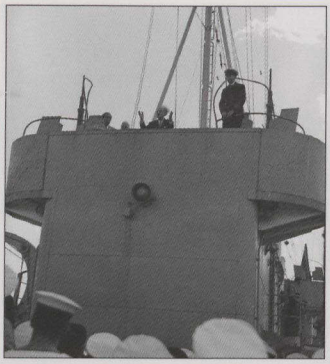

Georgios Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece, speaking to the Ship's Company of H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID before disembarking from the ship, which had returned him and his ministers to Greece (16 October 1944) (Library and Archives Canada; PD-717/ 1967-052 NPC)

Laflèche's dispatches from Athens. The ambassador flattered the aging prime minister with gifts of Greek antiquities and fulsome reports on plans to rename city streets in Athens and Piraeus in King's honour to celebrate Canada's contribution to Greece's liberation. Upon learning that an Athens street had been renamed in his honour, King confided to his diary that this "was the greatest [honour] of the many that have been bestowed in the course of my public life".[6] In 1947, King's name – resplendently carved on marble and lettered in gold – was placed on one of Piraeus' main streets to celebrate the "Canadian who, in his own right and as personifying Canada, is recalled even more vividly than ancient Zeus".[7]

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ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ Β!
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ

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OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANADA

R. Govt. Legation in Canada
Number 384
File #
Date Nov. 3 1942

Ottawa, November 2nd, 1942.

Confidential

Dear Mr. Depasta:-

I wish to advise, for your confidential information, that the Canadian Government propose to appoint Brigadier George Philias Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., as Canadian Minister to Greece in London.

It is also proposed that Brigadier Vanier would be Minister at the same time to the following countries: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

I may add that the agrément of your Government has been requested.

Yours sincerely.

George Depasta, Esquire,
Minister of Greece to Canada,
Legation of Greece,
Chateau Laurier,
O t t a w a.

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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
ARMY

Quebec, P.Q., 9th December 194 2.

My dear Collegue,

Our letters of the 7th December crossed. It shows that we were thinking of one another.

I am very grateful to you for the friendly sentiments which you express in your letter. May I repeat that I consider it a very high honour to have been appointed Minister to the Greek Government in London. I have a profound admiration for Greece, a martyr nation which stood in the path of the Nazis in their furious onslaught against free and civilized nations.

My wife and I thank you and Mrs. Depasta for your kind invitation to dinner on the 17th December. I am very sorry indeed that because of engagements in Quebec on that date, it is not possible for us to accept. However we both expect to be in Ottawa for a few days, possibly a week, during January. I shall let you know later the dates on which we shall be in Ottawa. My wife and I will call on Mrs. Depasta and you shortly after our arrival.

Will you please transmit to Mrs. Depasta my respectful good wishes.

Believe me, my dear collegue,
Very sincerely yours,

His Excellency George Depasta,
Minister of Greece,
Chateau Laurier, Ottawa.

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Ottawa, June 5, 1942

Atlantis,
303 W. 42th St., New York City

National Herald,
140 W. 26th St., New York City.

Mr. Depasta today presented to His Excellency the Governor General in official ceremony his letters accrediting him as the first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Greece to Canada stop After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Depasta had luncheon with HRH Princess Alice and Lord Athlone

Press Bureau

Correspondence referring to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Greece (1942-1949)