

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES	
NAME OF COLLECTION:	Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece (Melbourne Branch)
ACCESSION NO:	102/15
HISTORICAL NOTE:	<p>The Committee for the Defence of Democracy in Greece was founded in 1965 in response to the political crisis in Greece that had seen elected president George Papandreou dismissed by King Constantine. After the military coup on April 21, 1967, it became the Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece. Its purpose was act as a broad-based lobby group uniting all Greek-Australian opposition to the dictatorship and to engage Australian politicians and trade unionists into adopting an active opposition. It was in contact with other Greek resistance groups in Europe. The Committee sponsored visits by Tony Ambaticlos in 1970 and Markos Dragoumis in the same year, Mikis Theodorakis in 1972 and Andreas Papandreou in 1974. Its attempt to bring out the resistance leader Nikos Nikolaidis in 1967 was foiled by the Liberal government of the day. The Committee's activities ceased in 1975 following the fall of the dictatorship in November 1974 and the restoration of democracy soon after.</p> <p>Denis Sikiotis, who assembled this collection, was a founding member and Secretary of the Committee.</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTION:	The contents of the collection are mainly in Greek, with about one third in English.
NOTE ON LISTINGS:	Original order retained. Collection originally housed in chronological folders – one per year. This order retained but embrittled presscuttings separated into their own folders to protect the other documents from their acidity. All metal staples and paper clips replaced with plastic ones and all manila folders replaced with acid/free folders.
DATE OF TRANSFER:	<p>April, 2002.</p> <p>In March 2003 a further two files of material [3 cms] was added to the collection by Ploutarchos Deliyiannis. This has been incorporated into the collection and noted in the Guide below.</p>
ACCESS CONDITIONS:	Open
SIZE OF	3 archive boxes

COLLECTION:	
DATE RANGE:	1965 - 2003
LISTED BY:	Jane Ellen
DATE:	30 April 2002
INDEX OF SERIES	
Series no.	Series title
1	Committee for the Defence of Democracy in Greece. 1965.
2	Minutes. Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece. 1967 – 1974.
3	Chronological files of Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece. 1967 – 1974.
4	Correspondence with other Greek resistance organizations abroad. 1972 – 1974.
5	Publications.
6	Photographs and threats. n.d.
7	Articles by Denis Sikiotis. 2001 – 2002.
8	<i>Hellenic Themes</i> newspaper, published by Ploutarchos Deliyiannis. 2002-2003.

Box No.	Series No.	Description
1	1	Committee for the Defence of Democracy in Greece. 1965. [The Committee was the precursor of the Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece, which was formed as a response to the political crisis that had seen the dismissal of Prime Minister, George Papandreou, by the King in 1965].
1	1/1	Committee for the Defence of Democracy in Greece. 1965 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of members • Inwards and outwards correspondence • Circular correspondence and bulletins to members • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis [Mainly Greek, some English].
1	1/2	Presscuttings, 1965. Australian papers [mainly English, some Greek].
1	1/3	Presscuttings, 1966. <i>Neos Kosmos</i> [Greek].
1	2	Minutes of the Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece. 1967 – 1974.
1	2/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose-leaf typescripts, 11.11.1967 – 7.8.1968 • Manuscript exercise book, 21.8.1968 – 7.11.1976 [Greek].
1	3	Chronological Files: Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece. 1967 – 1974. [The series retains the original arrangement of the records excepting that the presscuttings have been separated from the other records and into their own chronological folders].
1	3/1/1	1967 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Inwards and outwards correspondence incl letters to and from Australian politicians re proposed visit of N. Nikolaidis. • Circular correspondence and bulletins to members. • Committee minutes • Press releases • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis [English and Greek].
	3/1/2	1967 Papers of Ploutarchos Deliyannis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence incl letters to Andreas Papandreou • Circular correspondence and bulletins to members

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handbills supporting Greek democracy [in Russian] • Handwritten notes [English and Greek]
1	3/2/1 3/2/2	1967 [Presscuttings]. Australian papers and overseas journals. 1967 [Presscuttings collected by Ploutarchos Deliyiannis]
1	3/3	1968 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular correspondence and bulletins to CRDE members. • Committee minutes • Bulletin from League for Democracy in Greece (UK) • List of books banned by Greek government • Statements by Andreas Papandreou and Markos Dragoumis • Transcript of speech by Victor Nollis to RMIT students • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis [English and Greek].
1	3/4	1968 [Presscuttings] Australian papers [English & Greek].
1	3/5	1969 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inwards and outwards correspondence • Circular correspondence and bulletins to CRDE members. • Statement by Manolis Glezos • Circular from the Central Committee, Communist Party of Greece (KKE) • Bulletins from the International Assembly of Greek Anti-dictatorship Committees, West Berlin • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis [Mainly Greek, some English].
1	3/6	1969 [Presscuttings] Australian papers and overseas journals. [English and Greek].
2	3/7	1970 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inwards and outwards correspondence, incl letters from Markos Dragoumis to Denis Sikiotis. • Circular letters to CRDE members • Statement from Mikis Theodorakis in Oropos prison • Press release • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis • Notes and handbills re Antonios Brettos [Mainly Greek].
2	3/8	1970 [Presscuttings].

2	3/9	1971 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inwards and outwards correspondence, incl letters from Markos Dragoumis to Denis Sikiotis • Passport documents and notes re Michael Douros • Bank statement for CRDG • Statement from Communist Party of Australia member alleging misconduct by two Greek members • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis.
2	3/10	1971 [Presscuttings] Australian papers [English].
2	3/11	1972 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inwards and outwards correspondence, incl the Communist Party of Australia • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis, some re the visit of Mikis Theodorakis to Australia • Photographs of Theodorakis' concert in Festival Hall, Melbourne • Handbills, flyers [Mainly Greek].
2	3/12	1972 [Presscuttings] Australian papers [Mainly Greek].
2	3/13	1973 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inwards and outwards correspondence • Draft talks, letters, press releases and notes by Denis Sikiotis • Handbills [Greek and English].
2	3/14	1973 [Presscuttings] Australian papers [Greek and English].
2	3/15	1974 [Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inwards and outwards correspondence, mostly relating to the visit of Andreas Papandreou to Australia • Draft talks, letters and notes by Denis Sikiotis [Greek and English].

2	3/16	[Correspondence re] Andreas Papandreou, 1974. Letters re sponsorship for Andreas Papandreou's visit to Australia [Greek and English].
2	3/17	1974 [Presscuttings] Australian papers

		[Mainly Greek].
3	4	Correspondence with other Greek resistance organizations abroad, 1972 – 1974. [The Committee was in contact with resistance organizations in Europe and England. Denis Sikiotis was also apparently a member of the communist-linked PAM].
3	4/1	Correspondence with other Greek resistance organizations abroad, 1972 – 1974. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence and bulletins from PAM (Patriotic Anti-dictatorship Front) in France; Eleftheri Ellada (Free Greece) in Italy; and AEM (Anti-dictatorship Workers’ Front) in Amsterdam, Geneva and Cologne. • Draft notes and reports to PAM by Denis Sikiotis. [Greek].
1	5	Publications
3	5/1	[Publications] Fifteen issues of <i>Eleftheri Ellada</i> (Free Greece), 1972-1974. Resistance newspaper published in Rome. [Greek].
3	5/2	[Publications] Journals, pamphlets and newspaper, 1968-1975 [Greek and English]
3	6	Photographs and threats [n.d.] [Original file title].
3	6/1	Photographs and threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine photographs of demonstrations and rallies in Melbourne against the Greek dictatorship. • Original and prints of cover of resistance journal, ‘PAK’, 1974. • Letters to Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece in support of Greek dictatorship. [Greek].

3	7	Articles by Denis Sikiotis [This file was created long after the demise of the Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece].
3	7/1	Articles by Denis Sikiotis Draft and newscuttings from <i>Neos Kosmos</i> of two articles by Denis Sikiotis; in one he recalls the visit of Andreas Papandreou to Australia in 1974; the other is about the transfer of the Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Greece archive to UMA. (Published 2001 & 2002 respectively). [Greek].
3	8/1	Ellinika Themata Two copies of <i>Ellinika Themata (Hellenic Themes)</i> newspaper, published by Ploutarchos Deliyiannis. Issue 18, December, 2002 & Issue 19, March 2003.
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