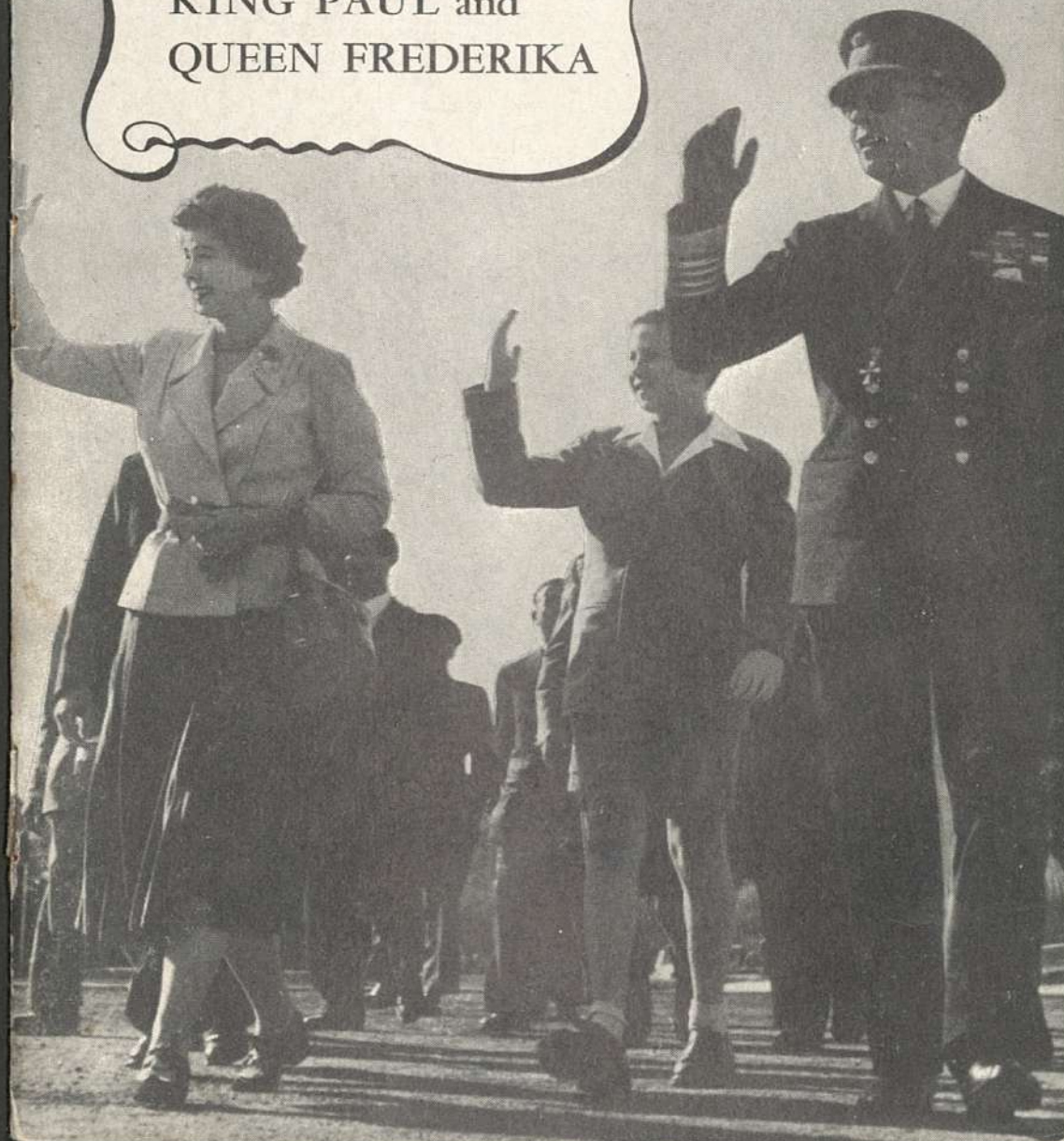


Greece's
KING PAUL and
QUEEN FREDERIKA



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Wedding of Crown Prince Paul of Greece and Princess Frederika
on January 9, 1938

Greece's **KING PAUL and QUEEN FREDERIKA**

EARLY YEARS

HIS MAJESTY KING PAUL was born in Athens on December 14, 1901, and was the third son of the late King Constantine and Queen Sophia. He received his early education in Greece, and in the tradition of the Royal Family, was trained for service in the armed forces. He chose a career in the Royal Hellenic Navy and graduated in 1922 with the rank of Ensign. In that year he saw active war service on board the cruiser "Helle."

In his youth, the Prince spent several years abroad. He took a keen interest in technical and industrial developments and in the life of the working people, and under an assumed name worked for a year as an ordinary mechanic in the Armstrong-Siddeley airplane and automobile factory at Coventry, England. In 1925, 1934 and 1935 Prince Paul paid informal visits to the United States. During these visits, the Prince, traveling extensively, acquired an intimate knowledge of the American way of life. He visited the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis as well as many American Universities and made numerous friends in this country. He also established contacts with many Greek Orthodox church communities in America composed of Americans of Greek descent.

In 1935, Prince Paul returned to Greece. He resumed active service as a Commander in the Royal Hellenic Navy



and took up his official duties as Crown Prince, or Heir Apparent to the Greek Throne. Among his many interests, aviation was prominent. He obtained his pilot's license in 1936. The Crown Prince also took the Boy Scout movement under his special patronage and by his ceaseless efforts and encouragement gave great impetus to its activities. The Prince always was, and still remains, a great sportsman. He is an accomplished horseman, a mountain climbing enthusiast and skier, but most of all he enjoys sailing and water sports in the idyllic island-studded seas of Greece.

Very tall, extremely handsome, with the free and easy democratic manners of the born sailor, Prince Paul in the late thirties was the Prince Charming of Greece and Europe's most eligible Royal Bachelor. An auspicious fate brought to him as his bride the prettiest and most gracious of Europe's Princesses.

QUEEN FREDERIKA was Princess of Hanover, Duchess of Brunswick and Luneburg, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria, and was born at the ancient castle of Blankenburg in the Hartz Mountains of West Germany. An only daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Brunswick-Luneburg, she is the third of five children. A year after her birth the ducal family moved to a small town in Austria where she grew up.

Surrounded by four brothers the little Princess early developed the energetic streak in her character which was to stand her in such good stead in the performance of her arduous royal duties, but at the same time she never lost the feminine grace with which nature endowed her. Until the age of 14 she was educated at home under the care of an English governess and private tutors. She was taught to be simple and unaffected and in fact was brought up like any girl belonging to a well-to-do upper middle class family.

An Angel of Mercy bringing comfort and encouragement to the wounded.



The Princess had a sparkling and vivacious mind, was full of curiosity and always fond of reading. Her imaginative temperament gave her an inclination for the colorful myths and legends of ancient Greece. As a child, she loved to listen to stories from the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer, the adventures of the heroes of the Trojan War and of the resourceful Odysseus. Was this some strange premonition of her destiny to become Queen of the land of Hellas? Her favorite Greek Goddess was Pallas Athena, patroness of Athens, whose beneficent graciousness she was to inherit.

At 17 she was sent to boarding school in England where she was top of her class for five terms. Then she took courses in home and farm economy at a girls' agricultural school in Obernkirchen. Later she completed her studies at an American college in Florence, Italy, where she often visited Queen Helen of Rumania and Princess Irene of Greece at whose "Villa Sparta" she first met their brother Prince Paul who was to become her husband. This was in 1936. The handsome, dashing Prince and the sprightly and beautiful Princess were attracted to one another and kept up a correspondence for more than a year until they met again at Gmunden, in Austria in 1937 at a hunting party. There Prince Paul and Princess Frederika were engaged. The official announcement was published in Athens on September 27 and was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the Greek people.

WEDDING OF CROWN PRINCE PAUL AND PRINCESS FREDERIKA

The Prince and Princess were married in Athens on January 9, 1938. Forty bishops of the Greek Orthodox Church in their magnificent vestments and fifty-five members of Europe's royal houses gave splendor to the cere-

A King and Queen determined, portly and cheerful.



monial. It was, and has remained, a happy marriage in every way. The aura of romance which surrounded it not only brought a breath of youthfulness into the Court of King George II, a lonely and scholarly man, but above all inspired the people of Greece with a new spirit of cheerfulness and hope and confidence. Here was a fairy-story come true in this matter-of-fact modern life. A happy ending, but with a promise of a charming sequel. For was not this wedding the beginning of a new era?

CLOUDLESS SKIES

In the cloudless skies of those early days no one could predict the storm that was brewing and was destined to engulf Greece in a tidal wave of horror. The young royal couple established themselves in a pleasant and unpretentious villa on the outskirts of Athens and devoted themselves whole-heartedly to their princely duties. Princess Frederika, like her husband, spoke English and German perfectly but of course knew no Greek. She began learning this difficult language with great determination—a quality she brings to everything she undertakes—and she now speaks it fluently adding to its inflections the charm and spontaneity of her earnestness. The Princess soon won the devoted admiration of all who came in contact with her by her tireless activity on behalf of welfare organizations, hospitals, orphanages, etc. Unsparing of herself, she was, and is, a challenge and example to all.

A first child, Princess Sophie, was born to the Prince and Princess on November 2, 1938. The second, a son, Prince Constantine, now Crown Prince of Greece, was born on June 2, 1940.

Father and Son



THE GATHERING STORM

King George II had no children and therefore the eyes of the nation were focused with affection upon the First Family living a simple, active and constructive life in the unostentatious villa at Psychico.

But this serene atmosphere was not destined to last long. Before dawn on October 28, 1940, Mussolini's fascists launched a vicious surprise attack on Greece with all the armed might of a nation six times its size. The heroic defense which the Greeks put up is now common knowledge. Not only was the fascist invasion repulsed but the invaders in defeat after defeat over a period of nearly six months were driven far beyond the northern borders of Greece into Albanian territory. Hitler was forced to come to the aid of his ally and the formidable weight of his mechanized divisions overcame the gallant resistance with which the Greeks opposed the Nazis also. On April 23, 1941, the King, the Royal Family and the Government fled to the island of Crete where a last stand was made, and when Crete fell they moved to Egypt to organize Greek resistance abroad.

During this first period of the war, Prince Paul served with the Greek General Staff at the front and in Crete. Princess Frederika immediately took up war work and gave the first proofs of her remarkable organizing abilities, her sound practical sense, her capacity for hard work and her gift for inspiring those around her. She organized Collecting and Assistance stations for wounded soldiers. They became the nucleus of an organization which still operates today to keep the Greek soldiers well supplied with woolens. She became a familiar figure at the hospitals in Athens and at the front—an angel of mercy whose graciousness, warmth and concern gave comfort and encourage-



Friends and Allies



ment to the wounded. She already showed her qualities as a morale-builder which later caused a foreign correspondent to exclaim: "That Queen is worth a whole army!"

THE WAR YEARS

After the fall of Crete on May 24, 1941, the King, the Royal Family and the Government went to Egypt and thence to South Africa. The King and the Government proceeded to London where they established their official headquarters. Princess Frederika and the Royal Children remained in the Union of South Africa. Her third child, Princess Irene, was born in Capetown on May 11, 1942. Field-Marshal Jan Smuts, Premier of the Union and a warm friend of Greece, became the Princess' godfather.

Prince Paul was called away on war duty in the army, the navy and at headquarters in London. He was with the Greek Brigade that fought with distinction at the Battle of El Alamein and constantly visited the Greek units established at various points in the Middle East. He also participated as an officer on the Greek destroyer "Miaoulis" in a daring allied naval operation off the Italian coast near Taranto. It was his ardent desire to be parachuted into Greece in order to participate in the active resistance movement against the Nazis, but the Allied Military Command would not grant his urgent and repeated requests.

Meanwhile, Princess Frederika was not idle. Like thousands of women all over the world she found herself separated from her beloved husband by the harsh necessities of war. But her positive nature did not allow her to remain inactive. In fact the very day she landed in Egypt from Greece she astonished everybody by starting to organize relief against the eventual day of her country's liberation

The Queen moved ceaselessly bringing comfort and aid to the people



which then seemed so distant. She established the "Crown Princess' Relief Fund" in Alexandria, transferred its headquarters to Capetown when she went there and quickly built up an organization with branches all over the Western World. \$2,000,000 were collected and when liberation came in October 1944 this money came in very useful for immediate relief in an appalling situation of misery and starvation. During the period of her stay in South Africa, the Princess traveled over 50,000 miles by air to supervise Fund activities. Mobile hospitals for the Greek troops were also organized under her direction and she founded a Seamen's Club in Capetown for Greek sailors on convoy duty who stopped there in great numbers.

RETURN TO GREECE

In the fall of 1944 the Nazis were driven out of Greece. They left the country in a state of indescribable misery. Nearly 11% of the population had died of starvation. The remainder suffered from severe exhaustion and malnutrition. The country was bankrupt. 90% of the industrial plant and equipment had been destroyed. 80% of the farm lands were ravaged. All livestock had perished. Harbors, railroads and public works had been smashed. Every highway and railroad bridge had been blown up. All railroad tunnels and the Corinth canal had been destroyed by dynamite. All that remained was the shell of a country and the shadow of a people. And this tragic situation was shamelessly exploited by International Communism. In 1945 an invasion of guerilla forces trained, equipped and master-minded from the red sanctuary of Greece's communist neighbors, burned and pillaged 1,700 Greek villages, slaughtered thousands of men, women and children, who in spite of their sufferings still had the spirit to resist the communist scourge, and drove 700,000 homeless and des-

Their Majesties being carried on the shoulders of young rehabilitated communists at the Prince of Wales School.



titute countryfolk into the larger cities where they swarmed as refugees to make an already hopeless situation more hopeless still.

It was in this grim atmosphere that the Royal Family returned in 1946 to the scene of their former happiness. On April 1, 1947, King George II died of a heart attack and at 8 o'clock on the same evening Prince Paul took the oath as King Paul I of the Hellenes.

KING AND QUEEN

No Sovereigns ever had so arduous a task before them. To a young Royal Couple not endowed with the determined, positive and cheerful disposition of King Paul and Queen Frederika, the obstacles ahead might well have appeared insurmountable. They were indeed formidable. On the one hand there was a ruined land to be built up again with no money in the treasury, on the other hand there was a full scale war against well-equipped communist forces to be fought with an army that had been disbanded by the Nazis and had no adequate materials or supplies.

THE FAITHFUL ALLY

At this juncture the United States stepped into the breach and by its intervention in that spring of 1947, saved a gallant little nation that had fought so hard for its freedom from being engulfed by the communist invasion. Equipment and supplies were rushed to Greece swiftly and in sufficient quantities to enable Field-Marshal Alexander Papagos, the victor of the Albanian campaign of 1940-41 and today Prime Minister of Greece, to reorganize an efficient army of 200,000 which finally and decisively defeated the communists in 1949. Without the timely aid

of the United States and without the unquenchable determination of the Greek people to fight communism to the bitter end, Greece today would have shared the tragic fate of other democratic countries which have passed behind the Iron Curtain.

At the same time the United States stepped up the program of aid for the rehabilitation of the country. In this field again, the seed of dollars fell on fertile ground, for the Greek people, ever sturdy, thrifty, hard-working and inured to hardships by three thousand years of struggle for survival, in accepting American aid with gratitude never shirked the task of aiding themselves to the full measure of their ability, and worked hard to rebuild their shattered country with the means so generously provided.

A SOUND INVESTMENT

The American investment in Greece has indeed been sound in security and in goodwill. The Greek people will never forget that the great Democracy of the West whose culture and civilization stem from that of ancient Athens saved them from the horror of communist enslavement. Indeed it is the purpose of Their Majesties the King and Queen, in responding willingly to the invitation of President Eisenhower to visit the United States, to take every opportunity to express to the people of America the thanks and gratitude of all the Greeks for their salvation. At the same time it is a noteworthy fact that the Greeks themselves fought a grueling war in rugged mountain country for nearly four years and achieved the first total military victory over communism in the world. A victory of democracy over totalitarianism. Greece is maintaining a large army on a war footing which together with the armed forces of her close ally, Turkey, stands guard on the north-



eastern shore of the Mediterranean. This strategic barrier against communist encroachment in the Middle East is of great value to American security.

The rehabilitation program has been a complete success. Roads, bridges, tunnels, canals, harbors, railroads have all been rebuilt through the co-operation of American skill and Greek effort. Industry is working again at 130% of pre-war capacity and agriculture has been developed to about the same proportion of its former yield. Although many problems still face the country, the prospects are hopeful and the Sovereigns and people of Greece look to the future with confidence.

THE KING AND QUEEN AT THE FRONT —

During the communist war Their Majesties paid frequent visits to the front to encourage the troops and the population in the ravaged areas of northern Greece. They were often in the firing zone but no peril would deter them from the accomplishment of what they considered to be their duty. In 1948, the King suffered from typhoid fever and the Queen volunteered to take his place and visit the border-town of Konitsa, beleaguered by the communists. The Red loud-speakers taunted the defenders of the town, blaring: "They say your Queen is coming to visit you. She'll never dare!" Hardly had the rasping voice died down, than the astounded fighters on the barricades saw a slim, girlish figure climbing through the smoking ruins. The Queen was with them in the front line and the town was saved.

Everywhere, in the great northern areas devastated by the communists, during and after the conflict, the Queen moved ceaselessly, bringing comfort and aid to the people.

My Strength is in the Love of the People



Her courage and her endurance won her the undying devotion of the Greeks.

A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH

The duties of a Constitutional Monarch at the head of a democracy are by no means light. While responsibility for government rests entirely with the administration elected by the people, the King by a series of carefully prescribed constitutional provisions is the supreme guardian of the people's liberties. He is the formal head of the Judicial Power, the Executive Power and of the Armed Forces, but always acts on the advice and through the medium of the appropriate Minister of State who is elected by the people. If the King feels strongly enough on any matter to disagree with his government, he has the right to demand its resignation or even to dissolve parliament. This very rarely happens and when it does the difference is again resolved democratically by the people who immediately hold elections for a new parliament and may if they choose re-elect the same government. The democratic safeguards in the Constitution are such that Greece's form of government is called in Greek a "Crowned Democracy," i.e. a democracy with a King at its head.

MORAL INFLUENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN

Tradition plays a great part in the psychology of a people with a history as long and glorious as that of Greece. And while the democratic tradition stems from ancient Athens and fulfills the extremely individualistic and freedom-loving temperament of the Greeks, the Royal tradition is also powerful through its associations, deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, with the Greek Byzantine Empire

The King and Queen with Princess Irene (left), Princess Sophia and the Crown Prince at the ancient Greek theater of Dionysos



which gave Greece eleven centuries of almost uninterrupted peace, trade, prosperity and happiness at a time when mediaeval Europe was in a state of savagery. Greek Constitutional Monarchy is a happy combination of the two traditions. Thus the Sovereign has a great moral responsibility and can exert great moral influence. The Greeks look up to their Royal Family and find in it the reflection of ideal family life according to conservative Greek standards. In times of stress and misfortune such as those recently traversed by the Greek people, the example of hard work, self-sacrifice, compassion and understanding emanating from the First Family of the nation is of inestimable moral value. It is indeed fortunate for Greece that King Paul and Queen Frederika by their upbringing and by their natural qualities of simplicity, generosity and humanity have become a source of inspiration to their people in all walks of life.

THE ROYAL CHILDREN

Because the moral responsibilities of kingship are so great, the King and Queen have given much thought to the education of the Crown Prince, who will one day succeed his father, and of the Princesses. In infancy the Royal Children were entrusted to the care of a Scottish nurse. The young Princesses were later sent to a small girls' school outside Athens where they were taught with other Greek children. The Crown Prince began school in 1948. His former tutor opened a school for children at Anavryta near Athens. The Prince was sent to it and receives his education on an equal footing with the local boys. His best friend is the son of a private killed at the front. The Prince will stay at Anavryta until he graduates. Then he will enter the Greek Military Academy, to be



The Royal Children are natural, unaffected and unspoiled.



trained as an army officer like his uncle the late King George II. It is his parents' wish that when the Crown Prince grows up he should be sent to serve an apprenticeship in mining and other industries and also in farm work so that he may acquire a first-hand knowledge of the problems of the people.

The two Princesses are now at boarding school in Germany. All three children speak excellent English and German besides their native tongue.

They spend their holidays with their parents either at their summer residence at Tatoi or on the island of Petalioi where the King rents a small villa by the sea. There they enjoy a simple family life. They take no servants except a cook and spend their time swimming, sailing and fishing. It is a normal, healthy life such as that enjoyed by most American children in vacation time.

The Crown Prince is a keen boy scout, and the Princesses also are girl scouts. Princess Sophie has started accompanying her mother on visits to hospitals and other charities.

All three children are high-spirited, natural, unaffected and unspoiled. They are treated with complete informality by their parents and court officials. Like all the Royal Family, they belong to the Greek Orthodox faith and attend church regularly.

WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS INITIATED BY H. M. KING PAUL

In spite of his many official functions the King has devoted a great deal of his time to the organization of several extremely effective welfare projects which owe



Mother of the Children of Greece



their creation to his personal initiative. They all demonstrate the feeling which the King has that the spiritual and moral welfare of a nation emerging from great trials can only be served adequately through institutions functioning on a permanent basis and capable of progressive expansion.

In 1949 the King, speaking at the Academy of Athens, declared a national rally of fellowship and loving-kindness, and proceeded to inaugurate the "*Welfare Fund for the Victims of the Communist Attack*." To date the Fund has raised \$2,700,000 and has assisted over 750,000 persons in areas which bore the brunt of Communist aggression. The Fund has built 451 schools to replace those destroyed, several churches, and a block of 24 houses outside Athens for homeless victims.

The King also actively sponsored the organization of "*Friends of the Village*," an association within the Fund to rehabilitate villages destroyed by the Nazis and Communists through the adoption of specific villages by foreign towns or organizations. By the end of 1952, 498 villages had been adopted and 437 completely rehabilitated. Assistance was given to 174,811 persons and help received from America and other foreign countries exceeded \$4,000,000. The Friends of the Village are now working feverishly to aid the victims of the earthquakes in the Ionian Islands.

When he was in Egypt during the war King Paul conceived his plan for the establishment of the *National Institute*. This organization which now has 19 branches all over Greece aims at raising living and educational standards. The King presides in person over all meetings of its Board of Trustees. Its activities include improvement of agriculture, the establishment of farm schools—eight new schools have been added to the eleven previously in existence—re-forestation, the establishment of technical schools,



King Paul handing over a house to a victim of communist aggression



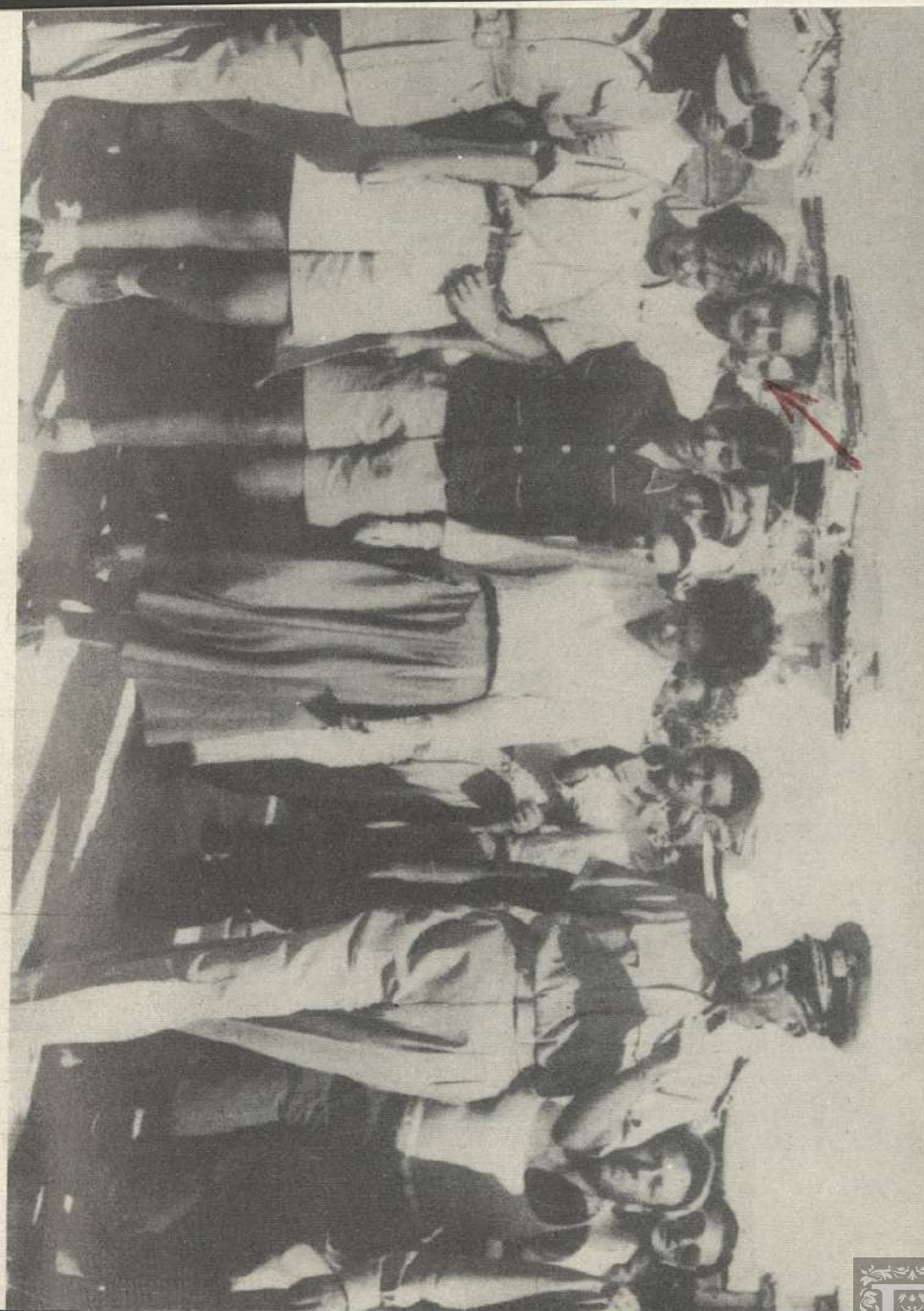
recreation sea-trips for workers, the establishment of a national center for teachers aiming at extending the outside interests of schoolteachers, the general improvement of education and the promotion of local self-government through a special Committee for Municipalities which aids towns and villages in introducing experimental measures in local government and in obtaining interest-free loans for public works. Among these activities most interesting is the experiment undertaken by the technical schools on the island of Leros aiming at the spiritual rehabilitation of young men led astray by the communists during the conflict. Fifteen hundred young men have graduated from these schools and have returned to their communities morally equipped to become good citizens and practically equipped to earn a living.

The King is keenly interested in all youth activities, the boy-scout movement and the promotion of sports. He is Chairman of the Olympic Games Committee and is planning the building of a new Olympic Stadium outside Athens.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES OF H. M. QUEEN FREDERIKA

Although peace has been restored to Greece for the past four years, Queen Frederika feels that there is still so much to be done, particularly among the children of Greece, that she continues to work with the same energy and earnestness that she showed during the war period. Her overall welfare organization is known as the *Queen's Fund* and it includes the following activities: *Children's Agricultural Centers*: Founded to encourage village children in constructive activities, to give them some technical training and to

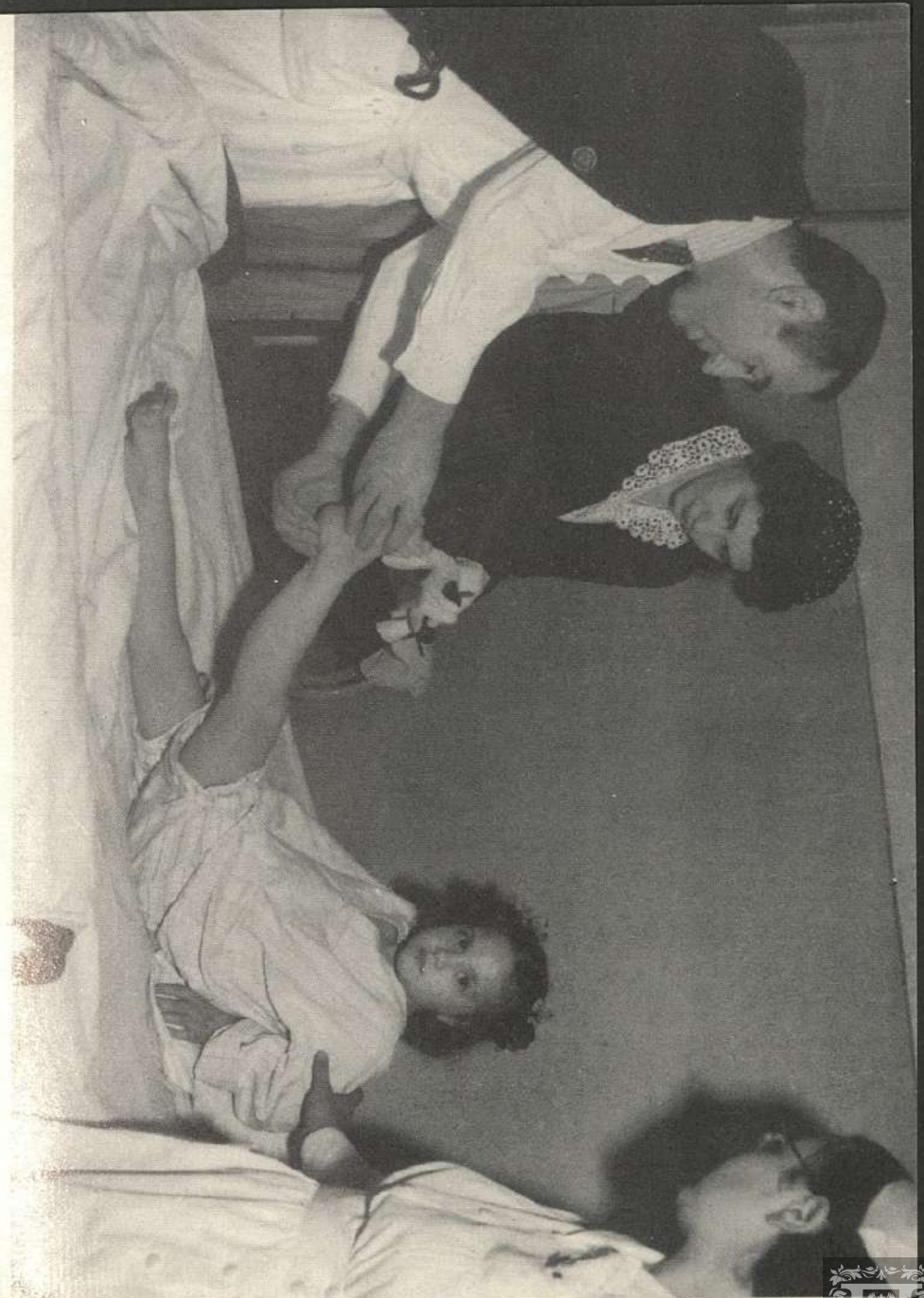
Their Majesties visit the devastated Ionian Islands earthquake area



improve their moral, religious and living standards. Physical education and participation in community projects are also promoted. In 1952, 3,000 orphaned and abandoned children—many of them abandoned by communist parents—were cared for in 11 Children's Colonies and Technical Schools. Today 14 such Colonies are functioning. They are an outgrowth of the 52 emergency Children's Colonies founded by the Queen during the communist war which sheltered, clothed, fed and gave medical care, schooling and vocational training to over 18,000 children. In 1950, 15,000 of these children were returned to their villages with a double set of new clothing and two blankets. *Children's Nurseries:* Under the sponsorship of the Queen five Children's Nurseries have been set up with more to follow. Each takes care of 100 children between the ages of 2 to 7 whose mothers have to work away from home. *Infants' Home and Children's Hospital:* On a privately donated estate near Athens an Infants' Home has been established under the supervision of the Queen. There are seven buildings for the care of babies born to unwed mothers. The Queen's Fund also provides equipment and clothing for the Children's Hospital. *Y.W.C.A. and Girl Scouts:* The Queen is honorary President of the Greek Girl Scouts and takes an active interest in the organization. The Queen's Fund also makes donations to advance the work of the Y.W.C.A.

Queen Frederika's magnificent work on behalf of the children has won for her the name of Mother of the Children of Greece. To thousands of little orphans she is truly a mother, bringing to them not the cold solace of organized charity, but the warmth and tenderness and love of true motherhood. For she visits her colonies and homes constantly and keeps in touch with the children. She also

The Children of Greece are her first duty



inspires her assistants with the warmth of feeling that radiates from her. And wherever she goes she makes her convictions contagious.

**MY STRENGTH IS IN THE
LOVE OF THE PEOPLE**

These are the words which appear on the scroll at the foot of the Royal Arms. By their total dedication to the welfare and happiness of the Greek People, Their Majesties King Paul and Queen Frederika have won its undying love and devotion. Never in all history has a throne been so firmly established.

