REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN 1997

I. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. Research programmes

In 1997, the Institute for Balkan Studies continued its scientific research into various issues relating to the Balkan countries and Greece, focusing its attention chiefly on the history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The research is conducted mainly by the Institute’s regular associates, though in some cases external associates—young researchers and scholars—are also involved.

1. The necessary research completed, we began to publish the conclusions of the research programme on *Thraces from antiquity to the present day*, conducted by university professors and research associates of the Institute for Balkan Studies and the Athens Academy. A study by Drs L. Syndika-Laourda and E. Georgiadou-Kountoura titled *Ναοί του 19ου αι. στο Διδυμότειχο και στο Σουφλί* is in the press.

2. The research for the programme on the *Bulgarian occupation of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace during the Second World War* was also completed in 1997. The associates involved—Georgios A. Kazamias, Xanthippi Kotzageorgi-Zymari, and Tassos Hadzianastassiou—extended their investigations to Greek, German, and British archives and also conducted local research in Macedonia and Thrace. They also examined archival material from the United States, and Greek and Bulgarian literature relating to their subject. They have already written papers about the occupation authorities’ policy towards the Greek inhabitants, the measures that attempted to change the Greek character of the region, the armed Greek resistance and the Drama uprising, the organised settlement of the region by Bulgarians, and the population drain brought about by the departure of the Greeks. The conclusions are to be published in a single volume, in Greek and English.

3. The Institute’s research programme on *the Greeks of Albania* also continued. The relevant material from Greek, British, American, and
French archives, relating to the period from the establishment of the Albanian state onwards, has now been assembled and classified. The German archives acquired by the Institute last year are being catalogued and classified.

The existing archive was supplemented by the personal archive of the Director, Professor Basil Kondis, which he has donated to the Institute and which comprises documents from the Historical Archive of the Greek Foreign Ministry. The archive is expected to be catalogued and classified in the course of 1998.

4. The research programme on *Greece's image in Balkan national historiography, 1870-1995*, which the Institute undertook in association with the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, is continuing. The researchers involved—Eleutheria Manta, Xanthippi Kotzageorgi-Zymari, Spyridon Sfetas, and Kyriakos Kentrotis—have collected and processed the relevant literature from the libraries in Thessaloniki and have already classified the data relating to our Balkan neighbours' image of Greece and the processes by which public opinion in the Balkan countries has been shaped. The final conclusions will be reported at a special meeting organised by the Institute, which will then publish them in a special volume.

**European Research Programmes**

In the framework of the European Union's Lingua, Action D, Programme, the Institute for Balkan Studies and the *Stichting Advies-en Begeleidingscentrum voor het Onderwijs* in Amsterdam (ABC) worked together again this year on the Griffin project, devising a three-year Greek language course for Dutch secondary-school children.

Also in the framework of Lingua, Action D, the Institute collaborated with more than fifteen European research institutes and universities (co-ordinated by Hull University) on a project titled "Small is Beautiful: Less Widely Used, Less Taught Languages and Mobility". The project involves devising a pilot method for learning the less widely used languages of the European Union, plus Norwegian and Icelandic, with the aim of encouraging mobility among the students of the EU member countries.
2. Activities of Board members and research associates

The Director of the Institute, Professor Basil Kondis
On 28 February, at the invitation of the Greek Committee for South-East European Studies, he gave a lecture in Athens on “The Soviet Union’s Policy towards the Communist Party of Greece on the Eve of Greek Liberation in 1944”.

On 12-13 March, he took part in a conference on The Truman Doctrine, organised by the American Hellenic Institute in Washington, with a paper on “American Policy during the Greek Civil War”.

On 4-5 September, he took part in a conference on Greece, the Balkans, and the European Union: Current Problems and Perspectives, jointly organised by the Institute for Balkan Studies and the Munich Südosteupora-Gesellschat in Thessaloniki, with a paper on “Issues Concerning the Greek Minority in Albania”.

On 7-8 November, he took part in a conference on Britain and Greece in the Twentieth Century, organised by the Institute for Balkan Studies in association with the British Council in Thessaloniki, with a paper on “British Objectives in Greece: 1943-1947”.

He published the following studies:

The Deputy Director of the Institute and Director of the School of Balkan Languages, Mr Constantine K. Papoulidis
On 4 April, he represented the Institute for Balkan Studies at the second session of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for the Study and Development of the Greek Culture of the Black Sea, which was held in the Cultural Centre of the Prefecture of Thessaloniki.
On 10-11 May, he represented the Institute for Balkan Studies at a two-day meeting (titled *Five Continents, One Homeland*) of the fifteen-member Co-ordinating Council for Young Émigrés and the Youth of Greece in the Helexpo Conference Centre, Thessaloniki.

On 24-26 November, he took part in a conference on *Mount Athos: Over a Thousand Years of Spiritual Influence*, organised by Thessaloniki ’97, the Organisation for the Cultural Capital of Europe, in association with the Holy Community of Mount Athos, as part of a series of events accompanying the *Treasures of Mount Athos* exhibition, with a paper on “Athonite Treasures in Russia: The Sevast’janov Collections”.

On 30 November, at the invitation of the Prefecture and Municipality of Drama and four cultural associations in Drama, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Asia Minor Disaster, he spoke in the Cultural Events Hall in Government House, Drama, on “The Soviet Union, Turkey, and the Asia Minor Disaster”.

Since 1997, he has been on the Editorial Committee of *Rossija i Hristianskij Vostok* (Russia and the Christian East), an annual Russian publication produced by the General History Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, and edited by the Hellenist, palaeographer, and codicologist, B. L. Fonkič.

He published the following studies:


He published the following book reviews:


Research associate Ms Georgia Ioannidou-Bitsiadou

On 19-21 September, she took part in the second Panhellenic symposium on Edessa and the Surrounding Area: History and Culture, with a paper on “Panslavist Activities in the Province of Vodena in 1870”.

She published a study titled “Η περιοχή της Καβάλας στις παραμονές του ρωσοτουρκικού πολέμου του 1877-78”, Balkaniká Σύμμεικτα, 9 (1997), 105-17.

Research associate Mr Anastassios K. Iordanoglou


Research associate Mr Kyriakos D. Kentrotis

On 14 July, he spoke to Greek students from abroad on the subject of “The Relations between Greece, the European Union, and the Balkans”, in the framework of a programme organised by the Foreign Ministry’s General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad.

On 4-5 September, he took part in the seventh Greek and German symposium, Greece, the Balkans, and the European Union: Current Problems and Perspectives, organised by the Institute for Balkan Studies in association with the Munich Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft in Thessaloniki, with a paper on “The Economic Dimension of Greek-Bulgarian Relations: The Cases of Energy and Transport”.

He published the following studies:

μεικτα, 9 (1997), 212-42.

Research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas

On 1-3 August, he took part in the second World Congress organised by the Co-ordinating Committee for Greek Research Institutes in Melbourne, Australia, on the subject of _Greeks in the Twenty-first Century_, with a paper on “Wavering between Historical Sensitivity and Political Realism: Developments and Perspectives in the Macedonian Issue after the Greek-Skopje Interim Agreement”.

On 4 August, he gave a lecture at the University of Adelaide on “The Macedonian Question: Past, Present, and Future”.

On 13 August, he took part in the celebration of the centenary of the Greek Community in Melbourne with a lecture in the Community’s own premises on “Greece and the Balkans Today”.

On 4-5 September, he took part in the seventh Greek and German symposium, _Greece, the Balkans, and the European Union: Current Problems and Perspectives_, organised by the Institute for Balkan Studies in association with the Munich _Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft_ in Thessaloniki, with a paper on “Ethnic Tensions and Foreign Policy in FYROM after the Greek-Skopje Interim Agreement”.

On 24-28 September, he took part in an international conference, _Makedonien einst und jetzt_, organised by the Institute for Balkan Studies in association with the Historical Institute of Mannheim University, with a paper on “Die Makedonische Frage im Lichte der Balkanpolitik der Komintern in der Zwischenkriegszeit”.

On 19-21 September, he took part in the second Panhellenic
symposium on *Edessa and the Surrounding Area: History and Culture*, with a paper on “The Foundation and the Activity of the Ohrana in the Framework of the Policy of VMRO and the Third Reich (October 1943 - September 1944)”.

On 15-18 October, he took part in *The Nation in the Balkans*, a conference for young Balkanologists organised in Varna by the AIESEE with the financial support of UNESCO, with a paper on “Typology of the Slavomacedonian Nation”.

He published the following studies:


Research associate Ms Xanthippi Kotzageorgi-Zymari

On 14 June, she gave a lecture on “The Intellectual Life and the Culture of the Greeks of Eastern Roumelia”, at a meeting jointly organised by the Municipality of Koufalia and the Federation of Associations of Eastern Roumelia.

On 27-29 September, she took part in a conference organised by the Municipality of Nea Anhialos, with a paper on “Anhialos in Bulgaria from the early Nineteenth Century to 1912: The Greek Population and its Intellectual and Social Life”.

She published the following studies:


Research associate Ms Eleutheria Manta

On 15 April, she took part in a meeting organised by the 71st Infantry Battalion at Nea Sanda, Kilkis prefecture, to mark the departure of a Greek military corps for Albania, with a paper on “The
Greeks in Albania in the Twentieth Century”.

On 7-8 November, she took part in the conference on *Britain and Greece in the Twentieth Century* organised by the Institute for Balkan Studies and the British Council, with a paper on “Mussolini, Albania, and the British Policy”.

Collaborated with Professor Basil Kondis, on the publication *Ελληνισμός της Βορείου Ηπείρου και Ελληνοαλβανικές Σχέσεις, 1922-1940*, vols. III and IV, Estia, Athens 1997, a collection of documents from the Foreign Ministry's Historical Archive.

She took part in a research programme on “The Greeks of Albania”, which was headed by Professor Basil Kondis, set up by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and funded by the University’s Research Committee.

She published the following studies:


Research associate Mr Ioannes G. Leontiades

On 19-21 September, he took part in the second Panhellenic symposium on *Edessa and the Surrounding Area: History and Culture*, organised by the Municipality of Edessa, with a paper on “Government and Governors of Edessa in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries”.

On 24-27 September, he took part in the international conference, *Makedonien einst und jetzt*, organised by the Historical Institute of Mannheim University in association with the Institute for Balkan Studies, with a paper on “Makedonien in byzantinischer Zeit”.

He published a review of:

Zacharias N. Tsirpanlis, *Ανέκδοτα έγγραφα για τη Ρόδο και τις Νότιες Σποράδες από το αρχείο των Ιωαννιτών Ιπποτών*, vol. 1 (1421-1453): *Εισαγωγή, διπλωματική έκδοση, σχόλια*, Rhodes 1995, pp. 864, published by the Bureau for the Mediaeval City of Rhodes,
External research associate Mr Veniamin Karakostanoglou

On 15 April, he gave a lecture to the Nea Sanda-based Infantry Brigade of the Greek Force in Albania on the subject of “The Uprising in Albania and the Developments in Kosovo and the Albanian-speaking Areas around Skopje”.

On 10 July, he took part in an information programme organised by the Foreign Ministry’s General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad with a lecture on “Greek-Turkish Relations”.

On 31 July, he took part in the Balkan Institute’s Twenty-fifth International Programme on Greek Language, History, and Culture with a lecture on “Greek-Turkish Relations: Problems of a Difficult Coexistence”.

On 5 and 6 August, he gave two lectures at the American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, on “The Dayton Accords: Impact on the Kosovo Conflict” and “The Cyprus Question: Relevance and Diversities with the Dayton Agreement”.

On 4-5 September, he took part in the seventh Greek and German symposium, Greece, the Balkans, and the European Union: Current Problems and Perspectives, organised by the Institute for Balkan Studies and the Munich Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft in Thessaloniki, with a paper on “The Kosovo Conflict: Post-Dayton Developments”.

On 29 November, he read a paper on “The Moslem Minority in Thrace in the Context of Greek-Turkish Relations”, at a conference held in Xanthi by the Thracian Fund.

He published the following articles and interviews:


“Πολιτικοδιπλωματική κατάσταση στα Βαλκάνια”, interview in the Thessaloniki newspaper Bόρεια, 15 March.

“Θέλει προσοχή ο διάλογος με την Τουρκία”, interview in Bόρεια, 10 May.

“Η Ελληνοτουρκική προσέγγιση: Κρύβει κινδύνους ο διάλογος με την Τουρκία”, Αγγελιοφόρος, 17 May.

“Το Αλβανικό Πρόβλημα και τα συμφέροντα της Ελλάδος”, Αγγελιοφόρος, 9 June.
II. HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The Institute has an important collection of archival material, comprising both original documents and copies. In recent years it has been supplemented by a number of microfilms from the British Foreign Office archives, which furnish useful data about the Balkan policy of Britain and the other powers of the time, as also about the internal political situation in the various Balkan countries. The Institute has also acquired a number of microfilms from the United States National Archives, which concern the Balkan countries and are being examined in sections. In 1997, the section relating to Greece between 1940 and 1954 (ninety-six microfilms) continued to be systematically studied and catalogued.

The study also continued of the archival material that the Institute has acquired from Bonn relating to the political developments in Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece during the Occupation.

III. THE LIBRARY

The Institute for Balkan Studies has the largest library on Balkan subjects in the whole of Greece. The library was founded in 1953, the same year as the Institute itself.

The first books were donated from various sources, and the library was systematically supplemented thereafter with purchases, donations, and exchanges. The Institute for Balkan Studies exchanges books and periodicals with similar institutes both in Greece and abroad.

The library now occupies two floors of the Institute’s privately owned premises. The first floor also houses a reading room for scholars using the material. The books are located through a computerised system.

Apart from the Greek publications, most of the acquisitions are in one of the Balkan or Slavonic languages (Albanian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat, Turkish, and the dialect spoken in FYROM). The library also contains a considerable number of books written in one of the four basic west European languages, English, French, German, or Italian.

There is also a notable special collection of some 235 volumes
printed before 1875. Their subject matter relates mainly to travel, history, and literature.

Books are selected according to strict criteria that limit accessions to works focusing on Balkan aspects of history, politics, international relations, economics, social sciences, folklore, religion, language, and art. The main focus of the selection of the material varies according to international historical, political, and social circumstances and changes in the Balkans.

The library is visited daily by an average of eight to ten students and university researchers, as also by many foreigners researching Balkan-related subjects.

It contains approximately 22,000 monographs and 737 periodicals, 200 of which are in current circulation.

In 1997, some 25,700 entries were added to the library's computer documentation system, including 7,900 works on the history of Yugoslavia, the Balkans, Greece, and Europe, the two World Wars, the Macedonian Question, the Balkan Wars, archaeology, travel accounts, biography, art, and the literature of Turkey, Yugoslavia, Albania, Russia, and Bulgaria, which were retrospectively indexed. To these entries may be added 465 new titles received during the year in the form of purchases, exchanges, and donations.

A total of 1,140 articles from 174 periodicals were indexed.

IV. CONFERENCES

On 4-5 September, the Institute for Balkan Studies, in association with the Munich Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft, organised the seventh Greek and German Conference in Thessaloniki on the subject of Greece, the Balkans, and the European Union: Current Problems and Perspectives. The participants were Greek and German scholars.

On 24-27 September, an international conference on the subject of Makedonien einst und jetzt was organised in Mannheim in association with the Historical Institute of Mannheim University. The participants were Greek and German scholars.

On 7-8 November, the Institute, in association with the British Council, organised a conference in Thessaloniki on the subject of Britain and Greece in the Twentieth Century. The participants were Greek and
British scholars.

V. LECTURES

On 12 February, Mr. James Pettifer, an English historian and journalist, gave a lecture on "Bulgaria in Crisis".

On 23 May, the journalist Mr. Alexis Papahelas gave a lecture on "American Policy in the Eastern Mediterranean: Past Mistakes and Present Dilemmas".

On 2 June, Mr. Georgios Paskhalidis, Undersecretary to the Premier's Office, gave a lecture on "Communication and Foreign Policy".

On 25 June, the Institute for Balkan Studies in association with the American Centre organised a lecture by Mr. William Hardy McNeill on "Reflections on World War II Greek Life".

VI. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. The School of Balkan Languages

The School of Balkan Languages and Russian (founded in 1963) continues its activities.

In the academic year 1996-7 there were 22 classes with 16 teachers, 342 regular students, and 3 auditors.

In the academic year 1997-8 there are 22 classes with 16 teachers, 342 regular students, and 1 auditor. Of the regular students, 18 are studying Albanian, 90 Russian, 89 Turkish, 53 Bulgarian, 29 Romanian, and 63 Serbian.

2. The International Programme on Greek Language, History, and Culture

From 27 July to 24 August, the Institute for Balkan Studies held its twenty-fifth International Programme on Greek Language, History, and Culture for foreign scholars and students.

The Programme helps to promote modern Greek studies at an international level and to foster Greek interests. It was attended by 154 foreigners from 33 countries in Europe, America, Africa, and Asia, most of whom were in receipt of scholarships from the Ministries of Culture and Education.
The proceedings of the Programme, based at the Xenia Helios Hotel in Peraia, were a resounding success. Every year this summer meeting makes our city a world centre for the study of the Greek language and Greek culture.

The Programme included: four hours of language tuition daily, at three levels, in which all the students participated conscientiously; courses in modern Greek literature and history, and Byzantine and Classical archaeology in Macedonia; open discussions with professors, specialists, and experts in the history and culture of Greece, with special reference to the problems facing the modern Greeks, particularly those relating to Macedonia and Macedonian history; excursions to archaeological sites; guided tours of museums; a shadow theatre show; and Greek folk-dancing lessons. Finally, the Programme was supplemented as far as possible with unscheduled evening get-togethers for all the students, to help them to get to know each other better.

VII. PUBLICATIONS

The following publications came out in 1997:


As it does every year, the Institute for Balkan Studies had its own stall at the (16th) Panhellenic Book Fair, organised by the Publishers’ Association of Northern Greece and held in Thessaloniki from 2 to 17 June.

The Institute sent 2,382 copies of its publications to various scientific institutions and libraries both in Greece and abroad, and donated 3,757 copies to the libraries of associations and schools.

Eighteen students in the School of Balkan Languages and Russian (1996-7), who had gained the highest grades in their various classes and attended the courses most conscientiously, were awarded a selection of IMXA publications.

VIII. VISITS

The following people visited the Institute:

1. On 31 January, the Czech Ambassador, Mr Jiri Marvan, met the then President, Professor Antony-Emil Tachiaos, and the Director, Professor Basil Kondis, who told him about the Institute’s activities.

2. On 13 February, Ms Valentina Duka, Vice-Rector of the University of Tirana, visited the Institute and met Professor Kondis, who told her about the Institute’s activities.

3. On 19 February, Mr Konstandinos Kanonis, Deputy General Director of the Commercial Bank, and Mr Vassilios Stavrinos visited the Institute. They met research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas, who told them about the Institute’s activities.

4. On 1 April, Ms Helen Drysdale, a journalist from London, met Mr Sfetas for a briefing about various aspects of the Institute’s activities.

5. On 16 April, Mr Valery D. Nikolayenko, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Athens, and Mr Oleg K. Voronkov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Thessaloniki, visited the Institute. They met the Deputy Director, Mr Constantine Papoulidis, who told them about the Institute’s work, and they all exchanged views on Greek-Russian cultural relations.

6. On 6 May, a group of Russian professors appointed to the University of London visited the Institute and met Mr Papoulidis, who escorted them around the library and told them about the activities of the Institute and the School of Balkan Languages and Russian.
7. From 3 to 7 June, the Institute invited Ms Natalia G. Tomilina, Director of the Centre for the Preservation of Modern Documents in Moscow, and Ms Nina D. Smirnova, a research associate with the General History Institute in Moscow, to stay in Thessaloniki. They discussed future collaboration with Professor Kondis and Mr Papoulidis.

8. On 10 June, twenty graduates of kindergarten teacher training colleges abroad visited the Institute. They were attending a retraining course at the Aristotle University’s Kindergarten Teacher Training School, and were accompanied by Mr K. Tsioumis, an external associate involved in the programme. Mr Papoulidis gave the visitors a guided tour of the Institute and told them about its research, publishing, and educational activities.

9. On 8 September, Dr Norman Ashton, Chairman of the Academic Board of the University of Western Australia, visited the Institute, accompanied by the Director of the Centre for Macedonians Abroad, Mr Konstandinos Pyrzas. The visitors met Professor Kondis, who told them about the Institute’s activities.

10. On 6 October, Mr Ilko Sivatzev, Consul General of the Republic of Bulgaria, visited the Institute and met Professor Kondis, who informed him about various issues.

11. On 15 October, Professor Akira Usuki of the University of Osaka visited the Institute and met Professor Kondis, who told him about the Institute’s activities.

12. On 16 October, the French Consul Mr Philippe Cocquebert met Professor Kondis, who told him about the Institute’s activities. On the same day, Professor Kondis also met Mr Nedal Sebek, a BBC correspondent in Boston, and informed him about various issues.

13. On 20 October, forty-five members of the Athens Institute for Modern Greek Studies visited the Institute, accompanied by the General Secretary of the IMGS, Mr Ioannis Bougatsos. The visitors were received by Mr Papoulidis, who told them about the Institute’s research, publishing, and educational activities.

14. On 24 October, Mr Robert J. Callahan, Counselor for Public Affairs at the Embassy of the United States of America, met Professor Kondis, who informed him about various issues.

15. On 3-4 November, twenty-five members of the University of Hull visited the Institute and had a meeting with Professor Kondis to
discuss the details of the SIB LWULT Language and Mobility programme.

16. On 6 November, Mr Paul Stephenson, Consul General of the United States, visited the Institute and met the President, Ms Kalliopi Koufa, and Professor Kondis, who informed him about various issues.

17. On 20 November, Elizabeth Tzimou, Professor of Modern Greek, visited the Institute on behalf of the Education Minister of Victoria, Australia, in connection with the Greece-Victoria educational exchange programme organised by the Greek Ministry of National Education and Religions. Mr Papoulidis told her about the Institute's educational activities.

18. On 25 November, Mr John Rice, Vice-Consul of the United States in Thessaloniki, visited the Institute in the company of Ms Kathryn Doumovic, a State Department analyst, and Professor Kondis told them about the Institute's activities. On the same day, Ms Helen Walker, Second Secretary of the British Embassy in Athens, met Professor Kondis, who informed her about various issues.

19. On 27 November, Mr Petrit Nathanailli, a historian and specialist in international relations from the University of Tirana, met Professor Kondis, who told him about the Institute’s activities.

20. On 8 December, Ms Marina L. Remneva, Dean and Chairwoman of the Philology Department of Lomonosov University in Moscow, accompanied by other members of the university, met Professor Kondis and Mr Papoulidis, who told them about the Institute’s activities and discussed future collaboration between the Philology Department of Lomonosov University and the Institute in general and the School of Balkan Languages in particular.

B. KONDIS