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Major parties discourage demonstrations

ATHENS.-

Ruling New Democracy's Central Committee Secretary Vangelis Meimarakis on Saturday said he disagreed with holding demonstrations and protests in Greece against Washington's decision to recognise the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) with its constitutional name 'Republic of Macedonia'. While he understood the "anger and outrage" that the U.S. decision triggered in Greek citizens, foreign policy could not be exercised on the basis of emotions but had to be programmed and planned, he told a regional ND conference in Thessaloniki. "We support the government's initiatives in the effort to find a mutually acceptable solution to the issue of [FYROM's] name. ND will not encourage protests and rallies," he added.

PASOK has also made it clear that they reject the notion of holding rallies, whatever their cause, while they described the American decision as a "mistaken action, which ignores the Greek position and does not contribute to stability in the region," in a congratulatory note sent to President Bush on his re-election by Georgios Papandreou. In a warning posted on the website of the United States Embassy in Athens, the U.S. State Department advises U.S. citizens living in Greece to be on their guard against the possibility of "heightened tension" and "reactions against American interests in Greece" that may be triggered by Washington's decision to recognise the Former Yugoslav Republic

Shame on you Mr President!!!

2,500 RALLY IN THESSALONIKI



Greek Americans protest strongly George Bush's decision to recognize FYROM as "The Republic of Macedonia"

NEW YORK.- GreekNews

The unexpected unilateral recognition of FYROM with the name of "Macedonia", just two days after the Presidential election, caused great reactions and the mobilization of the Greek-American Community. The feelings in our Community against President Bush are extremely bitter, especially to those who voted for him on November 2 and have contributed financially to his re-election campaign.

The Archbishop of America Demetrios heavily criticized the Bush government and announced mobilization of the Greek-American community. Sharp statements were also made by all major Greek American organizations, like SEA, AHEPA, AHI, the National Council and the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH). CEH is launching a nationwide campaign seeking support of Congressmen on 'Macedonia', while Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, co-chair of

Dr. William Murray and the Battle of Actium

By VICKI J. YIANNIAS

Although by the third century the ancients had forgotten most of the details of ancient warship construction, archaeological evidence accumulated over the past twenty years has placed us in an excellent position to appreciate the many variables involved in ancient naval warfare," said Dr. William M. Murray in his lecture "The Search for the Battle of Actium at the Onassis Foundation on Monday, November 1.

"In terms of naval history, the Battle of Actium is significant because it marks the last time in antiquity that sizeable fleets of medium to large warships fought for control of the Mediterranean Sea."

Dr. Murray is the Mary and Gus Stathis Professor of Greek History and Executive Director of the University's Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies at the University of South Florida. He accompanied his lecture with vivid slides of color drawings, diagrams, photographs and maps.

This last major naval battle of antiquity was fought outside the entrance to the Ambracian Gulf. The combatants are well known: on the



one side there was Marcus Antonius, Kleopatra VII, and various Kings and Princes from the Eastern Mediterranean; on the other was Octavian, his admiral Agrippa, and as Octavian once wrote, 'tota Italia' -- 'all Italy' -- who took his si-

de rather than watch a woman march on Rome".

The battle concluded a summer-long war between the two forces in the region of Greece and resulted in a crushing defeat for Antony's side, said Murray, "The Battle of Actium is one of those rare events that marked a 'turning point' in world history. In simple terms, it divides the Hellenistic Age from the Principate -- or we might say the legacy of Alexander from the World of Augustus".

Murray's lecture re-created the important features of this final major naval battle of antiquity, which took place outside the entrance to the Ambracian Gulf. He described his discoveries and continuing research to prove the battle's obvious importance, making up for inadequate ancient accounts describing the conflict.

"It has been said that ancient accounts were seriously exaggerated, that no great battle occurred at Actium, and that the battle was "the foundation myth of the Roman Empire," said Murray. "If two great historians of the period say the battle was either a lie or a myth then

however. Warships got bigger and so did the size of their warheads, or rams, which were both beautiful and deadly, said Dr. Murray, "Olympias appears like a toy next to the bows of Antony's biggest ships . . . The point of all this was to use your ship to drive a bronze ram -- which grew in size and weight with each increase in ship size - into the hull of the enemy ship."

In his excavations at Octavian's campsite, the Greek archaeologist Dr. Zachos had found clear evidence for the beautifully decorated monument built by Octavian to commemorate his victory at Actium, referred to variously as Octavian's Campsite Memorial for the Actian War, Augustus' Naval Trophy Monument, and Augustus' Actian Victory Monument.

There, in 1986, Murray recognized priceless physical clues about warship rams in the structure's massive 20-foot high retaining wall, built of large limestone blocks set in concrete, intricate sockets to accommodate the back ends of 36 warship rams cut from the bows of Antony and Kleopatra's largest ships.

What happened to the 36 bronze rams? Murray suspects that the battle

resulted in the loss of 50 or more rams "most likely to fire, just as the ancient authors describe."

He discovered then that he "needed to understand the battle in which they took part. I wanted to understand how these giant bronze weapons were originally intended to be used and why they did not work so well in the Battle of Actium."

Guided by the results of extensive sonar surveys conducted in the battle zone, Murray is carrying out underwater excavations to retrieve the catapult balls that he has discovered lie 3 km. offshore and what might be a whole range of items that fell into the sea during the day of the battle, such as spears, arrows, swords, helmets, armour, buckets, boat poles, and, of course, the possible 50 to 80 bronze rams that he thinks may have dropped from their burning ships at the battle's conclusion.

"My search is not yet over," said Murray, about those items, "we have a warship ram to build, Dr. Zachos still needs to reconstruct Augustus' triumphal relief. That remains for the future."

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Greek Americans at the November 2 election

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In 2002 Berkley faced Lynette Boggs McDonald, who won her own election for County Commission on Tuesday. Considering the Las Vegas congressional district's majority Democratic make-up, Boggs McDonald was said to have done well to come within 11 percentage points of Berkley two years ago. Berkley, 53, serves on the Transportation, Veterans Affairs and International Relations committees. She has said her priorities are homeland security, health care, jobs and education.

Most members of the Hellenic Caucus had an easy time on November 2nd, returning to Congress. Amongst them, Congresswomen Carolyn Maloney and Nita Lowey Congressmen Frank Pallone, Bob Menendez, Bob Andrews, Eliot Engel, Joseph Crowley, Lincoln Diaz-Ballart etc.

IN NEW YORK

State Assemblyman Michael Gianaris run unchallenged at the 36th District. Gianaris who is prepared to run for NY State Attorney General told GreekNews that every time an election is very important to him, because it means that his constituent approve his efforts for them and Astoria

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day for Astoria", Councilman Peter Vallone Junior said. "We fight for the development of this community and our goal for a better Astoria will be accomplished with elected officials like Michael Gianaris, George Onorato and Carolyn Maloney".

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Boudouvas lost to incumbent Ann Margaret Carroza (64% to 36%), but he succeeded establish himself in the district as a strong candidate for any future race.

Addressing his supporter at a restaurant in Flushing, Boudouvas expressed his appreciation for their help. Special tribute he paid for Nicos Gavalas and Steve Valiotis.

In other races, Greek American Senior State Senator, Dean Skelos defeated easily his Democratic opponent Joshua Ketover (67%) in Nassau's 9th District.

Lawyer George Bassias (D), lost in the 60th District, receiving 36%.



Photo: Dimitris Penagos

Gianaris going to the polls.

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"It has been said that ancient accounts were seriously exaggerated, that no great battle occurred at Actium, and that the battle was "the foundation myth of the Roman Empire," said Murray. "If two great historians of the period say the battle was either a lie or a myth, then who am I to say otherwise? The answer involves the simple fact that there is new evidence that helps prove the battle involved a desperate fight between ships of impressive dimensions."

In 1988, Olympias, a Greco-British reconstruction of the ancient warship, the trireme (constructed to hold three files of oarsmen on each side of the ship), revolutionized the understanding of what it felt like to go into naval battles like Marathon and Salamis. Triremes were not the end-all of ancient warship constructions,

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Dr. Murray considers his major contribution to be the understanding of the ram facade at the Monument of Augustus and the extraction from the cuttings of the bow dimensions of Antony's and Kleopatra's largest ships. He hopes to publish a book eventually that explains how these big ships were used in battle. He has written Octavian's Campsite Memorial for the Actian War among other major works, and numerous articles.

The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA) and The Archaeological Institute of America collaborated to sponsor this lecture.

Lee Kopulas heads Orthodox Christian Laity

WEST PALM BEACH, FL

Following the Annual Meeting held by the members of Orthodox Christian Laity October 29, 2004 at the Renaissance Oak Brook Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois a new slate of officers was elected. Lee Kopulos has assumed the duties of President.

Mr. Kopulos is a founding member (1984) of St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Palos Hills Illinois-Midwest Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America. He succeeds Peter Haikalis, who competed 3 years of service as President and was honored at a dinner at Costa's Restaurant, Oak Brook.

Mr. Kopulos will be assisted by an executive board of many talents.

Andrew Kartalis, Cleveland, Ohio, Nicholas Pappas of Wilmington, Delaware and Harry Coin of Bettendorf, Iowa will lend their time, talents and resources to fulfill the mission of OCL and serve as Vice Presidents. Jim Koulogorge, Northbrook, IL and George Aravosis, Elmhurst, IL will continue to serve as co-treasurers. George Karcazes,

Wilmette, IL is secretary.

With such a stellar team OCL is ready to move ahead to promote Orthodox Christian Unity.

"As we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the meeting of all canonical bishops in North America at Ligonier it seems appropriate to energize the laity to impress upon their bishops the importance of getting back to our historical roots in North America and become once again a Unified Orthodox Church" said Mr. Kopulos. "If we speak with one voice" he said "we can effectively and efficiently go about the work of evangelizing all those who want to be part of the historic and apostolic Church. We will be better able to utilize our resources to meet the spiritual needs of the faithful and retain them in the Church."

His first order of business is to organize a strategic planning session with his executive board to take place the first week of December to develop plans to move ahead to bring about a unified Orthodox Christian Church in North America.