WORLD NEWS: All papers carry despatches from Washington and New York describing yesterday's Presidential inauguration ceremonies in Washington; also very brief quotations of the main points of the inaugural address; Avgi: carries news under title, "General Eisenhower names himself leader of the 'free world'... most papers: purge in East Germany is being amplified...the appointment of Wilson as U.S. Secretary of Defense is still unconfirmed by Senate reports from London say that the New York Times yesterday carried the news that hundreds of U.S. jet planes will be sent to Turkey soon...leader of the "spies" recently tried in Bulgaria was condemned to death...Turkish Foreign Minister Kioprulu arrived in Belgrade yesterday.. the New York correspondent of Kathimerini reports that U.S. Secretary of Navy Anderson will visit Greece soon to examine local defense problems...Vima: reports from London that the three Ministers of Western Powers will meet in London during the first ten days of February...Reports from New York that the U.N. Secretariat asked former Undersecretary of Coordination in Greece, engineer Constantine Doxiades, now living in Australia, to accept the post of U.N. Mission Chief for the rehabilitation of South Korea...Eleftheria: Reports from New York that according to two American correspondents of the New York Post in Munich, an agreement was secretly contracted between Moscow and the Nazis in West Germany...Allaghi: Reports from Paris that Paul Porter submitted his resignation.

LOCAL NEWS: Most papers: A Bulgarian spy was arrested in Salonica yesterday; he will be transferred to Athens to be examined by the Army's General Staff...Premier Papagos addressed a message to the people of Salonica in the local by-election hailing the fact that they lived up to his expectation...in a detailed memo to Premier Papagos and the Ministers of Finance, Coordination and Labor, the GSEE asks a reduction of the indirect taxation now in force...the National Bank strike continues; Mr. Eliaskos will be sued for having illegally taken possession of the National Bank...before returning to Greece Liberal leader Venizelos will spend twenty days in Switzerland for a cure...a high-ranking Greek Navy officer will head

NEWS REVIEW
FROM THIS MORNING'S ATHENIAN PRESS

Wednesday, January 21, 1953

N.B. This reflects only what appears in Athens newspapers. USIS accepts no responsibility for the truth or accuracy of the original stories.

BANK ISSUE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT CONTINUES: The discussion of the bank merger continued in Parliament yesterday and the session was devoted to the speeches of Coordination Minister Markezinis and Greek Rally party deputy and leader of the Democratic-Socialist party, G. Papandreou. Markezinis expressed satisfaction over deputy Papapolitis' filing of the question on the merger issue because it gave the government the opportunity to explain its views in Parliament on the banking policy. He criticized the policy of the previous government which he held responsible for the present plight of the National Bank of Greece. Further, he said that the government is being accused of establishing an economic monopoly, and is being criticized for the measures it adopted to reorganize Greek banking system. Regarding the first point, I am sure that most of the gentlemen present here will agree with me that the National Bank never functioned more efficiently than when it monopolized the country's economy. As for the second of the points the plight of the National Bank was such that no half-measures could have done any good. Only drastic measures would save the institution, and the government decided that the merger was the only right one. Continuing, Markezinis said that the salaries of the employees as well as their welfare funds were the main causes of the Bank's deficit during the last fiscal period. "From that union of the two Banks an outspring will come full of tradition, efficiency and health," said Markezinis. He talked about sacrifices which the employees will have to make and strongly criticized them for calling a strike of political nature. "I do not think that the Greek people gave Marshal Papagos such a majority in order to recognize Soviets officially," he said. Speaking about "January 3" which was fixed as the merger date of the two banks, Markezinis said that the date has nothing mysterious about it. He disclosed that on January 3 Marshal Papagos asked Eliaskos to

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Ἦχος α΄. Πα

Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν ἐπὶ ταῖς δυναστείαις αὐτοῦ· αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν κατὰ τὸ πλῆθος τῆς μεγαλωσύνης αὐτοῦ.

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Pious about it. He disclosed that on January 3 Marshal Papagos asked Eliaskos to assume the direction of the National Bank. Proof that the government had no partisan interest in merging the two banks and appointment Eliaskos is shown by the fact that the latter harmed the party's interests considerably, Markezinis continued. But we were looking for the best banker in Greece and not for a saint; I am sure that all present will recognize Eliaskos' excellent qualifications. Concluding, Markezinis declared that the Papagos government has promised the Greek people certain radical reforms. "If the government goes back on its decision regarding the first of the reforms pledged," he said, "then there is no reason why it should not go back on its decision regarding the second and third reform. Then Marshal Papagos will turn into General Plastiras." This last phrase brought heated exclamations from the Opposition deputies who were calmed down finally through the intervention of deputy Papapolitis. Markezinis was followed on the floor by G. Papandreou who said that he sincerely hopes that the Papagos government can justify the confidence of the people. Referring to the merger he said he only wished to express a friendly opinion, although opposed to that of the government. Continuing, Papandreou said that when Markezinis was asked how the government considers handling the various problems created by the merger he said that these decisions will be released to the public in due time. "He thus presented the government's policy on this important question in a bit-by-bit way which is unacceptable in democratic countries." Papandreou added that Greek Rally party had made no mention of its plans to merge the banks either before or after the elections; such a drastic measure, he added, is capable of leading to very unpleasant results. Therefore, all those who disagree with the government cannot be characterized as "Moscow's tools"; they are simply Greeks. Continuing Papandreou accused Markezinis of adopting arbitrary decisions and underlined that the appointment of Eliaskos was the main cause of the National Bank employees' reaction. He then proposed the establishment of a judiciary committee to be entrusted with the purging of state banks. Concluding, Papandreou praised the government for having shown during its first two months such a creative policy. He pointed out, however, that the merger of the banks was a mistake and expressed the opinion that by admitting it, the government will lose none of its prestige.

(continued)

of the National Bank...before returning to Greece Liberal leader Venizelos will spend twenty days in Switzerland for a cure...a high-ranking Greek Navy officer will head the newly established command of the defense sea zone in Ionian Aegean waters... leader of the five-member communist group, recently tried in Athens, was condemned to 11 years imprisonment yesterday...in response to a letter sent to conductor Dimitri Metropoulos by Premier Papagos, the former is non-committal about whether or not he will accept the position as musical advisor to the the government in Athens; he only cables that his views on the Greek Opera are included in a letter to be forwarded to the Greek Premier...Kathimerini reports that according to information which circulated in Athens yesterday, U.S. Secretaries of State and Navy are due in Athens soon...reports from Mytilene say that Greek fishing boats were attacked by a Turkish patrol ship last evening; some of the Greek boats managed to come back to Mytilene; four of the boats are reported missing.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE: Tameion Bldg. Telephone: 30-761/665