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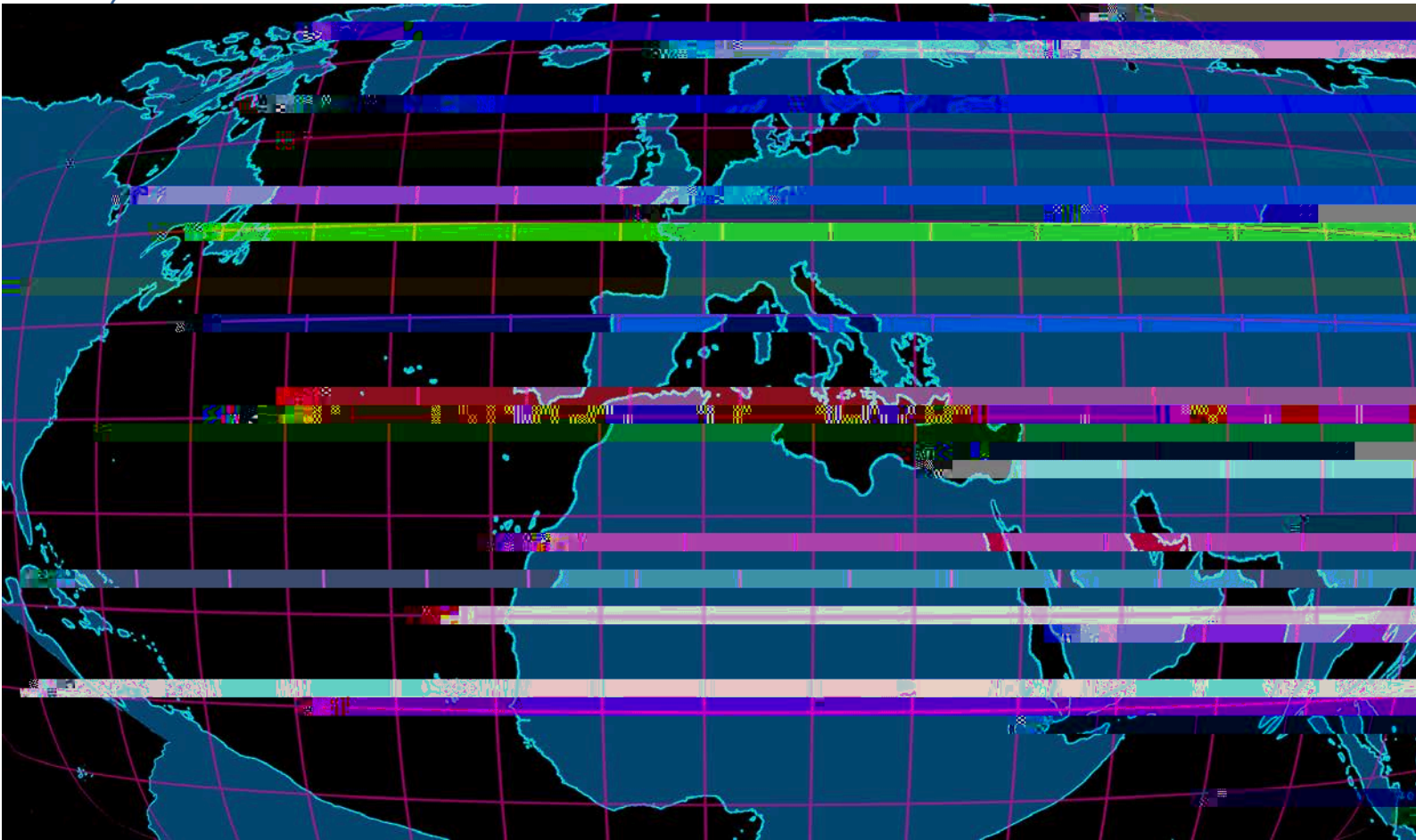
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Establishing the Greek National Security Council: A Comparative Case Study Analysis with the National Security Council of the United States

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On 7 August 2019 the newly elected Greek Government issued Law 4622,¹ which established the Governmental National Security Council (GNSC) and introduced, for the first time, the position of the National Security Advisor, setting the foundations for the modernization of the Greek national security system. This research paper initially defines National Security, a broad term that is often misunderstood leading to conflict of jurisdiction between governmental departments or agencies. It then presents selected characteristics of the National Security Council (NSC) of the United States, established in 1947, such as its historical background, structure, jurisdictions, strategic documents that have been issued, the decision-making process, its relations with the Intelligence Community and the Congress, and the role of the National Security Advisor. The second part focuses on the national security system of the Hellenic Republic, examining past attempts, made by several political parties, leading to the establishment of similar governmental institutions. Among the aspects of interest are the current structure of the GNSC, its jurisdiction and decision-making processes, as well as its relation to the Greek National Intelligence Agency (EYP), including some complications that have occurred regarding the Greek National Security Advisor. The third part is a comparative analysis between the two Councils, while the Conclusions recommend changes, that n47in47irativ

and objectives of the United States, its foreign policy, worldwide commitments and national defense capabilities, the proposed uses of all the elements of national power to protect or promote US interests and achieve US goals and objectives, and, finally, the adequacy of its capabilities to carry out the aforementioned strategy. As far as its classification is concerned, the US Code states that Each national security strategy report shall be transmitted to Congr1 (t)-1 (i6)-1 (s *uc 11.285.tra)1 (n2 Tc #a

its armed forces.⁶⁷ It characterized China as the only capable competitor regarding the reshaping of international order, also stating that the US will continue to address Russia's aggression. As far as the Middle East is concerned, taking into consideration the US military departure from Afghanistan along with the provisions of the new NSS, some analysts stated that it is signaling a dramatic emphasis on de-escalation and promotion of integration through diplomacy in the Middle East⁶⁸

Relations with the Intelligence Community

The main, direct, relation between NSC and the IC is the participation of the Director of National Intelligence in NSC meetings acting as an intelligence advisor,⁶⁹ while their indirect relation includes the conduct of covert operations under the guidance of NSC

refugee liberation groups, and support of indigenous anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world. Such operations shall not include armed conflict by recognized military forces, espionage, counter-espionage, and cover and deception for military operations.⁷⁵

During the presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961), CIA was also entrusted with covert operations to assist foreign policy implementation, under the supervision of the NSC. To this end, on 15 March 1954, the President approved Directive NSC 5412 which superseded and rescinded the former directives, establishing the 5412 Committee⁷⁶ that reviewed and recommended covert operations.⁷⁷ It also stated that "except as the President otherwise directs, the members of the Operations Coordinating Board shall, under appropriate security arrangements, be advised in advance of major programs involving covert operations related to National Security Council policies."⁷⁸ In 1957 the 5412 Committee was replaced by the Special Group that was subsequently renamed as 303 Committee in 1964, replaced by the 40 Committee in 1970 and by the Operations Advisory Group in 1976.

Some of the most significant covert operations that were conducted by the United States during the past, include counterinsurgency operations in Philippines between 1948-1954, the funding of MI-6 operations in Albania in 1949 to overthrow the communist government, the organization of a military coup in Iran in 1953 (Operation Ajax) and the support of another one in Guatemala in 1954, efforts to overthrow Fidel Castro in Cuba between 1959-1960, military assistance (MA) operations in Laos in 1964, the support of a military coup in Chile in 1973, and MA operations in Angola in 1975, Afghanistan in 1979 and Nicaragua in 1981, in order to counter the communist influence.⁷⁹ Finally,

This attempt did not bear fruit, as shortly after the official announcement of the results of the European elections, in May 2019, the Prime Minister announced his intention to call early elections, putting an end to the establishment of a National Security Council by SYRIZA. On 18 July 2019, the newly elected (right-wing) NEA DIMOKRATIA government amended the composition of the existing Governmental Council for Foreign Affairs and Defence (KYSEA)⁹¹ to include six members⁹² and on 1 August 2019 announced the appointment of retired vice admiral Alexandros Diakopoulos⁹³ as the first Greek National Security Advisor.⁹⁴ Finally, on 7 August 2019 the government of NEA DIMOKRATIA published Law 4622, establishing the present Governmental National Security Council,⁹⁵

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as a permanent member of the GNSC, will increase the effectiveness of the decision-making process. Regular meetings should be held on a monthly basis, to evaluate the implementation of past decisions and discuss major national security questions, having, also, the ability of conducting extraordinary meetings in case an emergency situation arises. Last, but not least, the Greek Government must specify more clearly the reasons related to national security that may justify the application of spyware and other relevant special operations by EYP defined by Law 5002/2022, in order to protect civil human rights and democratic values. Furthermore, the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee to stre-221 (m)1 (eme)-1 (n)-1 a35(t)-1 (otar)-1 (l)-1 (yu8c)-1 (1 (m)1 (e)-1 (n)-1 (t)-bt

