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Authority NND 7a5081American Embassy,
Athens, Greece
February 5, 1948.

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SECRETCONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA

Note - Consult Foreign Service Serials No. 279 of November 21, 1944, No. 342 of March 19, 1945, and No. 661 of December 27, 1946. Forms are to be prepared on typewriter in quadruplicate, one copy for files and three for Department.

Name: Vlantas, Dimitrios
*(Alias 'Vlandas', 'Vlatas', 'Valtas', 'Mitsos' or 'Bulgar')

Nationality: GreekTitle: -Date and Place of Birth: 1908, Maratho-Malevouzion, Heraklion, Crete.Position: Minister of Agriculture in the "Provisional Date Appointed: Dec. 24, 1947. Democratic Government of Greece"Party Affiliations: Communist; Member of the Central Committee of KKE.Previous Career: Formerly Secretary of the KKE Regional Committee for Crete; One of the founders and leaders (1943) of EPON, the Communist dominated Youth Organization formed by EAM as part of the resistance during the occupation. Secretary of the Regional Committee of the Peloponnesos (August, 1947)Languages Spoken: Greek; no further information.Attitude toward and service in the United States: Hostile; no known service or travel in the United States.Family details: Son of George Vlantas.REMARKS:

The appearance of VLANTAS' name in the list of the so-called 'Ministers' of the Rebel group was unexpected because Vlantas was a little-known Communist. Presumably, he was included in the 'government' because of his position and record in the Communistic Youth Organization, EPON.

Vlantas is reported to have completed an elementary school education and then to have begun work in Crete as a peasant. Apparently, he wandered from one job to another, never being able or not wishing to hold one job permanently. While very young, he joined the Communist Party; and it is reported that he supported himself primarily by being a professional revolutionary for the KKE. His defiance of authority and constant trouble led him in and out of police courts.

During the occupation, he served with the ELAS in Crete as Political Advisor and also was active in the establishment of EPON. When Greece was liberated, he became Secretary of the KKE in Crete and thereby ex officio a member of the Central Committee of KKE.

In August, 1947, he became Secretary of the Regional Committee of the Peloponnesos. He is believed to have assisted with the re-organization of the guerrilla bands of the Peloponnesos and with the intensifying of the Communist propaganda activities in Patras and the surrounding area.

The Rebel radio (DABS) on December 27, 1947, gave the following description of Vlantas' record:

".....His ancestors were well-known 'capetans' who fought in the struggles of the Cretans against the Turkish tyranny. He first worked as a peasant. In 1924 and afterwards he took an energetic part in youth movements. When

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CONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA

performing his military service he was prosecuted and in 1931 condemned to sixteen years imprisonment by the Ioannina Court Martial. He participated in the struggle against the Fascist dictatorship. Also, he ranked among the champions of the anti-taxation mass meetings and assemblies held during 1928-1929 at Heraklion (Crete). In December, 1936, he was arrested by the dictatorship, and he remained in prison at Akronaplia until May, 1941, when he escaped and devoted himself to the liberation. He was one of the founders of the glorious EPOK, of which he was the leader from February to June, 1943. "

Approved by:

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Robert W. Caldwell
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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 765081
-2-

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Name: PORFYROGHENIS, Miltiades

Nationality: Greek Title:

Birth: November 25, 1903 in the village of Agtia near Volos, Greece

Position: Minister of Justice in the Date Appointed: Dec. 24, 1947.
"Provisional Democratic Government of Greece"

Party Affiliations: Communist since 1926; Member of Central Committees of KKE and EAM.

Previous Career: Practiced law. In 1932 was unsuccessful candidate for Parliament from Kavalla but in 1933 was appointed to Parliament as substitute for a Communist M.P. who resigned. 1936-1941 imprisoned by Metaxas regime. 1941-1943 was an organizer of resistance in Crete. 1944- Joined PEEA. Chief EAM Delegate to Lebanon Conference, May, 1944. Minister of Labor in Papandreu Cabinet Sept. 2 - Dec. 2, 1944.

Languages Spoken: Greek, German, French and presumably Russian.

Attitude toward and service in the United States: Presumably hostile to United States. No known service or travel in the United States.

Family details: Son of Napoleon and Katherina Porfyroghenis; Married Communist Foula Hadjidakis, daughter of the late Professor Hadjidakis of Athens University. She is an influential Communist intellectual.

REMARKS: (See also Office of Strategic Services, R. & A. No. 3128, "Biographic Notes on Prominent Members of EAM/ELAS in Greece, 1941-1945", Washington, D. C., July 21, 1945, which has been used in the preparation of this report.)

Miltiades PORFYROGHENIS comes from a well-to-do middle class family of Volos. He studied law in Germany and returned to Greece to become an attorney. Joining the Communist Party in 1926, he often defended members of the KKE in court. In 1928 he is alleged to have been convicted of high treason and to have been granted an immediate amnesty.

In 1929 Porfyroghenis became a member of the Association Juridique Internationale of Berlin, which had been founded "to oppose Fascism from the legal point of view". At that time he lectured in Berlin before the "Bund Freier Balkan" on "the struggle of the Workers and Revolutionary peasants under the direction of the Communist Party, and the sufferings of the Macedonian people under the Greek yoke."

In 1931, his wife assisted in the creation of the Society called "the Unity of Socialistic Democracies". The purpose of this organization was to propagandize the 'benefits' of life in Russia and to eulogize Communism.

In the 1932 elections, Porfyroghenis was an unsuccessful candidate for Parliament from Kavalla, but on January 19, 1933, he was appointed to the seat in Parliament of a Communist member of Parliament who had resigned. Also in 1932, he became a member of the Executive Committee of the International anti-Fascist and anti-Terrorist Organization, "Red Aid", which had been organized to help Communist political prisoners. Later in the same year he reportedly went to Moscow to attend the special school for Communists, returning to Greece in January, 1933.

In February, 1934 and also in the 1935 municipal elections, Porfyroghenis was an unsuccessful candidate for the Mayorship of Volos. Nevertheless, he was successful in his advancement in the Communist Party of Greece, becoming a supernumerary member of the Central Committee of KKE as Political Commissar for

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-1-

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 765081

CONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 7105081

PORFYROGHENIS, Miltiades (Continued from preceding page)

intellectuals. In 1935, he was appointed to the Central Committee of KKE, a regular member, but shortly thereafter he was arrested and interned on the Island of Gavdos (south of Crete) for his anti-nationalist activities.

In 1936 Porfyroghenis was elected the Popular Front Deputy to Parliament from Larissa, and he used that position as an opportunity to visit Moscow and Paris to study social insurance legislation. When the Metaxas regime came into power on the 4th of August, 1936, however, he was arrested and put in prison where he remained until the German invasion permitted his escape, April 28, 1941.

In 1941 Porfyroghenis became a member of the Central Committee of EAM and was an organizer of the resistance movement on the Island of Crete. In late 1943 or early 1944 he was recalled by the Political Bureau of KKE and made Secretary of the Central Committee of EAM and a member of PEEA (the EAM government in Greece during the occupation).

On April 9, 1944, the third anniversary of the German invasion, he made a speech in which he claimed that the fall of Tsouderos had been brought about by the PEEA. PEEA had objected to Tsouderos because he "had wished to unite all parties under his government, irrespective of their attitude toward the Germans, whereas PEEA wished to fight the Germans, Rallis' Security Battalions, and all unavowed traitors still more dangerous."

In May, 1944, he attended the Lebanon Conference as the head of the delegation sent by EAM. The terms of the EAM bloc at this conference were:

- (1) A unification of the resistance forces within Greece.
- (2) The establishment of a coalition government which would include more than four EAM portfolios.
- (3) A clear cut solution to the question of the return to the throne by King George.

Contrary to their expectations, the EAM delegates did not find themselves in an advantageous position at the Conference. The mutiny of the Greek forces in the Near East and the circumstances under which Colonel PSAROS had been killed gave weight to the opinion of the right wing that EAM wished to seize power and establish a "dictatorship of the left". Porfyroghenis attempted to offset this feeling in his speech delivered at the Conference when he said that EAM wished to achieve unity and that they were not the ones "who were trying to separate Greece into Russian friends and British friends. . . We are with and for all the Allies . . . The responsibility for the recent events (i.e., the revolt in the Near East) goes to the Tsouderos Cabinet."

On September 2, 1944, Porfyroghenis became Minister of Labor in the Papandreou Cabinet. During his incumbency, according to one source, he advocated legislation favoring the working class. He also recognized the existing National Confederation of Greek Labor. He held the same post in the reconstructed Cabinet of October, 1944. On October 13th, he went on a mission to Macedonia and Thrace with LAMERLANDIS, Minister without Portfolio. On this tour of inspection, which was arranged by EAM, he was reportedly warmly received everywhere by the people.

On the second of December, 1944, Porfyroghenis resigned from the Cabinet along with the other EAM members, in protest against the government order for disbanding ELAS. He left Athens, took up again positions on the Central Committees of EAM and KKE, and directed the EAM policy during the December insurrection and the signing of the Varkiza Agreement.

After the revolution Porfyroghenis devoted himself again to the organizing of Communist activities and to the defense of Communists brought before the Greek courts. He was officially designated Legal Advisor of the KKE in January of 1945. With this same title he was again elected to the Central Committees of EAM and KKE in October, 1945.

SECRETCONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA

PORFYROGHENIS, Miltiades (Continued from preceding page)

Late in 1946 he left Greece and visited several Communist countries. On June 27, at the French Communist Congress at Strasbourg, Porfyroghenis spoke on the Greek situation (reference - Embassy's despatch Number 5185, July 11, 1947). He asserted that Communist objectives in Greece can only be achieved through the military action of an expanded "Democratic Army". He appealed to world Communism for assistance towards the formation of a Free Democratic Greece with its own Government and its own status as a State. This was the first mention of the Communist intention to establish the "government" which was announced December 24, 1947. Reportedly during most of 1947 he was in Prague as permanent KKE representative of the Headquarters of the International Federation of Resistance Movements. Only a few days before the announcement of the formation of the "Provisional Democratic Government of Greece", he left Prague for Belgrade, and it is believed that he could not have reached Greek soil by the time he made his various speeches lauding the establishment and the program of the so-called government.

Mrs. Foula PORFYROGHENIS has been reported (Reference - Despatch No. 1720, December 15, 1947, from American Legation, Helsinki, Finland) as lecturing in Sweden and Finland during the fall of 1947. In Finland as the guest of the Communist-dominated DEMOCRATIC UNION, she stated that "the present government of Greece does not represent anybody but yet it represents something. It remains in power only with the help of foreigners. The Greek Government fights with American money and with American arms, and American officers train Greek soldiers."

Porfyroghenis is described as conscientious and very ambitious. He is thought to be a doctrinaire theoretician and one not successful in negotiations. In the Greek Communist party he is the right-hand man of ZACHARILADES who has a special affection for him.

The rebel radio (DARS) on December 27th, 1947, gave the following description of Porfyroghenis' record:

".....Born in the village of Agtia, near Volos, in 1903. Since 1925 he participated in the struggles of the people. He has been a lawyer since 1924. As General Secretary of the "Workers' Aid" from 1929 to 1931 he participated in all the anti-terrorist movements which the Liberal Party organized. He participated in the International Conference of Lawyers held in Berlin in 1929 and was chosen a member of the Executive Committee of the International Lawyers' Society. Both in 1932 and in 1936 he was elected a deputy from Larissa. He was repeatedly arrested in 1928, 1931, 1933, 1935 and 1936. From August 4, 1936 to April, 1941, he remained in the Akronaplia concentration camp. When the Germans invaded Greece, he escaped and went to Crete where he organized the National Resistance Movement. In December, 1943, he came to Athens whence he proceeded to the mountains, where he was appointed Secretary of EAM's Central Committee. He participated in the Lebanon Conference and in September, 1944, in the Government as Minister of Labor. During the summer of 1946 Kites attempted to assassinate him. He has been chosen a member of the Council of the International Democratic Lawyers' Society."

The Greek newspaper, ESTIA, on December 31, 1947, published the following remarks about Porfyroghenis. The English translation quoted has been taken from the English language newspaper THE ATHENS GAZETTE, of January 4, 1948:

"...from Agtia of Volos, lawyer ..He started his career as a black-mailer of workers and as a petty lawyer, also citing clients in the corridors of the Law Courts, with a staff of false witnesses at his disposal. Unable to make a career, he applied to become a member of the KKE which made

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CONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA

PORFYROGLINIS, Miltiades (Continued from preceding page)

use of his services on a salary. He has been repeatedly sentenced for anti-national activities. He escaped from prison during the enemy occupation assisted by the Germans. During the December, 1944 revolt he played a leading part, having managed through Svolos and some other leftists to postpone General Scobie's attack, until the thousands of Athenian hostages were well out of Athens, many of whom were put to death or disappeared beyond the Yugoslav frontier. He was later prosecuted for high treason, but succeeded in obtaining a passport for abroad, where he continued his anti-national activities. Some months ago he established himself in Prague, where following his instructions oppressive measures against the Greeks of Czechoslovakia were taken."

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