

Commentary on 5 historic letters used in the INK of Freedom project research

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1) Letter from Aris Fakinos to Phaedon Vegleris

This is a letter from the author Aris Fakinos (1935–1998) to university professor Phaedon Vegleris (1903–1998). At the time the letter was written (September 2, 1971), Fakinos was in Paris, where he had taken refuge in May 1967 after the imposition of the dictatorship in Greece. Vegleris was also in France, having self-exiled after being dismissed from the Law School of the University of Athens by the dictatorship regime. Both Fakinos and Vegleris were active in anti-dictatorship efforts during the seven-year period.

In this letter, Fakinos mentions that he will not be able to attend a meeting of Democratic Defense (DA) in Bonn but wishes it success. DA was an anti-dictatorship organization that included actions such as bombings. Around the time of this meeting, members transporting explosives were arrested. Two years earlier, in 1969, many DA members had been arrested after an accident involving Sakis (Dionysis) Karagiorgas, a professor at Panteion University. Karagiorgas was injured when a bomb exploded in his hands. On April 12, 1970, a military court sentenced him to life imprisonment and convicted 19 others.

Fakinos also mentions granting authorization to Karagiorgas for an unknown purpose. The letter contains underlined words (possibly by Vegleris) in red pencil, with a handwritten note at the end: *“I underlined with red pencil the reckless and rather arrogant words of this young man. What he writes here contradicts the attached authorization.”*

2) Letter from Christos Panos

This letter is addressed to Giannis Gianoulopoulos, who graduated from the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Athens in 1965 and was active in student movements. After graduation, Gianoulopoulos pursued postgraduate studies abroad (France and England) and participated in anti-dictatorship activities.

In his letter, Panos requests updates on political developments and shares information about people he knows and his studies. Many individuals mentioned were associated with *Epitheorisi Technis (Art Review)*, a magazine published between 1954 and 1967 before being shut down by the dictatorship. Notable figures include Porfiris Konidis (1910–1967), editor-in-chief; Kostas Kouloufakos (1924–1994), founding member; Giorgos Petris (1916–1997), editorial board member; and Giannis Kalioris (1939–), collaborator.

The letter also references composer Mikis Theodorakis (1925–2021) and poet Fontas Ladis (1943–). Kostas Diveris sends regards at the end; he was a member of Lambrakis Democratic Youth in Weimar.

3) Letter from Markos [Dragoumis?] to Sarra Skourtelli Regarding Printed Materials

Markos Dragoumis (1926–2011), a physician and politician who faced persecution during the 1950s, wrote this letter while living in England during the dictatorship. Sarra Skourtelli was also involved in anti-dictatorship efforts as a member of organizations like PAM (Patriotic Anti-Dictatorship Front) Abroad.

The letter discusses procuring and distributing printed materials. Dragoumis mentions sending promotional materials to Petros Kounalakis (1937–2020), a journalist and economist who lived abroad during the dictatorship.

4) Letter from Virginia Tsouderou to George Mylonas

Virginia Tsouderou (1924–2018), an economist and politician who opposed the junta as secretary-general of EMEP (Society for the Study of Greek Problems), writes to George Mylonas (1919–1998). Mylonas had been exiled after escaping detention by the regime.

Tsouderou discusses reactions to Mylonas's escape among centrist politicians engaged in resistance efforts. She expresses concerns about whether their actions align with uniting centrist forces. Prominent figures mentioned include Ioannis Zigdis (1913–1997), Georgios Mavros (1909–1995), Yiangos Pesmazoglou (1918–2003), and Nikolaos Bakopoulos (1886–1969).

5) Letter [or Report] from an Unknown Author to Stratis Someritis Describing Post-Polytechnic Uprising Conditions

Stratis Someritis (1901–1978) received this letter/report dated January 12, 1974. It describes conditions following the Polytechnic Uprising, including arbitrary arrests by authorities.

The author critiques statements by right-wing politician Georgios Rallis about restoring democracy as overly optimistic. They highlight divisions within military leadership between those favoring continued military rule and others seeking disengagement from governance responsibilities.

The letter also references events such as oil discoveries in Thasos in 1973, predictions about declining tourism due to economic crises, and domestic calls for coalition governments involving KKE Interior for “national unity.” It concludes with observations about new government appointees lacking prominence—indicative of reluctance among notable figures to participate without guarantees on timelines for change.

This document provides insights into political dynamics during Greece's dictatorship era through correspondence among key figures involved in resistance movements or political analysis.