

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “9/20/74 - Greek Festival” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Betty Ford donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

## GREEK FESTIVAL RIBBON CUTTING

GOOD MORNING. IT IS A REAL HONOR TO BE HERE TODAY, AND I  
APPRECIATE YOUR INVITATION VERY MUCH. MY HUSBAND SAID THIS  
MORNING HE WOULD HAVE LIKED VERY MUCH TO COME ALONG, BUT WITH  
THE REPUTATION YOUR FESTIVAL HAS FOR DELICIOUS FOOD -- IT WOULD  
BE THE LAST OF HIS DIET IF HE DID! SO WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I'LL  
TAKE HIM BACK YOUR BEST WISHES -- BUT DEPRIVE HIM OF YOUR BAKLAVA! \*  
... UNLESS YOU'VE LEARNED TO MAKE A LOW-CALORIE VERSION ...

\*BOCK'LA VA'

MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE LONG HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS FOR THE GREEK COMMUNITY. ONE OF JERRY'S FIRST JOBS WAS WORKING IN A RESTAURANT ACROSS THE STREET FROM HIS HIGH SCHOOL. IT WAS RUN BY A MAN OF GREEK HERITAGE, WHO WAS VERY GOOD TO MY HUSBAND. JERRY HAS OFTEN REMARKED HOW MUCH HE ADMIRED HIS BOSS, AND I THINK EVERYBODY ADMIRED THE SPIRIT AND CLOSENESSS OF THAT GREEK FAMILY AND THEIR STRONG TIES TO THEIR HERITAGE AND BACKGROUND.

~~I ONLY WISH THAT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE COULD GROW UP IN THE SPIRIT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADULTS~~

THIS IS, INDEED, A FESTIVAL -- YOU HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD  
OF AND GOOD REASON TO CELEBRATE. I CAN ONLY HOPE THIS IS THE 12TH  
OF HUNDREDS OF SUCH CELEBRATIONS!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MRS. FORD

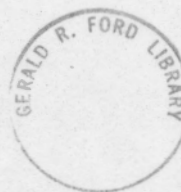
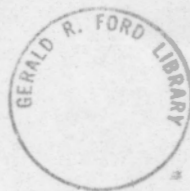
FROM:

RIC SARDO

Brent Scowcroft's recommendation on your participation in the Greek Church Festival is attached for your discussion with the President for final decision.

I would recommend that we go with the commitment, conditional on the Secret Service's O.K. regarding the security risks. We should also use Bill Henkle's personnel for advancing purposes.

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

3941

ADMINISTRATIVELY  
CONFIDENTIAL

September 11, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR RIC SARDO.

FROM: Brent Scowcroft *BS*

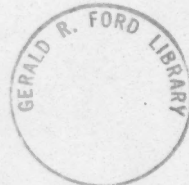
SUBJECT: First Lady's Participation in Greek Church Festival

This is in reply to your query of September 9 as to whether the First Lady should honor a commitment, made while the President was Vice President, to serve as Honorary Chairman of the Saint Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church Festival to be held in Washington, D. C. September 20-22, 1974.

From the viewpoint of foreign policy, it would be in the United States' interests for the First Lady to honor this commitment, and, generally, her participation in the ribbon-cutting ceremony should be well received by the Greek-American community.

However, the local Greek-American community has been quite active in recent weeks protesting US policy towards Cyprus, and the possibility of demonstrators at the church festival cannot be ruled out. Accordingly, I believe that the greatest care will be required in the preparations for the First Lady's participation, not only with regard to the Secret Service's security responsibilities but also in terms of good advance planning with the church officials.

cc: Tom Korologos

ADMINISTRATIVELY  
CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

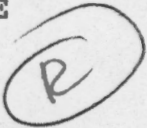
WASHINGTON

September 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BILL HENKLE

FROM:

RIC SARDO 

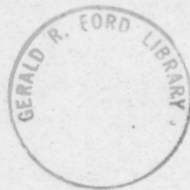
SUBJECT:

First Lady's Participation in  
Greek Church Festival

The First Lady will participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church vestival on Friday, September 20. Given our previous discussion on this event and the potential sensitivities, it is requested that your office do the advance in close coordination with the First Lady's Secret Service detail. Patty Matson will provide press advance support.

Please keep me informed on any potential problems in terms of this event and be guided by the original consideration that it be primarily culturally oriented.

cc: Staircase  
Susan Porter  
Patty Matson  
Helen Smith  
Nancy Howe





September 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BILL HENKLE

FROM:

RIC SARDO

SUBJECT:

First Lady's Participation in  
Greek Church Festival

The First Lady will participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church festival on Friday, September 20. Given our previous discussion on this event and the potential sensitivities, it is requested that your office do the advance in close coordination with the First Lady's Secret Service detail. Patty Matson will provide press advance support.

Please keep me informed on any potential problems in terms of this event and be guided by the original consideration that it be primarily culturally oriented.

cc: Staircase  
Susan Porter  
Patty Matson  
Helen Smith  
Nancy Howe





NANCYMRS. FORD'S SCHEDULEATTENDANCE AT  
GREEK FESTIVAL RIBBON CUTTINGSt. Constantine and Helen Greek  
Orthodox Church  
Friday, September 20, 197410:40 a.m. Mrs. Ford boards motorcade on the South Grounds.  
(EDT)MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route  
St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church,  
4115 16th Street, Northwest.

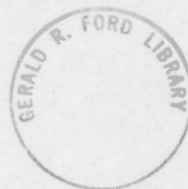
[Driving time: 15 minutes]

10:55 a.m. MOTORCADE ARRIVES Front Entrance (16th Street)  
of St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.OPEN PRESS COVERAGE  
CROWD SITUATIONAt curbside, Mrs. Ford will be met by:

Reverend James G. Kalaris, Pastor

Father Kalaris will escort Mrs. Ford through the  
crowd assembled in front of the church to the top  
of the church steps, where the program will transpire.  
There will be no seats on the platform.ATTENDANCE - 300  
OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

- 11:00 a.m. Opening prayer by Father Kalaris.
- 11:03 a.m. Hymns by the school choir.  
Raising of the flag.  
National Anthems (Greek and U.S.)
- 11:10 a.m. Greeting by Mr. Louis Tiches, President of the  
Greek Community.
- 11:14 a.m. Presentation of a bouquet to Mrs. Ford by Andrew  
Tzamaras and Anastasia Orfanoudis with Greek  
greeting and English translation.



11:15 a. m. Brief remarks by Mrs. Ford.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

Remarks conclude.

Mrs. Ford will be joined by Father Kalaris, Mr. Tiches, and Mrs. Gogos (Vice President of the Ladies' Organization) to proceed to the church door to cut the ribbon and officially open the Greek Festival.

11:20 a. m. Mrs. Ford will enter the church, escorted by the three individuals who assisted her in the ribbon-cutting, for a brief tour to view Byzantine Art Exhibit.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

11:25 a. m. Mrs. Ford and her escorts proceed to the school basement to attend a brief, informal reception with leaders of the Greek community, clergy, and representatives of the diplomatic corps and area government.

ATTENDANCE - 35

PRESS POOL PHOTO COVERAGE

11:40 a. m. Mrs. Ford and her escorts proceed to schoolyard and basement to view bazaar booths and exhibits.

NOTE: With the ribbon-cutting, the bazaar will now be opened to the public.

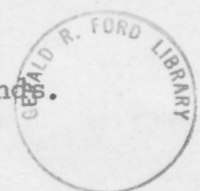
PRESS POOL PHOTO COVERAGE

12:00 noon Mrs. Ford, escorted by Father Kalaris, proceeds to her motorcade for boarding.

12:05 p. m. MOTORCADE DEPARTS Saint Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church en route South Grounds.

[Driving time: 15 minutes]

12:20 p. m. MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.



Thurs, Sept. 19

BACKGROUNDER on Greek Festival Ribbon Cutting

This is the 12th annual festival the Greek community has had. It has become a tradition, and now attracts some 15,000 people from the Washington, D.C., area during its three days.

The purpose of the festival is to raise funds for the church's educational activities -- for support of its parochial school and for support of the classes the church sponsors in public schools (they hold Greek language and cultural classes in schools and churches throughout Washington).

It is very much a light-type of event, with lots and lots of people and kids running around, lots of noise and dancing and Greek food (the women spend weeks baking their pastries and other foods, and it is a source of great pride for them. They would probably be flattered beyond belief if it turns out to be appropriate to taste something.)

Father Kalaris himself is a died-in-the-wool Democrat but a great Betty Ford fan. He has stressed over and over how impressed he was that in spite of what he termed 'the world coming down around you' on August 8, you kept your commitment to meet with him and do the publicity for the Festival.

The people in your audience and at the fair generally are a real cross-section of ages. Everything from early Greek immigrants in their 60s or 70s, to second and third generation Greek families to children who attend the parish school, Father Thomas Daniels Parochial School, who will attend the ribbon cutting and sing a hymn.

Father Kalaris himself has a father from Greece, a mother from Italy. He has been in the Washington, D.C. area for 21 years.

Father Kalaris voiced the hope that because of the Greek political situation, he particularly hoped you might make mention of your high esteem of Greek-Americans and what they contribute to this country. It would mean much to the Greek community, he said.

*pjm*  
patti



note:

It would seem like you might get some questions regarding US-Greek policy from some of the press who attends. A suggestion for type of response ...

(if the question is, for example ...)

How can you say such nice things to this organization when US policy toward Greece is so biased and unjust?

First, I should say that I am here to cut the ribbon for St. Constantine and Helen Church= because it is an important part of our community, but also because I think it is symbolic of all the contributions that have been made to our country by the Greek-American communities across the country.

As to the question of our US/foreign policy, I don't feel it would be appropriate to comment on that, but I'm sure you know that these questions have been answered in full by our secretary of state, and I would refer you to him.

