

GREECE

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SUBJECT: IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MISSIONS.The Gotzamanis Mission to Berlin.

On 17.9.42 GOTZAMANES, Minister of Finance, National Economy and Agriculture, in the TSOLAKOGLOU Government, left ATHENS for BERLIN accompanied by a number of high Greek Officials. The object of his journey was to discuss with the German Government economic and general issues relating to conditions in Greece.

It is reported that the issues discussed in BERLIN are summarised in the following points:-

- (a) An attempt on the part of GOTZAMANES to effect Government changes, by which he would become Prime Minister and TSOLAKOGLOU Chief of State. This proposal received the full support of the Italians. It should be noted that GOTZAMANES is a faithful servant of ITALY.
- (b) An attempt to liberate those provinces of GREECE which are occupied by Bulgarian forces in exchange for a more effective contribution (termed as "assistance") on the part of Greece towards the Axis war effort. Also backed up by Italians.
- (c) An attempt to surrender the last remaining spoils of Greece to Germany. (Commonly believed by public opinion to be the main issue on the agenda of the BERLIN talks).

TSOLAKOGLOU is reported to be displeased with GOTZAMANES' journey, and to have expressed his opinion that he would have preferred LOGOTHE-TOPOULOS, Vice Premier and politician of standing speaking fluent German, to have undertaken the mission to BERLIN.

Latest information (26.9.42) obtained by source from governmental circles indicated that all GOTZAMANES' aims had been achieved in BERLIN and that a draft of his proposals had been submitted to HITLER who had approved it. GOTZAMANES and his suite then proceeded to ROME.

Return to Rome of Italian Occupation Authorities.

On 23.9.42 GUIZI, Italian High Commissioner in Greece, accompanied by General GELOZO, Italian C. in C., Italian forces in Greece, and the Greek Colonel BALLIS with his Italian wife left ATHENS for ROME.

The following 3 alternative versions have been advanced from reliable circles as constituting the object of the visit of the above-mentioned persons to Rome:-

- (a) GUIZI's presence was required at the discussions between GOTZAMANES and the Italian Government. Furthermore GUIZI was to act as host to GOTZAMANES during the latter's stay in ROME.

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