

THE UNFINISHED SYMPHONY

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First among the human rights is the right to live, which cannot be displaced. In its absence, all other human rights seem superfluous. But if the right to live is simply the 'right to be', the biopolitics view of human life in relation to the environment concerns the quality of life, because plain existence is not enough. The higher up we climb the scale of quality, the more justified is the attribute of man in the general meaning expressed by the Greek word 'bios'.

Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, Founder and President of the Biopolitics International Organisation, and her esteemed colleagues around the world, contribute with their inspired suggestions, methods, and processes towards upgrading the quality of human life as well as of any other form of life within the bio-environment.

It was a great pleasure to receive the invitation addressed to the Athens Secretariat of the IpekÂi Prize, to attend this meeting. It was also a great pleasure because the location of this conference is Istanbul, the most beautiful city in the world, the 'Queen of all cities'. Each time one visits this city, one enjoys a new and higher aesthetic experience.

Speaking as the founder of the Greek-Turkish Prize of Peace and Friendship, which bears the name of a great pacifist and notable citizen of Turkey and the world, the renamed Abdi IpekÂi, I cannot but stress the clear Greek-Turkish dimension inherent in the Fifth Conference of Biopolitics.

If IpekÂi were alive today and he should be he would be a model and a symbol of the Biopolitics theory. He is a symbol for Turkish-Greek relations, as well as a symbol for all humankind. This is because the necessary prerequisite for the implementation of the biopolitics theory is peace and cooperation.

Therefore, as the absence of the right to live renders all other human rights superfluous, the lack of peace and cooperation implies no quality of life. The environment cannot be fragmented so that each country will have its own piece. It is common to all countries.

Abdi IpekÂi worked toward this goal before the theory of 'biopolitics' was articulated. The pacifist prize that carries his name has been promoting the same goal for 13 years: the friendly rapprochement and cooperation in an area of the world where this effort is most useful and necessary. As a result, the presence of representatives of the IpekÂi movement at this conference seems only logical.

Greece and Turkey share a common environment. We struggle, therefore joining our forces for the same goals, the same biopolitical environment. The most important element of this common environment is the Aegean, the sea that should join Turks and Greeks. This is something that is recognized now by the majority of people, in both countries.

A characteristic example is the recent award, the 'IpekÂi Communication Award', awarded to the Mayors of Mytilene (Greece) and Dikili (Turkey), Messrs. Pallis and Özgüven, who in 1990 organized a joint conference in their respective cities to confront the pollution of their common environment caused by a thermoelectric plant that was to be constructed in Ali-Aga. Their effort was successful, and was taken into consideration by the Turkish government at the time.

The Athens Secretariat of the IpekÂi Prize has unanimously decided to recommend Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, President of the B.I.O., Professor Nurettin Sözen, Mayor of the wider area of Istanbul and Professor Rus_,en Keles_, of the University of Ankara, for the IpekÂi Communication Award. The Committee's decision will be announced next January and the awards will be presented on May 1993 in Istanbul, as it is its turn to host the Abdi IpekÂi Award Ceremonies.

The term environment encompasses the whole planet and more. The ozone hole is only one of the international environmental problems. For us, our environment is Europe. Without Turkey, the United Europe, the European Economic Community, is an unfinished symphony. An agreement must be sealed with Turkey and Cyprus both becoming members of the E.C. environment. There are a lot of very serious reasons, not only economic, that demand such a development.

Some very meaningful steps have been taken in this direction, also by Greece. A recent example is the statements made by the Greek Prime Minister C. Mitsotakis in Portugal last week during the meeting of the foreign ministers of E.C. countries.

The position we have supported on every occasion since 1983, despite the difficulties in our country, regarding the importance of Turkey's

entry into the E.C., is justified.

The same principles were applied with great success in 1930 between Atatürk and Venizelos, under much more difficult circumstances. Why are we delaying? What are we waiting for? If, as our governments often stress, we believe in the political heritage of these two great reformers, let us prove it by our deeds, not only words.

Andreas Politakis graduated from the Civil Engineering Faculty of the University of Athens and undertook post-graduate studies in France. His political articles published in various newspapers and magazines from 1980 were collated into a book called 'I Reject Tyranny'. First Topic: 'Getting Closer with Turkish People' was translated into Turkish under the title "Al Beyaz Mavi Beyaz." Adreas Politakis initiated the foundation of the 'Abdi Ipekci Peace and Friendship Award' which distributes awards to Turkish and Greek citizens who create works of art for bettering Hellenic-Turkish relations. In October 1990, Mr. Andreas Politakis was honored with the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Aegean University of Izmir, for his years of constructive and objective attitudes on Hellenic-Turkish relations, which paved the way for a better understanding and, also for his sincere efforts towards the foundation of the "Abdi Ipekci Peace and Friendship Prize" which made a precious contribution to the friendly relationship between Turkey and Greece.