

TRUTH ABOUT GREECE

Pamphlet XXI

ATHENS

August 1953

*«Our cause is the cause of all mankind, and we are fighting for
their liberty in defending our own.»*

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1777

THE ROYAL COUPLE OF GREECE

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT

A nonprofit organization composed of citizens and affiliated with no government.

ATHENS

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GREECE



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Due to the heroic stand of her people and the generous American aid, Greece is now secure this side of the Iron Curtain. No one else is better qualified to convey the deep appreciation of all the Greeks to the American people for their inestimable help in their days of trial than their King and Queen, who, in response to a gracious invitation of President Eisenhower, are visiting the United States this fall.



THE ATTITUDE OF THE CROWN TOWARDS THE PEOPLE

A couple with more democratic feelings than Their Hellenic Majesties King Paul and Queen Frederica, it would be difficult to find anywhere.

«When a King firmly observes the principles of democracy, the gap between a republic with an elected leader who rules, and a republic with a hereditary leader who, as in Great Britain, reigns but does not rule, becomes of no political consequence. King Paul has shown himself to be the first democrat of Greece.» Thus spoke the late Prime Minister Themistocles Sophoulis, one of the most liberal minded and progressive statesmen of Greece, shortly after the accession of King Paul to the throne.

What is true of the King is equally true of the Queen. They observe the principles of democracy not as a formula drawn up for their guidance, but from training and inner conviction. They are incapable of doing otherwise.

The motto of the Greek dynasty is: «Our strength lies in the love of the people». King Paul and Queen Frederica have succeeded in gaining that love.

KING PAUL

King Paul ascended the throne in April 1947, upon the death of his brother King George II, who died childless.

King George's II greatest service to his country and the free world was that, since 1936, foreseeing the coming storm, due to the Fascist and Nazi regimes of Mussolini and Hitler, spared no effort in preparing his country for the coming danger. Thus he assisted all he could in the reorganization of the Greek Army and in keeping high the morale of the people. In this way the King was able to answer NO (OXI) first to Mussolini's ultimatum on October





President Eisenhower and King Paul during the President's visit to Athens as Chief of the NATO forces in 1951.

28, 1940, and subsequently to that of Hitler on April 6, 1941, when each in turn invaded Greece. It was thus that this country won the first allied victory against the Axis and subsequently offset Hitler's plans in invading Russia, by delaying his attack against that country by six weeks, which finally saved Moscow from falling into the hands of Hitler.

At the time of King Paul's accession to the throne, Greece was convulsed in the foreign instigated and supported communist uprising (1946-49), that she succeeded in defeating two years later, thanks to the bravery of her people and the precious American aid.

The manner in which the Royal Couple of Greece met the challenge that this well-nigh crushing disaster presented to them, wrote a new page in the history of kingship.

Long years of sharing in the vicissitudes of his country, had imposed on King Paul an appreciation of the virtues of a philosophical outlook. It is not without significance that today King Paul is a student of the teachings of the world's great philosophers, for from their guidance he no doubt draws much of his capacity

to contemplate his country's day-to-day political fluctuations and set them dispassionately against the perspective of the past and the future.

Since boyhood and as Crown Prince, the King interested himself in social and welfare work, such as the Boy Scout movement, of which he became president.

Furthermore, besides his live affection for his old love, the Navy, he turned his interest to the Air Force and learned to fly in 1936. A lot of his spare time he spent in following his favourite pastime of yachting, and gained several trophies in the contests held by the Greek Yachting Club.

As the Fascist menace grew, however, Prince Paul became increasingly absorbed in the work of helping to prepare for the war which all Greeks now realized they would not be so fortunate as to escape. And they did not escape. The Italian attack came, and Prince Paul divided his time between visiting units in the line and standing behind his brother the King, in the ever-growing volume of responsibilities in Athens. His part was, as always, a self-effacing one, of loyal support and help to his brother.

Then came the German attack on April 6, 1941, the withdrawal to Crete, then to Egypt and, finally, the journey to South Africa, where they found refuge with their two young children, Princess Sophie and Prince Constantine. Prince Paul divided his time between South Africa, England and Egypt, devoting more and more of his attention to the Middle East as the political situation became progressively worse.

At that time Prince Paul offered to come to Greece to help the underground resistance, but to his regret was not permitted by the Greek and British authorities to do so.

QUEEN FREDERICA

Queen Frederica is the daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, head of the Royal House of Hannover, eldest son of the Duke of Cumberland and a Royal Prince of Great Britain and Ireland.

Her Mother was Princess Victoria Louise of Prussia and granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

As a young Princess she spent some of her most impressionable early days in England. In 1934 and 1935 she attended North Foreland Lodge Girls' School, near Broadstairs in Kent, and here she was head-girl for five terms.

Princess Frederica's engagement to Crown Prince Paul revived links between her family and Great Britain. A great-grandchild of Queen Victoria, the young Princess stood remotely in the line



of succession to the British throne, and under the Royal Marriages' Act of Britain, King George VI, as head of the House of Windsor, had to be asked for his consent to her marriage. This procedure was criticised by the Nazis as being an improper submission on the part of a Princess of the House of Hannover. On her marriage her official title was Princess of Hannover and of Great Britain and Ireland.

Romance and Marriage.

Their Majesties' was not an arranged marriage as many royal marriages are, but a love match, and began when Princess Frederica had attained the mature age of ten. Her tall handsome cousin, Prince Paul, was visiting her parents. In the years that followed they met frequently, and when she was 18, the Prince asked for her hand in marriage. The Duke of Brunswick, feeling that his daughter was too young to marry, agreed to an engagement until she should be twenty. The young couple were



The Royal family of Greece: Princess Sophie, Queen Frederica, Crown Prince Constantine, King Paul and Princess Irene.



A jeep is the only transportation means Their Majesties use during their visits to the mountainous areas. This jeep is well-known to all the villagers in these areas.

married in January 1938, in the Cathedral of Athens.

They were soon blessed with children. The first child, Princess Sophie, was born in November 1938, and the second, Prince Constantine, in June 1940. The third child, Princess Irene, was born in Capetown in 1942.

All three children are simple and attractive in their ways, and displaying a blend of good manners and high spirits, like any happy and well-brought-up family. They are unspoilt, no doubt because they are treated by their parents and the ladies of the Court without a vestige of fuss or formality.

Soon after King Paul succeeded to the throne, he moved into the Palace from his house in Psychico. King George had communicated much of his lonely, ascetic spirit into the atmosphere of the Palace, and thus the arrival of the new King and Queen and their lively young family made a noticeable difference.

The influence of the new regime is reflected in many ways in the daily life of the Palace, not least in the matter of the friendly social relations maintained with both Greek and foreign communi-



ties. The King and Queen are much more prone to hospitality than was King George who, after his return to Greece, had tended to restrict his contacts severely to official and semi-official occasions. Both participate in other preoccupations that King George had latterly denied himself. Both are interested in music, for example, and King Paul possesses considerable talent as a pianist. They both enjoy the out-door life and leave no opportunity of giving the children the healthy advantages of the sea and countryside.

The impress of the Queen's character is felt not only in the Court and Household, but among most of the leaders of the community, not excepting crusted members of the political scene. She has a radiant charm and an engaging directness of manner that breaks down the stiffest front. «You can't resist her — you get fond of her,» a middle-aged Minister once declared.

Her outward personal qualities contribute greatly to her popularity. She attracts immediately, because she is vivacious and friendly, but it is her perception and her cleverness that captivate the most discerning. She has, too, a lively and sometimes candid sense of humour, with which she can turn aside an ill-intentioned shaft. When a party of United States senators visited Greece in April 1947, one of them, who was apparently hostile to the idea of her expressing her opinion on Greek affairs as though she were a Greek, asked bluntly, «Madam, what were you born?» she answered immediately, «I was born a full-blooded barbarian, and I came to Greece to be civilized,» an answer that at once brought the American to her side.

A meaningful confession.

Asked by a prominent American: «How did you feel when you were a little girl and first found out that you were a Princess?» the Queen answered:

«I felt troubled. I used to debate the question with myself very seriously. 'What right have you to be on top without going through the struggle to get there?' It disturbed me for a long time, and, do you know what finally quieted my mind? It was reading Plato. You remember, he divided all the citizens into different groups; the workers and tradespeople, the soldiers and the leaders. Each had his own function, and the leaders, in order to perform theirs, had to be trained for it from childhood. They had to be chosen in advance in order to receive that training. I quieted my uneasiness about my own hereditary position by deciding to use it as Plato's leaders did.»

Like Queen Sophie, King Paul's mother, she has embraced the Greek Orthodox Faith. She regards herself as a Greek, speaks



A typical example of how easily His Majesty can be approached by his people.



to the people with the openness of a Greek, and is accepted by them as a Greek. She is full of creative imagination and the impulse and energy to get things done quickly when the need is urgent. And her persistence and resolution are extraordinary.

EDUCATION OF THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESSES

The Royal Couple's three children are being brought up under a system that has been termed a conservative experiment in progressive education, at schools whose regulations require that the student body be proportionately representative of all classes and conditions of people. The pupils are selected on a competitive basis from families of peasants, artisans, laborers, civil servants, crippled war veterans and professional men, the poorest receiving board and tuition gratis, the others paying according to their means. The system is designed to teach children the dependence of each upon all, their responsibility to society, self-reliance, co-operation, on a high plane of scholarship and moral training.

The Heir Apparent of a Dynasty should, from childhood, have the feeling and understanding of the people whose prosperity he will be called upon to strive for. Prince Constantine's education is royal in this only: at the age when other children have the right to be care free, the Heir Apparent must study, learn, and approach whatever may prepare him to take up this difficult task for the prosperity of his people, in accordance with the tradition of the Kings of Greece.

Plain living and high thinking.

Informality as far as it can be maintained, plain living and high thinking are the rules by which the King and Queen of Greece live. The political and social obligations imposed upon them by their rank, have been greatly multiplied with the inclusion of Greece in such international pacts as NATO, which, with the presence in the country of the various American Missions, has brought hundreds, if not thousands, of Americans, prominent and otherwise, to this formerly quiet little capital.

SOME OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES AND CHARACTERISTIC ANECDOTES OF THEIR MAJESTIES

The present monarchs of Greece have never been satisfied with

the mere discharge of their many and telling official obligations, which cannot be delegated to others. Their deeply-ingrained sense of responsibility toward the suffering and the underprivileged, constantly directs their gaze beyond the palace gates to the distant plain and mountain hamlets where from 1940 to 1949 men and women fought to keep themselves free, in a struggle that brought ruin to their lives and devastation to their homes.

Over-riding all protest of General Staff and security officials, King Paul, accompanied by the Queen, immediately after his accession, made a tour of the border provinces where the fighting was fiercest. They felt that their first duty was to cheer the weary troops, whose morale was nevertheless much higher than their poor military equipment justified, but along the way their eyes had fallen upon the thousands of homeless families, the thousands of children, orphaned and abandoned, terror-stricken, hungry, naked, fleeing for their lives to safer ground.

This was a problem beyond the powers of the over-burdened Greek Government, engaged in restoring the shattered economic



Questions and Answers... Peasant women in the mountain villages are used to approaching Their Majesties on their frequent visits there and discuss their problems with them.



life of the country, rebuilding roads, bridges, ports, destroyed during the war and occupation. Only the Greek people working together could shoulder this burden.

By royal decree, the King's National Institute was established. Subsequently, and as a result of the Guerilla Warfare of 1946-49, the Queen's Fund for the Relief of the Northern Provinces was also created. For both the Institute and the Queen's Fund, Their Majesties with characteristic resourcefulness appointed hard-working committees, composed of leaders from all fields of activity (all volunteers), of which they themselves were active chairmen.

Original objectives of the National Institute.

The primary purpose of the Institute is to help, by practical example and endeavour, to educate the nation to the idea of individual service for the community, and so to the toleration and unselfishness among free men that will replace the old ambitions for personal power that caused Greece so much suffering in the past.

The King plays an active part in the work of the Institute, both as its President and driving force, and as a participant in its work. Its declared aims are to raise the moral, cultural, social and living standards of the Greek people. It is run entirely on a voluntary basis, its working expenses being met by donations from all classes at home and abroad, the King among them. It operates in close contact with the various Ministries that its activities concern, and often serves as a spur to their zeal. And its work is entirely free from politics. Under the direction of various committees, it provides libraries, cheap books, lectures and other educational aids. It is establishing instructional centers for agriculture, afforestation and the small industries. It is initiating measures for rebuilding destroyed towns, and holds competitions for architectural ideas in town planning. It organises students and others in social welfare and similar exertions, such as road-repairing groups etc.

Behind all these labors to develop a sense of individual service, is King Paul's objective to heal the wounds inflicted on the spirit and soul of Greece. For this is one of the country's greatest weaknesses. As the King said, the people's miseries and trials seem never to end. The close of the war, which should have brought peace and confidence, brought only fresh terrors and distrusts. Throughout the country, years of oppression and starvation and suffering led to a halo of heroism being placed on all the perfidious underground things — the sly deceptions, the double-dealings, the spyings, the treacheries — that were previously



Guerilla boys showing their enthusiasm for what the Leros training school has done for them, carrying Their Majesties on their shoulders.

regarded as base and shameful. Years of dangerous living have distorted fundamental standards for many, of conduct and morals. It is this weakness also that must be cured from within, and the King declared that it is the task of those who have not suffered such injury to help restore those who have. His Majesty has himself assumed the leadership of this drive to rehabilitate the intangible things of the spirit as firmly as he assumed the leadership of the national effort to rebuild material prosperity.

A highly successful experiment for the free world to note and possibly imitate.

Another serious problem awaited solution, though it was not until King Paul decided upon a course of action that the people became aware of its existence. Fifteen hundred guerilla youths, all under twenty years of age, were held in prison with the threat of court martial hanging over their heads.

They, too, were children of Greece and could not be abandoned.



Their physical and mental condition was shocking. Many were depressed by an inner sense of guilt. They were dirty, sullen. They had lost faith in God, in their country and themselves.

The King arranged with the military authorities to have the boys released and removed to the island of Leros, one of the Dodecanese, where trained and dedicated instructors awaited them. Before being deloused, scrubbed, clothed and fed, they were told that they had been removed from military control, that they were, in a sense, free. Still huddled together in fear, with uncertainty and hatred in their hearts, they listened as the superintendent told them that in their new island home every provision had been made for a regular life, for their education, religion and recreation, but that no one would be coerced to avail himself of any of the facilities offered. They were free to take them or leave them. Two subjects were proscribed: communism and the boys' past association therewith.

Their tortured minds were gradually soothed by the understanding of their needs, by instruction in subjects that helped them evaluate their own place in a decent society, their responsibilities as citizens and Christians. They were trained in honesty and co-operation and self-respect. Their hands were kept usefully occupied when their minds needed rest; their bodies were built up through health training, athletics and games. In twelve months their characters were refashioned into free, happy, high-principled individuals.

No experiment in human psychology has ever met with greater success. These boys have long since «graduated» from Leros and have returned to their native villages, or, if that was not feasible, new homes have been found for them. They are now men, making a respectable living for themselves and their families. Some of the more thoughtful ones are conscious of an obligation to hold high the banner of faith in God and man and are proceeding toward positions of leadership in their communities.

Frequently, during their visits through the country, the Royal Couple are proudly greeted with, «I was at Leros. I saw your Majesties there many times,» or perhaps, «We danced with you at Leros,» in the Greek folk dances.

Under the untiring supervision of the King, this great and noble achievement was accomplished through the employment of that old persuasive device, Love, that Christ urged us to extend to our neighbors.

The signal success of the experiment at Leros suggested to the Minister of Justice the application of similar methods to the rehabilitation of delinquent boys and girls, victims of war and the accompanying relaxation of parental authority, which before

the war was fully exercised in Greece. As this was a problem that the King was anxious to help solve himself, a law was passed empowering him to remove from prison all boys and girls under twenty years of age, regardless of charge or penalty.

In speaking on the subject, the Queen has emphasized that, «Theoretically no one under twenty years of age will be imprisoned any more in Greece. It is the salvation of our youth. It is a responsibility that makes my husband quite breathless. I say theoretically, because my husband cannot take anyone out of prison unless he has the money to care for him. But he always goes ahead, without money, finding the money as he goes».

The King may, under the law, do anything he deems best with the young delinquent. If it is ascertained, after proper consultation and investigation, that the offenders will profit more from being returned to their homes, that course is adopted. Otherwise, they are sent to Leros, which has been converted into a boys' institute, or to Cos, a neighboring island, where a similar institute has been founded. Another institute for girls operates in the island of Crete. There instructors reorient them toward a decent Christian



Their Majesties follow the shipbuilding vocational school for the guerilla boys at Leros.



life. The results of this second experiment have been highly gratifying, the records being just a shade below that of the original Leros, which was 100% with no backsliders.

The Queen, on her part, for the support of her «Fund», made a radio appeal to the people of Greece for financial help, and within a few days, beginning with the Royal Couple's own generous contributions, half a million dollars — an astronomical sum in drachmas — poured in from all parts of the country. Continued support of the organizations was assured, aside from voluntary contributions, by a 1% tax on imported goods and 5% tax on amusement tickets, restaurant bills and luxury articles.

Within three weeks the Queen was present in Salonica to welcome 600 children to the first Children's Colony, and within a month six more were opened, taking care of the rest of the 3,000 motherless waifs. «These are our children; they belong to all of us,» the Queen said in a heartfelt talk to the teachers and personnel. «They must never want for love and tenderness.»

The children were divided into age and district groups for convenience of instruction. Complete elementary curricula were provided for the younger ones, and for the adolescents vocational training in the village arts and crafts was available. In addition, they received religious instruction; they were taught the meaning of family and village life, of good citizenship; how to work together for their common good. They were urged to cherish their heritage.

The abduction of 28,000 Greek children.

In 1948 another calamity struck Greece, sorely — the mass abduction of its youngest children by the communists. The people were stunned at the brutality of the crime and its evil design. Before precautionary measures could be taken, 28,000 children had passed behind the Iron Curtain, their young minds to be weaned away from their fathers' ideals of personal liberty and indoctrinated with the Marxist ideology, to be returned one day to conquer their homeland for their foreign masters.

The Greek nation's plea for help fell upon deaf ears. Their children became inmates of training camps in Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Since the reestablishment of friendly relations with Yugoslavia, 570 children have been returned to Greece, largely through the untiring efforts of the Greek Red Cross. The rest remain unaccounted for.

Like every mother's heart, the Queen's heart was torn by this cruel blow, and leadership came once more from her. The existing Children's Colonies, she decided, must quickly be multiplied. She called upon the General Staff to remove from all the



These boys are among those guerillas who have been trained in the vocational schools of the island of Leros. They look happy receiving their diplomas from the King.



northern townships and villages those children under 16 years of age whose parents were willing to let them go, and to care for them a few weeks until necessary shelter could be constructed.

The anxious mothers desperately trying to save their children from abduction, only too eagerly grasped the opportunity to send their children to safety. Fifty-two Colonies sprang up quickly all over the country, with the help of volunteers from everywhere. Thus 30,000 children were rescued from an unknown fate and nurtured with loving care until they should be returned to their parents—two years later.

King Paul and Queen Frederica have repeatedly given evidence of possessing both the courage that calmly proceeds into physical danger, and that which dauntlessly faces antagonism and insolence. As they have never hesitated to risk their personal safety to visit the fighting men and women of Greece, so they have never been deterred from entering communist centers, however hostile. These face-to-face encounters, as much as any other factor, have been instrumental in opening the eyes of misled people to the error of their ways, in bringing them back into the national fold.

Duty first.

The King happened to be seriously sick in January 1948 when Konitsa, the key city near the Albanian frontier, was recaptured from the Communists. There were 250 children in a camp in Konitsa, and the city had been under siege and shellfire for eight days. The Queen was in Ioannina and she was in a hurry to get to those children. But the commanding general told her the road was mined, under the guerilla fire and, therefore, not safe to cross.

«All right,» she said, «I'll go on horseback over the mountains.»

That, the general protested, would be even more dangerous. She insisted on going one way or the other, and he finally consented to her using the regular route, on condition that no one should know of it. One of the bridges was down, and she had to walk several miles at dawn through the mountains to a waiting jeep. No one did know, and few know to this day, that the Queen of Greece was the first civilian to enter Konitsa after its recapture. She was greeted with tears by the tired and excited soldiers, and had to make a speech to them in the public square. It was the first one she ever made in her life and she was scared to death. For a minute she didn't know what to say. But here is what she did say: «My husband is sick and I belong at his bedside, but I think he must love you more than he does me, for he sent me to be with you in his place».



No special effort is necessary to approach the King and Queen in their travels around the country and open one's heart to them.

No wonder then that the people of Konitsa put up Queen Frederica's statue in the center of their town in commemoration of this memorable visit.

Other significant visits of the Royal Couple.

During the guerilla war, when, as Crown Princess, Queen Frederica visited a hospital for wounded soldiers, she was restrained from entering a certain ward because it contained prisoners of war.

«If they are Greeks, I will see them,» she said, and against all protest insisted that the door be opened. The soldiers recognizing her, received her in sullen silence. She walked into the middle of the ward and stood still. Then looking at each of them, her face dead serious, «Are you not all Greeks?» she asked. Some answered sheepishly, «Yes»; others merely nodded. The rest remained silent.

«Then,» she went on, «what are you doing here in the prison-»



ers' ward, having been wounded in battle with your brothers who were defending their homes and yours?»

A lad, with the fuzz of adolescence on his chin, raised himself on his elbow and with tears in his eyes cried: «Your Highness, you are right. I shall never again forget my duty as a Greek». Others joined in his sentiments, and as the Crown Princess left, she was warmly applauded.

On another occasion, after she had become Queen, when visiting the Macedonian town of Oreokastron that in the last elections had voted solidly communist, she was astonished to see that great preparations had been made for her visit. Surmounting a gaily-decorated arch of welcome was a huge picture of herself, flanked on the one side by a likeness of Stalin and on the other by one of Zachariades, chief of the Greek communist forces. The townswomen had decked themselves in all their finery, including powder and rouge, and in their natural, uninhibited manner, embraced and kissed the Queen warmly. These poor, misguided people, like the lads in the prisoners' ward, hadn't very clearly in mind what the new order that they espoused really meant.



While Greece mourns her 28,000 abducted children, the Queen consoles their mothers in the frontier villages.



A peasant woman unloading her troubles to the Queen.

The disarming personality of Their Majesties at one time caused great concern to the communist leaders and resulted in the issuance of an order to members, to remain indoors during a visit from Their Majesties, or, if at work, not to open their mouths or give any sign of recognition.

When visiting, in the course of the guerilla war, the important Macedonian port of Kavala, center of the tobacco industry and the place where communism gained its first toehold in Greece before the war, the Royal Couple were received with a marked show of indifference. Reluctantly granted their request to visit a tobacco factory, they were escorted to a shed where some 2,000 women sat sorting leaves. Informed of the approach of the King and Queen, the women continued silently, coldly with their work, giving not the slightest sign of awareness of the presence of visitors.

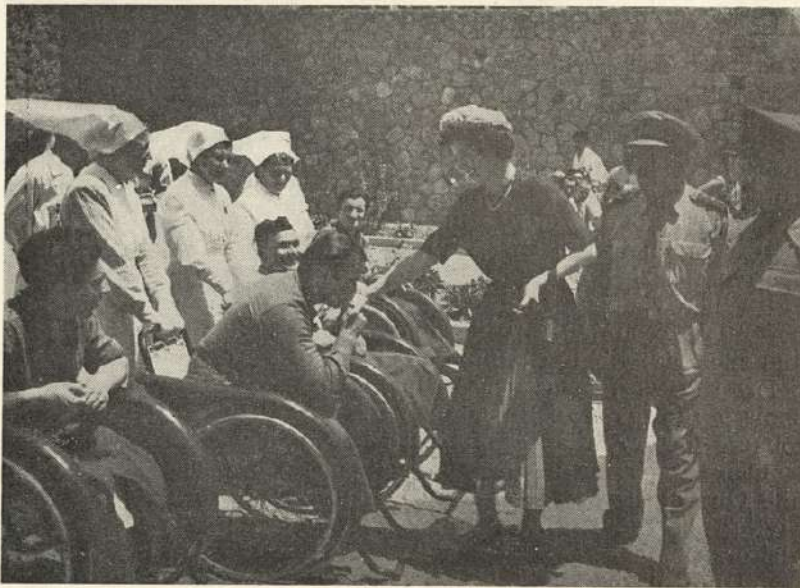
Undismayed the King and Queen went slowly around the room, speaking to two or three of the women at a time, asking them about their work, their families, their problems, slowly gaining their confidence. The tour lasted two hours, and long



before it ended, the frigid atmosphere began defrosting through the warm, sincere interest in their lives displayed by Their Majesties and in the end the visitors were given an enthusiastic farewell. The chief forewoman, one of the local communist leaders, accompanied them to the door, and when beyond earshot of the workers she beseeched them, «Your Majesties, I beg you, save our children from the fate we have suffered».

During the harvest of 1949 in Thessaly, one day the King, having eluded all guards, in characteristic fashion parked his jeep at a distance and entered the district on foot. Though the farm population of Greece is traditionally royalist, this area was known to be solidly communist. The King walked over to a group of men who were oiling a machine. He expressed interest in what they were doing and offered a word of advice as to the quantity of oil required.

A good look at the stranger in a sport shirt and a pair of khaki trousers, revealed his identity. «This is the King!» the men whispered embarrassed. But the King's cheerful, friendly manner put them quickly at their ease. Then, began a discussion



Disabled soldiers of World War II thanking the Queen for her interest in providing each of them with a wheel chair out of the Queen's Fund.



As honorary president of the Boy Scouts since he was Crown Prince, the King has always shown great interest and affection for them.

of this modern agricultural machinery. They ran the machine around a bit and saw that it worked. The men put their heads together in whispered consultation, then turning to the King, with broad grins on all faces, one of them said: «Your Majesty, would you like to cut the first row for luck?» Smilingly King Paul got into the driver's seat and was off. He returned amid cheers, and when they shook hands in farewell, the men thanked him for his help and for the luck they were sure he had brought them.

These incidents illustrate how superficially the true Greek absorbs communist propaganda. The ideology did not saturate their consciousness; it did not become a religion. To their unsophisticated thinking it was a new economic system that promised a higher standard of living for the worker and his family. In some cases, as in Oreokastron, it was not incompatible with the old forms to which they were accustomed and which they loved.

Before the war, the communist constant was approximately



10% of the electorate, and in the elections of 1953 it was once more reduced to that level. It may well be the lowest in the world.

Two important «firsts».

Greece has two important «firsts» to its credit in recent years. Its little, poorly-equipped army won the first victories—not the only ones—of World War II, against far superior forces, and, it is the first country where an armed communist revolt has been beaten. These victories were gained at crippling cost, but the Greek people will do it all over again, if necessary.

Repatriation of refugees and permanent Children's Centers.

When the Army, under the competent leadership of Field Marshal Papagos, presently Prime Minister of Greece, drove the enemy across the border in December 1949, the country was faced with a number of serious and complicated problems that presented a serious challenge to its leaders' intelligence and resourcefulness. Not the least of these were the repatriation of the 750,000 refugees to their ruined villages, the return of 30,000 children in the Colonies to their parents, and provision for the thousands who were orphaned.

Here it should be noted that the Greek Government, after ten years of physical and moral devastation, was obliged, more under the demands of the Marshall Plan than for its own security, to maintain a disproportionately large military under arms and fully equipped (50% of the national budget is still appropriated for the army, the highest of any western nation). Once more it found itself unable to cope alone with the extensive and varied needs of the people and the country.

The King called an assembly of the heads of all organizations and addressed them on the theme, «Our Greek civilization must once more have meaning». He bade them all not to relax but to help rebuild the country and its institutions upon a sound spiritual and moral foundation.

The responsibilities in this rehabilitation program that were assumed by the King's National Institute and the Queen's Fund, were not easy. They were concerned not with the transfer of the villagers back to their homes, but rather with their reestablishment in as adequate surroundings as means at hand permitted.

The refugees who had lived for years in the relatively greater comfort offered by the small towns—running water in



Another picture showing the loving interest of the Royal Couple for the Boy Scouts.



the kitchen, proximity to schools, radio, the small town's centers of amusement such as the coffee shop — though not reluctant to return to their homes to rebuild them, wanted to take these comforts and facilities with them, and that was impossible. The danger was great that the attraction of town life might become too powerful to be resisted. Village life had consequently to be made more interesting and mentally stimulating for the peasant and his family.

There was also the problem of the children in the Colonies, who had become accustomed to a wholesome life and regular routine. How could they be returned to the desolation of the villages without serious damage to the good foundation laid in the Colonies? The answer to that question, the Queen decided, was to change the Colonies into Children's Centers and move them into the areas from which the children came. A trained supervisor was assigned to each center, where the children not only play but receive supplemental instruction to prepare them for tomorrow's responsibilities of citizenship and Christian parenthood.

Rural Clubs.

For the adult population Rural Clubs were established by the National Institute. Here the peasant and his son learn about new farming methods, care of trees, plant diseases, how to use and repair modern farm implements; his wife and daughter learn how to operate a sewing machine and do simple sewing; how to raise a vegetable garden, about poultry raising and beekeeping, about child care.

Life in the village with its unadorned poverty is stern, and the opportunity offered by the Centers and Clubs to bring a higher interest into the lives of the villagers, is eagerly grasped. The experiment has been eminently successful. The objective of keeping the agricultural population on the land has been attained. Many of these people still need help. They spurn charity but welcome outside advice. They want to rebuild their lives and their villages themselves according to their own needs as they understand them. «The war and revolution have violently upset the gradual evolution of life in the villages,» states the report of the National Institute's Committee on Demes and Communes, and wisely concludes that the new equilibrium must be established by the villager himself, by helping him to re-establish himself on the land of his fathers. He has paid a high price to keep it free, but he believes it is worth the sacrifice. He does not ask much; for himself, construction materials, tools and pack

animals; for his wife, that water be piped from distant springs to the center of the town.

Schools and Churches.

Another project that King Paul planned personally and carried out through the National Institute was the building of 500 schools and 39 churches, partly to replace ones destroyed during the war and partly new ones. The Queen admires the King's devotion to the ideal of raising the cultural level of the people and is proud of the achievement accomplished. «Without money, but always somehow finding the money,» she once said with a smile, «we first went to lay almost all the corner-stones and then we went to the inaugurations. It was one of the greatest pleasures we ever had. But, the schools had not only to be places where children are educated, they had to become centers of enlightenment for their parents too. They had to be co-ordinated with Hellinikon Phos.»



The children of the frontier villages which have been saved from abduction, thanks to the Children's Colonies built by the Queen's Fund, welcome the Queen with a song.



*The Royal Family among the recent earthquake victims of the Ionian Islands.
From left to right: Princess Sophie, the Queen, Princess Irene,
the King, and Crown Prince Constantine.*

The society known as «Hellinikon Phos» or «Greek Light», is a popular spiritual movement fathered by the King several years ago, to combat twentieth century materialism. It publishes a small monthly pamphlet and provides weekly lectures by distinguished laymen on religious subjects. The Phos movement is now brought to the schools. Phos is providing, on Sunday mornings and afternoons, expert speakers on subjects of interest, from current events to prenatal care, in addition to a simple address along typical Phos lines.

The experiment was initiated in outlying districts of Athens, particularly in communities with communist leanings, and has proved so successful that the gatherings, too large for the classrooms, have been transferred to the school yard, and still hearers must come early to get a seat.

This vast program of physical reconstruction and moral and cultural rehabilitation which is still far from finished, could not have been carried out without the cooperation of the Greek armed forces, the Church, the Greek Red Cross, the Scout organizations far too numerous to mention.

The Greek people have won their victories, and they are slowly but surely winning the peace, with the inspired and constructive guidance of their King and Queen. Given time and the means, they will assume a place in the world again out of proportion to their size, for their spirit has been tried again and found not wanting.



Their Majesties accompanied by the Crown Prince during another visit to the earthquake-stricken islands of Cephalonia, Zante and Ithaca.



As this pamphlet comes out of press a new catastrophe has befallen Greece, caused by the earthquakes in the beautiful and fertile Ionian Islands, as a result of which 120,000 people have lost their all and are homeless.

This new calamity comes at a time when the Greek people were emerging from the economic woods, and proceeding with new faith in the future. But, though completely surprised, the Greeks are fighting back undaunted. They feel greatly encouraged in it by the immediate concerted action of the free world for relief work—with the U.S.A. and Great Britain leading in the effort.

The Royal Couple was again the first to be among the stricken population. Their first concern was about the children, for which they made immediate arrangements to be removed to Children's Centers in other parts of the country.



The Royal Couple comforting one of the recent earthquake victims in Zante.



The text of the present pamphlet has been compiled from the book «The Royal House of Greece» by Air Vice-Marshal Arthur S. Gould Lee —1948, Richard Clay and Co. Inc.— to whom we are greatly indebted for his gracious offer to quote freely from his very informative book on the Greek Royal Couple. Air Vice-Marshal Gould Lee has closely watched events in Greece ever since World War II broke out till 1947.

To Mrs. Ann Anthony (pen-name of a former official of the American Embassy in Athens) we are also greatly indebted for the text in the present pamphlet pertaining to events since 1948, out of her own experience during her long years of stay in Greece. This material is taken from her articles that are appearing in the American Press on the subject of the Greek situation and Greek problems.

