

## KING OF GREECE PREFERS RIGHT OVER 'MIGHT'

Behind Metaxas Dictatorship  
is Dramatic Story of  
Firm Ruler.

WT WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS  
Script-Howard Foreign Editor  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Behind  
the so-called Metaxas dictatorship  
in Greece is one of the most dra-  
matic stories now being enacted  
upon the European stage—mostly  
behind the scenes.

Nine months ago the present  
ruler of Greece, King George II,  
was an exile in London.

In Greece, on Oct. 16, Gen. Kon-  
dylis staged a coup and made him-  
self regent. At once he cabled the  
exiled monarch to return to Athens.  
Everything was all set for a restora-  
tion.

To the astonishment of a cynical  
world, King George wired back that  
he was sorry, but he couldn't ac-  
cept the offer thus offered. Unless  
at least 60 percent of the people  
wanted him back, he preferred to  
remain where he was.

He did.

So Gen. Kondylis held a plebisci-  
te. The count showed 1,491,992  
votes for the King and only 32,452  
against.

On Nov. 25, 1935, King George re-  
turned to Athens. There, Gen.  
Kondylis explained the situation.  
In effect he said: "I've got things  
pretty well in hand. You sit on the  
throne and I'll run the country."

It was to be a camouflaged dicta-  
torship of a kind altogether familiar  
to the present-day world.

"Nothing doing!" the King replied  
in substance. "Greece is going to be  
run as a constitutional mon-  
archy like England, or Denmark,  
or Norway, or Sweden—or I'll go  
back to England."

Within 24 hours of his arrival,  
therefore, the King had broken with  
the man who had made possible his  
home-coming—an act requiring an  
unusual amount of intestinal fortitude.

The death of "The Thunderbolt,"  
as Kondylis was called, saved what  
otherwise might have developed into  
a bad situation. The Chamber of  
Deputies was called into being and  
constitutional government got under  
way. But the King's difficulties had  
only begun.

He liberated the Army and Navy  
officers imprisoned after the unsuc-  
cessful revolt led by Venizelos; in-  
sisted that Republicans, Socialists,  
Communists and other factions be  
given proper representation in the  
government, and otherwise antagonized  
the very factions who, Royalists

### NEW 'STRONG MAN'



Gen. Metaxas

and Rightist, normally, were strong-  
est in the opposition.

"I shall be King of all the Hel-  
lenes," he said. "I shall be King  
of none. I refuse to be the tool of  
any faction."

On March 5 his minister of war,  
Gen. Papagos, paid him a call. The  
general intimated that unless the  
King barred the Communists from  
the government, the army might  
have to take the situation in hand.

It was a veiled threat.

"I give you my answer within  
an hour," King George replied,  
coolly. "Meantime, good morning."

Pressing a button, the King sent  
for Gen. Metaxas.

"General," he said, without pre-  
liminary, "are you prepared to take  
over the ministry of war?"

"But, your majesty, there is al-  
ready a minister."

"All I want from you is can you  
do it?" I ask?"

"Of course, sire, if that is your  
wish."

Within 45 minutes a priest had  
been called into the palace from a  
nearby church. Metaxas had been  
sworn in and Papagos once more  
stood in the royal presence.

"Your resignation," said the King,  
"is accepted."

In Athens last March, neutrals  
had told me the King was making an  
amazingly sincere and courageous  
stand against dictatorship.

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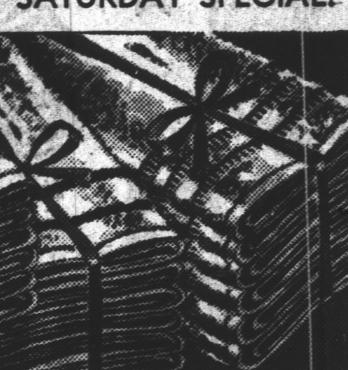
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