

difficult to strike the right balance between supporting Greek democracy and Canada's broader political interests in the Mediterranean country. Caught in this complex situation, the Canadian ambassador in Athens, H.F. Feaver, mocked the new regime's "ridiculous" attacks on miniskirts and "beatnik" long hair while grimly noting the junta's mounting human rights abuses. Despite these concerns, Feaver insisted that Ottawa back the new government as part of Canada's cold war strategy of keeping Greece "an effective partner in NATO."¹² His view was echoed in the Department of External Affairs, whose diplomats agreed that Canada ought to pursue a moderate course and avoid disrupting bilateral relations, conscious of "the importance there is from the military, economic and political points of view to provide for the continuance of good relations with Greece".¹³

Reconciling good relations with the military junta and Canada's democratic principles proved much more difficult than it looked. By 1968, Canadian officials were frequently pressed by Greek-Canadians anxious to help fellow Greeks imprisoned by the regime. In turn, the Greek embassy in Ottawa asked Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's government to take action against Greek dissidents visiting Canada, a request Canadian officials rejected.¹⁴ Indeed, Toronto would soon become a hotbed of democratic opposition to the junta. In 1969, the exiled socialist politician, Andreas Papandreou, arrived at York University, assuming the Osler-Hammond Lectureship in Economics. In time, he became a close friend of Canada's prime minister, the progressive Pierre Trudeau, the two men united by their scholarly backgrounds and their profound attachment to liberal democracy.

Papandreou, a staunch opponent of the military junta, used the freedom he enjoyed in Canada to protest loudly against the Greek regime. And along Toronto's Danforth Avenue, in small cafes like the Trojan Horse, Greek democrats dreamed and sang. "As the tables are upended", wrote one reporter of the atmosphere in the 1970s, "a song rises from the insurgents, a song that pits love against tyranny, warm tears against cold steel, an anthem of the heart that yearns



One of several streets in Greece named after Canada's 10th Prime Minister, Mackenzie King; this one in Thessaloniki