

NEVER SAY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU...

By Special Correspondent

Only last week this editorial page warned that illegal immigration “is quickly shaping into [Greece's] most critical national security threat of today.” In the ensuing period, and by ominous coincidence, what Greek authorities must have feared for a long time, but never really acknowledged publicly, happened in the violent flash of a moment. An Arab immigrant, allegedly undocumented, who was stopped for an identity check, later claimed that the police who stopped him desecrated his Quran. The claim traveled like wildfire, in a fashion so familiar to those in other European countries who have already experienced fanatical Muslim outbursts over real or imaginary insults against Islam.

Suddenly, images flashed on Greek television screens appeared identical to those we have seen a thousand times in recent years broadcast over British, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Belgian, French, and other European TV networks: angry Muslim *men* throwing sticks and stones at the police, breaking shop windows, and trashing parked cars while all along chanting slogans like “Islam Will Win” and “Down With the Infidel.” The scenes in downtown Athens on May 22 – a date already marked by those who follow events with a more somber eye as *the beginning of something extremely dangerous* – were unprecedented. Within sight of the national Parliament, on the doorstep of some of the most exclusive hotels in Greece, and center stage in the facade display of this country, some two thousand Muslim protesters battled the police, who launched tear gas and took to their batons to counter the violent demonstration.

Suddenly, the Greek government has been made brutally aware that the uncontrolled entry of illegal immigrants into the country, and *the formation of large blocks of culturally alien populations in the middle of Greek society*, carries implications that cannot, and won't be, addressed successfully by the jargon of political correctness and the demands of overarching foreign structures impervious to common sense, not to mention the iron lessons of history.

Recently, we wrote, right here, thus:

There is little evidence, if any, that Greek authorities give the requisite attention to the critical question of the possibility of illegal immigration bringing into Greece Islamic "sleeper" terrorists or, indeed, spawning locally resident disgruntled populations that could engender future terror attacks against Christian Greece. The myth [of Greek-Arab-Islam friendship] plays an important role in this complacent attitude. Yet, real threats hardly evolve along the lines of what makes one feel good and helps him avoid dark thoughts about the future.

On May 22, we crossed a critical threshold. The Muslim riot, couched on the kind of belligerent religious rhetoric we thought, until now, it was the unenviable privilege of other European lands grappling with the challenge of hostile Islam, is a deafening warning to the government and the people of this country. “It would be preferable to us **to go to our deaths** than to see our beloved Quran insulted,” a Muslim community organizer declared in front of the cameras in an attempt at vernacular Greek.

Sounds familiar? “**Go to our deaths.**” We dare not begin to quote from the collected wisdom of anti-terror studies, already on file, in analyzing what such language *almost always* signifies. From the streets of Israeli cities, blood spattered by bomb belt-carrying Islamic “martyrs,” to the streets of Paris and London to the wilderness of Iraq and Afghanistan, “**Go to our deaths**” has fatally motivated countless young Muslim men and women to man the ranks of the *jihad* and help bring death and destruction on both armed and armored “crusaders” and so many innocent civilians.

Greece has just had her wake-up call. Let's see if she rises as she must to do what it takes to contain *and defeat* the almost inevitable “next phase.” Our estimate, in this respect, is not optimistic.

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