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MARKEZINIS, SPYRIDON

Leader of the Progressive Party.

Born 1909 of a family of Italian origin which had settled in Santorini from Cephalonia in the 19th century. Studied law and political science. Became one of the King's legal advisers in 1935 and was one of the principal organisers of King George's return to Greece in 1946.

Entered politics in 1946. Instrumental in forming the Greek Rally Party in 1951. Had considerable success as Minister of Co-ordination 1952-54 in initiating measures for economic recovery but fell out with Papagos in 1954 and formed his own Progressive Party, a move he later recognised to be a mistake. In the last '50s and early '60s adopted first a Venizelist neutralist line, collaborating with the Centre Union in the 1961 elections, and then swung round to support Karamanlis.

Following the 1967 coup, he remained on friendly terms with the military regime and was eventually rewarded when Papadopoulos appointed him in October 1973 Prime Minister in the controversial civilian Government of October-November 1973. The Polytechnic disturbances in November 1973 sealed his fate and led directly to Ioannides' 25 November coup against Papadopoulos.

After a period of political inactivity, during which he wrote his memoirs, re-entered politics in November 1979 with a revived Progressive Party which advocates a free enterprise "liberal" economy and a "pragmatic" (ie pro-western and pro-American) foreign policy.

A funny-looking frog-like little man, he is one of the most prominent figures of the old political world. Despite his failure in 1973, has complete faith in his own mission. A strong sense of humour. Probably guilty of shady financial deals at various times, his main political weakness has been overweening ambition. As a result, he had found it difficult to co-operate with other politicians. Religious to the point of superstition.

A warm admirer of Britain, though not always of British policies. Goes to London frequently. His English is sometimes difficult to understand, but he is a lively and indefatigable conversationalist. Has published 6 volumes of beautifully illustrated history of Modern Greece and an English version is planned.

Has a charming and intelligent wife of a London Greek family. There is one son, who taught, until recently, Byzantine Law in Cambridge and still practices as barrister in London; and a daughter married to a Greek diplomat.

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MITSO TAKIS, CONSTANTINE

Minister of Coordination since May 1978.

Born Chania (Hania) 1918. Lawyer, related to the Venizelos family on his mother's side. After taking part in the Cretan resistance, elected Deputy for Chania in 1946 under the wing of the late Sophocles Venizelos. Under-Secretary for Finance in February 1951, in the Venizelos-Papandreou coalition, retaining the appointment in Venizelos' Government in July and taking on the Ministry of Public Works as well for a short spell in October of the same year. Retained his seat in 1951, 1952 and 1956.

After the Liberal Party's defeat in the 1958 elections, quarrelled with its official leadership which he held responsible. Supported George Papandreou temporarily when the party split in November 1958. Joined the NPK (New Political Movement) when it was founded in January 1960 and threw in his lot with the Centre Union in 1961. Minister of Finance under George Papandreou November-December 1963 and again February 1964, and a bitter rival of Andreas Papandreou. Member of the Novas Government (July-August 1965) as Minister of Coordination and Merchant Marine, and its dominant personality. Retained the post of Minister of Coordination in the subsequent Stephanopoulos "apostate" government, for which he earned the hatred of many Centre Union politicians.

He spent several years in exile following the 1967 coup and became one of the military regime's most vehement critics. Was nevertheless allowed to return to Greece in late 1973, a move he made for family as much as for political reasons. Although he made no public statements after coming back, was active in the old political world and made himself unpopular with the military authorities. Karamanlis would probably have given him a portfolio in the 1974 caretaker government, but the proposal is believed to have foundered as a result of the hostility of Ioannis Pismazoglou and his New Forces group.

In the November 1974 election stood as an independent for Chania but owing to the system of weighted proportional representation was not elected though he had a high poll. Formed the New Liberals Party in early 1977 and elected to Parliament in November 1977, helped by an amendment to the electoral system. Appointed Minister of Coordination in May 1978 by Karamanlis to strengthen the Government's appeal in the Centre and to boost its experience and expertise. Dominates economic policy and has a finger in many aspects of public and business affairs. Owns the newspaper Kytyx of Chania.

A dynamic and adroit politician. Tall, distinguished and intelligent, though said not to be above corruption and not widely popular except in his native Crete.

Visited UK November 1979 as official guest of Secretary of State for Trade.

Married with two daughters and a still quite young son. His second language is German. He also speaks French and, although he prefers not to use it, quite good English. His elder daughter, Mrs Dora Bakoyaianni, who works as his personal secretary, speaks fluent English as does his wife.

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