
THE CIA'S MAN IN 'CONSTANTINOPLE'

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Everyone knows that the Moscow Patriarchate is in bed with the Kremlin. Few realize that the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople [the Fener Greek Patriarchate in Istanbul] is deeply beholden to the United States government.

This ignorance is surprising, given that many Greek Orthodox leaders are quite proud of the fact. In 1942, Athenagoras Spyrou [redacted] Archbishop of America for the Greek Orthodox Church [redacted] to an agent of the Office of Strategic Services. I have three Bishops, three hundred priests, and a large and far-flung organization, Athenagoras wrote. Every one under my order is under yours. You may command them for any service you require. There will be no questions asked and your directions will be executed faithfully.

In 1947, the OSS was rechristened as the Central Intelligence Agency, or CIA. One year later, Athenagoras was elected Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, the spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodoxy.

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