MAGAZ-

# Six against the high size





No 8

SEPTEMBER 1986

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Layout: Stelios Coutrias

Phototypesetting: SET, E. Antoniou Co. Printing: D. Craniou – D. Tsatsanifos Co. Photo Research: Thymios Tsiknis

Published in Athens, Greece by International Studies Association

Postal Address: 24 Dimitriou Soutsou,

115 21 Athens, Greece. Tel.: 6464.835

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Peace or Freedom?

with the world now split into at least two big alliances –plus affiliations– varying, if not opposing passwords have had to be found for each.

Rooted in the immediate post-war years and well into the decade of the fifties, the slogan for the East came to be Peace; the West chose Freedom.

These verbal banners, it was implied, were to be waved in the opponent's face to remind him of the virtues he did not possess, and which the waver thought he enjoyed or really strove for.

From grass-roots movements and parliamentary backbenchers in Europe and America –now even in Asia— to the strained pomp of disarmament talks in Geneva and Vienna, or the summit exchanges over a scarred world, the two slogans, with all their setbacks and shortcomings, have left their mark on the past few decades; and although they have been the instruments in wordloads of propaganda, too, they have occasionally helped some people broaden their conceptual horizons.

We, at Athena, tend to like both messages; instead of opposing the two aims, we think it would be appropriate to have peace and freedom together.

Besides, one cannot really exist without the other. This, too, was one of the messages from the Mexico Summit in August of the Initiative of the Six – Greece, Sweden, Mexico, Argentina, India and Tanzania (page 264), which has already met with very positive response from both President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov.

After the era of antitheses, isn't this, perhaps, a time for synthesis?

The Editor

All articles express the views of their authors, and not necessarily those of Athena magazine. They are available for republication, if their source is cited.

- ATHENA magazine welcomes readers' comments, suggestions or contributions.
- LETTERS to ATHENA magazine will be published if they are of general interest or refer to articles of previous issues.
- An INDEX of all references in the magazine has been added on the last page and will be permanently revised in every issue, so as to make ATHENA magazine more useful to its readers.

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relief by Greek tourist agents and businessmen.

This has come late, but not too late. "Here we aren't feeling the crisis as much as they are in other islands and in the cities", a hotelier in Patmos, the island where St John wrote Revelations, told us. "But next year there is every indication that there won't be a single vacancy".

The luxury hotels –institutions of Constitution Square in Athens– have already begun their campaign. The new Argonauts from the US are already arriving at Ellinikon airport, to follow the avenue round the foot of the Acropolis to reach them, having cancelled their cancellations. The sun also rises – and shines in the Mediterranean until well into November.

Next year things will be better. In the meantime, most of those in the catering business will have to make do with the faithful and fearless Europeans. Several thousand Scandinavian girls bask in the sun on the beaches of Rhodes, Italians look for signs of their own tradition on the Ionian island of Corfu (according to *La Stampa*, 300,000 young Italians, aged between 19 and 30, have chosen Greece for their vacations), while the French seem to prefer the Peloponnese, where Geoffroy de Villehardouin, a Frank, set up his principality back in the days of the crusades.

In all, nearly eight million, many more than last year, will visit Greece in 1986. If that is not a victory for Greek tourism in a time of crisis, it is at least an Apollo-sent success.

#### **MEETINGS**

# Women teach women

omen from all over the world met in Greece this summer, on the island of Spetses, to deal with the myth of women's inferiority.

The Aegean archipelago was the home of the first women's university in the ancient world. The school was established and run on the island of Lesbos by the ancient Greek poetess and 'first feminist', Sappho, so that women taught other women on topics that were important to them within the ancient society in which they lived.

It was roughly in this spirit that the Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute held its first Women's Studies Programme in Greece.

Research studies were presented by representatives of 27 countries, work-



Maria Roussou. Cyprus (left) and Kathleen Barry. U.S.A.: "Not more women in power, more power for women".

shops were conducted and films were shown and analysed. The interdisciplinary approach included anthropology, economics, history, sociology, literature, cinema, politics and psychology.

"Some believe the Greek women's movement will go away if the Socialist Governement is no longer in power. In the United States, we don't have such a political identification", said Karen Noble, from Simmons College, a women's university in Boston, Massachussets. She added: "You have access to the media in Greece in a way that we do not in the United States. Women should take advantage of this".

Speaking on power, Kathleen Barry, a professor at Brandeis University, told *Athena*: "You don't need more women in power, you need more power for women. Women in power will not always produce power for women – as the example of Margaret Thatcher very clearly demonstrates".

As a Greek professor and member of the Women's Studies Institute put it, "we want power to and not power over. Women should avoid imitating the male models of power".

Margaret Papandreou, the Americanborn wife of the Greek Prime Minister and President of the Greek Women's Union, told *Athena*:

"The concept of equality between the sexes is in itself revolutionary. What we have now is an unfinished revolution. To complete this process we must search for

new directions and appropriate strategies. It seems we must enter the political arena".

Joan Rothschild, author and professor at Lowell University told *Athena*: "To get the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passed in the U.S. would put women into the constitution. To do this we need to get more women elected into public office.

"The ERA is proposed to Congress every year and it gets killed. Obviously the U.S. is not ready to give full citizenship to women yet. For a country that considers itself the most advanced in the world, it is amazing that the men feel so weak that they are incapable of giving women full rights of citizenship".

The Deputy Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (IN-STRAW). Patel Chrishna, from the Dominican Republic, reminded Athena of the roots of dialectic: "We must learn. through discussion and dialogue. We must search and re-search like Socrates and Plato". In fact, Socrates and Plato, his own disciple, learned much from women. The beautiful Diotima, who ran some sort of 'school' for the Athens élite and for the inquisitive girls of the 4th century B.C., had a lengthy conversation with Socrates - and this celebrated dialogue, centring on "Eros" (love) and on "Beauty" is preserved in the works of Plato, as a classic exhange in the field of relations between man and woman, two human beings, throughout the centuries.