

MONTHLY BULLETIN Nr. 1 (1st June 1969)

A) COMING EVENTS :

The 51st Anniversary of the Independent Republic of Georgia ,will be celebrated by two ceremonies :

X --- On Sunday next, 8th June, at 4-00 p.m. at 32 Bolton Gardens S.W.5 (a purely Georgian event ,for all Georgians and relatives ,to be conducted in both english and georgian language ,with a tea and wine party)

X --- On Saturday 21st June (4-00 p.m. exactly ,without late arrivals allowed) at 9 Princes Gardens , S.W.7 (off Exhibition Road, South Kensington) an OFFICIAL CELEBRATION with British and Foreign speakers , - conducted in english , - and followed by a cocktail-party. (Hosts : Dr.A.Ramishvili, Miss Christine Bestavashvili and Mr. David Wacznadze Jr., B.Sc.)

You are warmly welcome to both events with your relatives , - and to bring your friends at the official event (provided they do not hold any official position in Soviet circles) .

B) OBITUARY :

We have the regret to announce the death of the following people :

XXX I) In Great Britain :

Major Bidzina Kutateladze , Ex- Georgian and Polish Army, on 5th May 1969 in London ,following a short illness , aged 79 . He was buried on 13th May at Streatham Park Cemetery, London S.W.16 (grave Nr: 42809 - 27 A), after a Service by Bishop Mateusz from the Byelorussian Orthodox Church .His niece Mrs.Tamara Gromadzka had flown from the U.S.A.; about 50 people attended .

II) ~~xxxxxx~~ Abroad :

Princess Barbara Bagrationi , widow of the late Colonel Prince Alexander Bagrationi ,ex- Georgian and Polish Army : died on 7th May 1969 in Munich. She was buried at Brompton Cemetery , London S.W.5 on 19th May , (grave Nr: 203809 , compartment A 113 / 39) ,following a Service by the Armenian Bishop at All Saint's Church ,St John's Wood . Her daughter Princess Mary Bagration- Ivanov had flown from Munich with her husband . About 30 people attended .

Sir Harry Luke , K.C.M.G., D.Litt., , Former British High Commissioner in Transcaucasia (from 25th April 1920 to 30th September 1920) , in which capacity he was accredited to the Independent Republics of Armenia , Azerbaidjan and Georgia , - as a successor to Sir Oliver Wardrop . A well known traveller , administrator and author ; in his autobiography " Cities and Men " he devoted several chapters to Georgia , of which he remained a friend to the end of his life. ~~xxxxxxx~~ . He died in Cyprus , aged 84 . A Memorial Service will be held at the Grand ~~Rixxx~~ Priory , Church of the Order of St.John , in London E.C.1 , on 5th June . (One representative from the Georgian Society in G.B. shall attend it.)

III) in FRANCE :

in
Mrs. Baboulia Gvardjaladze: on 11th December 1968 , ~~xx~~ Abondant . Was buried in Leuville . She was the wife of Dr.C. Gvardjaladze .

Dr. Constantin Gvardjaladze : died on 3rd January 1969 , in Abondant . Buried in Leuville . Was an Undersecretary of State in the First Government of Independent Georgia (May 1918) . Sometime Georgian Representative in G.B., and a Member of our Delegation to the Peace Conference in Paris . (He was the godfather of Dr.Akaki Ramishvili)

Mr. Revaz Gabachvili , a well known member of the National-Democratic Party of Georgia , and a former Member of the Georgian Parliament . Died in Paris on 14th March 1969 . Buried in Bagneux Cemetery, near Paris.

Ingenieur Tite Abkhazava: on 27th January 1969 in Grenoble .

Mr. Chaliko Alchibaya : on 30th March 1969. Buried in Leuville .

Mr. Gricha Modebadze, a member of the Georgian Social Democratic Party. on 21st March 1969 .

Dr.C. Khotcholava , a well known politician , - on 3rd April 1969 (Bagneux)

Mr. Leonti (Victor) Zghenti , ex- Member of the Georgian National Assembly, and a Social-Democrat . Died in Abondant on 8th April . Buried in Leuville.

Mr. Vasso Tsouladze , ex-Member of the Georgian National Assembly , and a well known member of the Social-Democratic Party. Died on....May 1969 in Montmorency , near Paris. Buried on 17th May in Leuville.

C) News from France :

The 51st Anniversary of the Restauration of the Independence of Georgia ~~was celebrated~~ with great succes (on 24th May , in Paris) .

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GROUP SUMMER HOLIDAY IN GREECE (from 23rd July to 23rd August 1969)

Travel from Paris -to Marseilles , then by sea (on S.S.Batory) to Athens , one month's stay near Athens , and return : ALL INCLUSIVE : 300 N.F. (roughly about £25) . A NUMBER OF YOUNG GEORGIANS FROM FRANCE , AGED FROM 14 to 25 years are going together on this holiday . They asked me to inform about it our younger generation in Great Britain (and elsewhere); they would highly welcome their company , and this would enable them all to become friends . I don't think there is any age limit as such . This holiday is organised by the Orthodox Church , and probably partly financed by it .

From the Georgian side , the group shall be accompanied by the Georgian Priest in Paris , a colourful , charming and cultured man , whom we all address by " MAMA O " (i.e. Father) : ~~the~~ Reverend Pere REX. MELIA , together with his wife and their two daughters aged respectively 21 and XXXXX 18 (one is a student in Paris, the other is just finishing school i.e. passing her baccalaureat) .

For further details , you should write direct to :

Reverend Pere Elie MELIA ,
24, rue d'Orleans ,
Neuilly-sur-Seine (France)

I have vaguely the (personal) impression that this place near Athens might either be a village where all inhabitants are Georgians and still speak georgian, or it could be the Mount Athos (but I rather doubt as our monastery has been taken over by Greek monks a long time ago) .

VISITORS FROM THE YOUNG GEORGIAN GENERATION IN FRANCE TO BE EXPECTED IN G.B. THIS SUMMER :

1) Miss Cato Odichelidze : She has sent in her application to come to G.B. for one year from 1st Sept. , as an assistant-teacher in french . But her application has apparently been directed from London to Scotland ! This would be rather unfortunate for all of us . I am expecting to hear from her , in case we could somehow manage ~~xxxx~~ to get her appointed in London .

2) Laurent Naskidachvili , age 13 , grandson of Lida , and son of Rachine . He will be staying in the Isle of Wight for 3 weeks (? in July) , then he will be coming to London for one week with his father . I met him last week: he is likeable and looks intelligent . He speaks french , but no georgian . He may know georgian dances, but I am not sure .

3) Laurent Tchkaidze , age 18, of : rue de Leuville,
91- St. Germain- les- Arpajon .

He is a superb soloist dancer of the Lekouri (and other national dances) : Well built , with a short beard and a rather short moustache , he made a very strong impression on all , last week at the Celebration of 26th May in Paris . It is easy to understand why his style was so fluent ; he has been ~~xxxx~~ coached in the past by Chota Abachidze (who has brought up nearly all the previous younger generation as amateur dancers in Paris , - but is now cold shouldered by most parents for some reasons beyond my comprehension) . He may understand some georgian . I am writing to him to find out for how long he is coming , when and in which part of G.B.

4) Alexis Roukhadze , age 23 . Tall, thin and handsome, without a moustache . Very gifted with his hands , he is at present a morocco-leather tanner : for family reasons he had to discontinue his studies 2 years before the baccalaureat ; together with his brother he completed his military service in the French Army last year . They have a sister aged about 21 . All three danced as a trio a georgian dance at the 26th May in Paris , and produced the best performance (having been the only ones coached for this time by Abachidze) . Alexis is a most likeable young man , of fine personality and good manners , (like his brother ~~xxx~~ and sister) ; he may be going first to Georgia in July for two weeks , - then he is intending to come either to G.B. (or to go to the U.S.A.) for one year at first : he wants to find some sort of a job , which would enable him to earn his living and to pay for his further studies in the evening . He wants to learn English fluently (having learnt some at school) , to study English history and culture ; he is specially interested in literature and philosophy , and intends to take up thereafter writing as a career (either as a writer or a journalist) . This seems rather odd at first glance , but I think he is genuinely interested and a hard worker . He made a most excellent impression on me , and I am prepared to vouch personally for him . We should give him a chance , and if anyone amongst us has a bright idea about it , I would warmly appreciate any suggestion or advice you would care to forward to me .

The celebration of the 51st Anniversary of the INDEPENDENCE OF GEORGIA, ~~in France~~ in FRANCE (on 24th May) took place in the elegant and expensive Hall des Ambassadeurs, near Les Champs Elysees in Paris. About 400 people were present, nearly all were Georgians (of which about half belonged to the New Generation born in France; - The guest of honour was Prince Achille Murat (whose grandmother was Salome Dadiani): he had lived in Georgia until the age of 20, had left it in March 1921, and told us with emotion how he had lately visited Georgia, and how he had on his own managed to find the house of his grandparents, -and what a welcome he had received from the inhabitants of his village when he had told them he was Salome's grandson.

Three distinguished Frenchmen delivered thereafter remarkably lucid and emotional ~~speeches~~ speeches; - they were followed by a fiery speech by a Hungarian, then a Pole (all spoke in French). Finally our poet Giorgi Kipiani spoke in Georgian. The President of the Georgian Association in France (and organiser of the ~~celebration~~ Celebration) Mr. Levan Zourabichvili declared that as time was getting short he would forego his own long speech he had prepared, and ~~added~~ added with a touch of humour "that it was a blessing for all, but more so for the Soviets, as he had some very harsh things to say about them and knew by experience that his full speech would be known in Tbilissi within a day".

The Georgian and French National Anthem were then sung by a Young Georgian Choir. One of the previous French speakers then stood up and declared with emotion, that he now understood for the first time that "La Marseillaise was in fact an international hymn for the Liberation of all Nations".

During this time the audience were seated in small groups at tables and were having supper with "pieracki", "satsivi" and wine or Champagne, -at fairly great expense. It was difficult to move about, to go and meet people. Often the best ~~we~~ we could do was to wave to each others.

~~The~~ The second part of the programme consisted of Georgian national dances performed in ~~groups~~ groups by the New Georgian generation; they had been ~~xxx~~ coached by an ex-pupil of Abachidze (I am not sure of her name, but I think it is Helene Meliava). This lasted over two hours: it was most entertaining and very touching. I remained speechless and could only say in my heart "thank you" to our new generation.

~~XXXXXXX~~ A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY took place on Monday 26th May, at 4-00 pm in the Georgian Church of St. Nino (43 rue Francois Gerard, PARIS 16): This was one of the most moving and dignified ceremonies I ever witnessed in my life: A PRAYER WAS BEING SAID FOR THE FUTURE RESTAURATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GEORGIA. Our National flag was laid on an elevated small pedestal, in front of the entrance to the Altar. We were all surrounding it in a semi-circle, candles were burning on the sides. At first, "Mamao" (Archiprete Melia) blessed the National flag according to our ritual. Later, facing us from the door to the Altar, he delivered (in French) in his relaxed manner a sermon on the actual significance of the 26th May for the Georgian Nation, as seen through the context of our past history, and of its moral stimulus in the fight for the future restoration of our independence. This was one of the best, and most unbiased, surveys of this problem which I have ever come across. - Then the Mass continued with various prayers, accompanied by the melodious voices of our Georgian Choir, and various hymns.

I came out very moved and as if I were in a dream. I certainly felt I was somehow a better Georgian now!

You may feel that I have given undue prominence to these events in France. What I actually am trying to convey to you all is the political tradition and maturity of our Emigration in France as a whole, the numerical superiority of the older and of the New generation there, and the opportunity of meeting almost all of them together which is provided by the 26th May (and the Christmas celebration); - finally, the pacifying and unifying influence of the Georgian Church in Paris upon our Emigration, thanks to the dignified personality of our "Mamao".

I thought therefore worth my while spending a few hours in editing this for you, so that on one hand you might sense what I felt, and on the other you might feel inclined to travel at that time to Paris sometime in the future.

Incidentally, ~~xxxxxx~~ while in Paris, I was asked by several people what was the present atmosphere among Georgians in England; I replied unperturbed, that "longlasting peace and mutual love and understanding were ~~xxx~~ reigning over us all, as always". (I dedicate this remark to one or two "internittent culprits", who at times tend to forget that our

first and foremost ~~xxx~~ aim in G.B. is to cement gradually a mutual respect and friendship amongst all Georgians (and their relatives) ,irrespective of all barriers , while ~~xxxx~~ naturally retaining our wide personal differences of opinion on many problems , - so that we all come to feel one day that we have really become members of a large and close " Georgian family" in G.B.

I feel confident that we can fulfill this aim , provided we all try constantly to show moderation and understanding for others , - and that one or two of our Members do restrain themselves and cease fomenting misunderstanding among us . We have the privilege of being Georgians , i.e. sons and daughters of a nation traditionally renowned for its moderation and respect vis a vis personal , ethnical and religious beliefs of other people(s) . As human beings it is our duty and our privilege to be able to forgive other people their past mistakes : continuous personal animosity lasting over 25 years implies subhuman feelings ; (I feel ashamed to have to point this out) . I stand as firm as rock in defence of the right of EVERY Georgian in G.B. to belong to the Georgian Society . And I issue a formal warning that, should the attitude of one or two people not cease henceforth in that respect , I shall take effective counter-measures to neutralise their disruptive influence within our Society . We are numerically so few Georgians in G.B. , that in order to ~~xxxxxxxx~~ enable us to carry out " effective propaganda for the BENEFIT of the Georgian Nation " , we must muster every single Georgian and every sympathiser of Georgia we can lay our hands on . We have on the other hand an advantage in being a ~~xxxx~~ small community : this gives us ease in rapid consultation of all ~~xxxx~~ Members , - and it is also easier to knit a small community together .

We cannot aim at achieving big things . We can however do a certain number of small things , provided every one does a small amount of work frequently (in a field he or she may choose) . We shall then all have the satisfaction of having done something .

I shall be submitting to you all , a modest plan of action for your consideration : you will be free to choose whatever field of activity suits your desire , ability, time available , social contacts or your opinions .

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION FOR NEXT SUNDAY 8th JUNE
4⁰⁰ pm. (32, Bolton Gardens) for the Georgian celebration
of our INDEPENDANCE DAY =

= << WHAT IS, IN YOUR OPINION, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE 26th MAY 1918 IN RELATION WITH THE PAST
HISTORY OF GEORGIA, - AND WITH THE HISTORY
OF THE CAUCASIAN NATIONS? >>

Every one will be given the opportunity to present
his (or her) point of view .

საქართველოს თვითმართვადი დამოუკიდებლობის
(8 ივნისი, 4-00 საათზე, 32 Bolton Gardens) -

<< თქვენთვის, რა მნიშვნელობა აქვს
26- მაისს საქართველოს ისტორიის
და კავკასიის ხალხების ისტორიის
დამოუკიდებლობის საკითხს და რა მნიშვნელობა
აქვს 1918 წლის მაისის 26-ს საქართველოს
დამოუკიდებლობის, - მომდევნო თქვენთვის.

დამამუშავებელი =
თავის მომართვადი.

EDITED BY :

Akaki Ramishvili

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