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ECLIPSE IN RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 16 19 OCT 1973 WSA 3/304/1

BRITISH EMBASSY, ATHENS.

Handwritten initials and date: 19/10

18 October 1973

A C Goodison Esq Foreign & Commonwealth Office London

Handwritten notes: Copy to Mr Wiggins, NENAD 32, Mr Baker Mr Conroy Reg 19/10

Jean Alam.

I went to pass the time of day with the US Ambassador on 16 October.

2. Tasca does not appear to be unduly worried by Markezinis's reputation for being not particularly well-disposed towards the Americans - he seems to have no qualms, for instance, about the future of the home-porting programme. He confirmed what the Foreign Minister had told me earlier in the day - namely that contrary to press reports here there had been no request to the Greeks for facilities or overflying in connexion with the "resupply" - which seems now to be the OK US word for it - of Israel. From what I could gather, the Americans are in fact conducting the operation direct from the U S via the Azores, flight refuelling the aircraft to give them extra range.

3. On internal affairs, my rather volatile colleague seems to have gone overboard for Markezinis in a big way. He seems entirely to accept that the Markezinis venture is the only practical way back to democracy and the only alternative to a take-over by left or right, and he says he is going to recommend to his government that they should give it their full support.

4. One interesting detail. He told me - in great confidence, so "please protect" - that Tom Pappas (the Greek-American tycoon who has the Esso concession and a number of other very profitable franchises here, subscribed heavily to Nixon's campaign fund, and is the bogey-man of the Anti-American left) told Tasca recently that he had seen Karamanlis in London. Karamanlis had told him that he entirely approved of Markezinis's accepting office and wished him luck. One wonders when - or if - Karamanlis will get around to saying this in public. We may hear more about this when Averoff comes back from seeing him in Paris.

Yours ever

Robin Hooper R W J Hooper

Handwritten notes: FC09/1712, WSA 3/304/1

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