land.

Congratulations on this well-deserved tribute and may the Lord continue to bless your work in the years ahead.

RONALD REAGAN

Sent To:

Mr. Taylor G. Belcher
National Chairman
Cyprus Relief Fund of America
Cyprus Children's Fund, Inc.
Makarios Scholarship Fund, Inc.
13 East 40th Street
New York, New York 10016

RR:Wells:-

cc: K.Osborne/M.Wheeler/M. Blackwell/J.Wells/CF
EVENT: SEPT. 12



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΒΟΡΕΙΩ ΚΑΙ ΝΟΤΙΩ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

10 EAST 79th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 • TEL (212) 570-3500 • CABLE: ARCHGREEK, NEW YORK

November 5, 1982

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

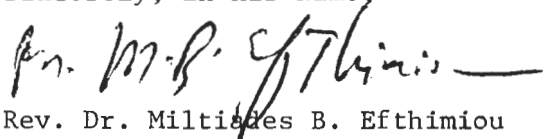
There is, Ecclesiastes reminds us, a time to keep silent and a time to speak. On NBC recently a television program debased the Orthodox Church and in particular, the role of the Greek Orthodox Priest when he was projected in a most vulgar and objectionable manner. The plot depicts a couple who come to the Priest for counseling. The husband has committed adultery, but both are willing to reconcile and continue their life as husband and wife. What is repulsive and unacceptable is the fact that the role of the alleged Greek Orthodox Priest suggests that before reconciliation takes place, the wife "gets even" by herself committing adultery with a co-worker as did her husband.

The Orthodox Church and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America and Canada has written to NBC in New York in order to protest this abuse inflicted upon a minority Christian body whose rich spiritual heritage spans 2,000 years. We take issue with those who would say to the general public that the Orthodox Church takes lightly such vulgarity.

I am appealing to you as a person who I know is interested in stopping such indecencies. Programs like these do nothing to enhance the dignity, reverence and venerability of religion in America. It accomplishes the opposite; the mocking, the scorning, the deriding and the ridiculing of the faith of millions of Americans whatever their denominational affiliation.

I am sending you a copy of the telegram that millions of Orthodox sent to the chairman and the chief executive officer of NBC. You might want to use this sample for a similar telegram. In any event, thank you for taking the time to read this letter in consideration of sending a telegram to NBC which must assume full responsibility for such recklessness and lack of proper programming decor.

Sincerely, in His Name,



Rev. Dr. Miltiades B. Efthimiou
Director
Department Church & Society

MBE:ac

Grant Tinker
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.
3000 West Alameda Avenue
Burbank, California 91523

Dear Mr. Tinker:

The episode of Taxi that aired Thursday, October 21, depicted an actor portraying an Orthodox Christian Priest in a derogatory, sacrilegious, false and misleading manner. The suggestion that any Priest, especially an Orthodox Priest, would desecrate the Sacrament of Confession by counseling a parishioner to commit adultery is blasphemous. This abomination was reinforced on the episode broadcast Thursday, October 28, with flashbacks of the previous week's epitome of bad taste. Reckless character assassination of Orthodox Priests has no place on network television, even on a situation comedy with its admittedly wide latitude in satirizing society. As one of the five million Orthodox Christians in the United States, I vigorously protest such religious bigotry. Repeated incidents of this reprehensible nature can only provoke more drastic measures, including the picketing of NBC Network- owned and operated stations as well as affiliates.



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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS
PRIMATE OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

Archbishop Iakovos, whose Lay name was Demetrios A. Coucouzes, was born July 29, 1911, on the island of Imvros, where he received his primary education. He later attended the Theological School of Halki of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from which he graduated in 1934 with great honors. On November 25th of that same year he was ordained a deacon for the Metropolis of Derkon (Therapia, Istanbul) where he served from 1934 to 1939. In 1939 he came to the United States to assume the office of Archdeacon of the Greek Archdiocese. He also accepted a position on the faculty of the Archdiocese's Theological School which was then located in Pomphret Center, Connecticut, and has since been moved to Brookline, Massachusetts.

He was ordained a priest in Lowell, Massachusetts, on June 16, 1940. On August 16th of that same year he was made an Archmandrite. He served in this capacity at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1949 and 1941; then, as a preacher at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York from 1941-1942; and in 1942, for a brief period, he served in Saint Louis, Missouri.

In September 1942, he was appointed Dean of the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Boston and served in that capacity until 1954.

For a brief period in 1954, prior to his election to the Office of Bishop, he served as Dean of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School in Brookline, Massachusetts.

On December 17, 1954, he was elected Bishop of Melita (Malta) and was assigned to the Archdiocese of Central and Western Europe. His Consecration took place in the Patriarchal Church in Fener, Turkey, on February 6, 1955. In March 1955, he was appointed representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the World Council of Churches headquarters in Geneva. On April 4, 1956, he was elected a Metropolitan.

On February 14, 1959, at the age of 47, he was elected Archbishop of North and South America by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, succeeding the late Archbishop Michael, who died in July 13, 1958, after serving as Archbishop of North and South America since 1949. Archbishop Iakovos arrived in the United States on March 31, 1959, and was enthroned April 1st, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America is under the jurisdiction of the ancient Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople headed by Patriarch Demetrios. The Archdiocese has a total of 3,000,000 communicants and over 550 churches in North and South America. It is the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Church, which is the largest of the many Eastern Orthodox bodies in America.

While in Boston, Archbishop Iakovos studied at the Harvard Divinity School, from where he took his Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) degree. As the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the World Council of Churches, Archbishop Iakovos, then known as Metropolitan James, travelled extensively throughout the world and attended many ecclesiastical meetings and councils. During this time, he also visited the United States on several occasions and delivered lectures at Harvard, Boston University, Garrett Bible Institute, Catholic University and at other institutions and religious conferences. He is the author of several religious books, articles and pamphlets.

Since succeeding the Late Archbishop Michael as Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, and as Exarch and Geron in America of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople (Istanbul), which has ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the Greek Orthodox Church in America, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos has become known as the leading exponent of Orthodoxy in this country and also as an authoritative spokesman of the ecumenical movement for Christian unity.

Archbishop Iakovos is an American citizen and has close ties with Protestant, Episcopal, and Roman Catholic Churches in the United States, especially within the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. He is known as one of the leaders of

the modern ecumenical movement for Christian unity. Presently, he co-chairs the Orthodox Catholic Consultation with His Eminence William Cardinal Baum, and was the first Greek Orthodox Archbishop to preach at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, in January of 1969.

Archbishop Iakovos was elected a President of the World Council of Churches in August, 1959, and was re-elected for a second term, in December, 1961. He is also chairman of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America. Since 1960, he received the Honorary Doctorate degrees from well-known Universities such as Brown University, Catholic University, General Theological Seminary, Holy Cross, Fordham and Notre Dame University.

Among the Archbishop's more significant activities in Inter-Orthodox Relations was the initiative he took in January 1960, for the creation of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, designed to promote closer ties among the various Orthodox groups in America and better relations between them and other denominations. Archbishop Iakovos has been chairman of the Standing Conference since its inception.

Recognition of Archbishop Iakovos' leadership in the U.S. was attested to by President John F. Kennedy's invitation to give one of the prayers at his Inauguration in Washington. Presidents Johnson (in 1965) and Nixon (both in 1969 and 1973) also asked the Archbishop to participate in their respective Inaugurations. On July 4th, 1976 at our Nation's official observance of the Bicentennial, and at the request of President Ford, Archbishop Iakovos offered a prayer for

the spiritual prosperity and moral greatness of our Nation.

Archbishop Iakovos was present at the historic meeting between Patriarch Athenagoras I and Pope Paul VI in the Holy Lands early in January 1964. Upon his return he interpreted the meaning of this momentous encounter in several radio and television broadcasts and in many press conferences. He attended the historic ceremonies which nullified the centuries-old "anathema" between the ancient Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches, as a member of the official Ecumenical Patriarchate delegation, December 7, 1965.

Archbishop Iakovos has been honored by both the U.S and Greek governments as well as by the B'Nai B'Birth; the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Religious Heritage of America and many other organizations.

In June of 1979, he was honored by both Houses of Congress and paid official tribute by the Congressional Record of the United States. On June 9, 1980, President Jimmy Carter bestowed upon the Archbishop the highest honor available to citizens of the United States. The Presidential Medal of Freedom stated that "Greek Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos has long put into practice what he has preached. As a progressive religious leader concerned with human rights and the ecumenical movement, he has marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and has met with the Pope. As the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America concerned with his congregation, he has given guidance to millions."

Archbishop Iakovos' moral and religious leadership have contributed greatly towards a better world understanding and commitment to civil and human rights. In 1965, he was in the forefront of the civil rights movement as he marched with the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Alabama in March 1965 and supported, with vigor and conviction, the Civil Rights legislation passed by Congress during those crucial year. He has forcefully spoken out against the violation of human rights, religious freedom and has supported peaceful initiatives for human rights and justice. In fact, his indelible commitment to the inalienable rights of all people and his eloquence and foreceful protests have incurred the anger of oppressive governments throughout the world.

He travels thousands of miles annually visiting Greek Orthodox Churches under his spiritual jurisdiction throughout the Western Hemisphere and attends ecumenical and interfaith meetings and seminars. As one of the world's best known Orthodox leaders, he attended the World Council Assemblies in New Delhi, Uppsala, and Central Committte meeting in various parts of the world and made Archdpastoral visits to Japan, Korea and Vietman.

Archbishop Iakovos' main efforts in the Orthodox Church of the Americas has been to initiate new reforms and the further consolidation and spreading of Orthodoxy in the New World.



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June 11, 1981

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Morton:

It was indeed a personal joy for me to have the opportunity to meet with you in order to begin a creative and healthy relationship between this Administration and our Church in the Americas. I immediately informed His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of our conversation and of your deep sincerity and integrity.

I have enclosed an Archdiocesan Yearbook, a brief biographical sketch of His Eminence and my Office card.

I look forward to seeing you at the briefing. In the meantime if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Faithfully,

Rev. Alexander Karloutsos
Executive Director
Department of Communications

AK:hz