

who is controlled and who is stabilized, and whether our tenant's primary residence is in New York or Florida."

On a trip to Disney World two years ago, Wang couldn't resist driving over to Sarasota to see her tenant's other home. "It's a beautiful place," she said. "I couldn't afford to live there myself."

WILLIAM TUCKER

William Tucker lives in Brooklyn and is writing a book about rent control.

The Greek tabloid and the KGB.

RED ALL OVER

ALTHOUGH traditionally Justice is portrayed as a blindfolded maiden holding scales, the original Greek goddess of justice, Themis, was not always depicted with her eyes covered. That she might still be a tad selective with her virtue today can be seen from the curious spate of legal action concerning Greece's most popular newspaper, *Ethnos* ("The Nation"). Paul Anastasi, the Athens correspondent for the *New York Times* and London *Daily Telegraph*, contends the newspaper was established with financing and support from the Soviet KGB for the purpose of spreading disinformation.

With a circulation of 180,000, *Ethnos* is Greece's largest daily. On the outside, it is hardly your standard party rag. A lively Murdoch-style tabloid, *Ethnos* revolutionized the tired Greek press when it started publishing in 1981. It combines color pictures, gossip, sports, and sleaze with a heavy dose of what one Greek prosecutor calls "raw Soviet propaganda." *Ethnos* readers learned, for example, that the CIA was behind Indira Gandhi's assassination, that 2,000 people were killed on the first day of the U.S. invasion of Grenada, that KAL flight 007 was a deliberate "provocation" against the Soviets, that East Germany is an "example for East and West," and that the Soviet Union itself is "a genuine democracy... the first peace bloc in history." Lately it has given prominence to suggestions that the Americans were behind the murder of Swedish premier Olof Palme and that the Challenger exploded because it was carrying secret SDI equipment to be tested in space. *Ethnos* even refuses to report any action by the Papandreou government with which it does not agree.

The Anastasi affair began back in June 1983 when his book *Take the Nation in Your Hands*, alleging that the KGB was involved in the start-up of the paper, appeared in Greece. Most of the book was based on documents that Anastasi obtained from Yannis Yannikos, a Greek Communist. Yannikos was embittered after having been squeezed out of the profitable *Ethnos* venture in 1981 by his publishing partner, George Bobolas. The documents

showed that in 1978 the two men signed contracts with the Soviet copyright office in Moscow for permission to publish a Greek-language edition of the 34-volume *The Great Soviet Encyclopedia*. Yannikos says that the profits from this deal were then used to start *Ethnos*. The newspaper was produced by the same staff that worked on the encyclopedia, and works out of the same building. What really irked Yannikos was that the Russians preferred Bobolas, a wealthy right-wing Greek, to him, a lifelong dedicated Communist. (Bobolas, in fact, was the only Greek journalist to receive an award from the notorious right-wing colonels who ruled the country from 1967 to 1973.)

When Yannikos was ousted from the venture, he sued Bobolas. He also talked to Anastasi. After Anastasi's book was published, *Ethnos* sued Anastasi. But Yannikos suddenly settled out of court with Bobolas for \$650,000 and declined to testify on Anastasi's behalf.

Without his chief witness, Anastasi was convicted of defamation. The court did not dispute that the Soviet officials with whom the *Ethnos* executives signed commercial and publishing agreements were KGB agents. But it could not be proved that the *Ethnos* editor and publisher knew this, as Anastasi had contended. On appeal his sentence was reduced from two years' imprisonment to one, and then was commuted to a fine. Anastasi, though, was not acquitted. Nor has he retracted his charges. "What is missing here is a contract spelling it all out with the KGB—which of course never existed and never could exist," says Anastasi. "But any court can put two and two together."

BUT THIS WAS only the beginning. In July 1983 *Ethnos* published a transcript obtained from an illegal wiretap of a conversation between Anastasi and a lawyer on the *New York Times's* Athens bureau phone. *Ethnos* editors claimed that the transcript was delivered to the paper anonymously and that three government officials gave permission to publish it. *Ethnos* absurdly portrayed the conversation as a terrorist conspiracy. The government denied it had given its permission, and prosecuted George Bobolas and the editor of *Ethnos* for illegally publishing it. The two men were sentenced last year to five months' imprisonment each (later commuted to fines). However, early in May of this year, a Greek state prosecutor, relying on the testimony of *Ethnos* executives about this conversation, indicted Anastasi for threatening terrorist acts against *Ethnos*. While there are indications the indictment may be dropped, Anastasi has already filed a countersuit against the *Ethnos* executives for defamation and perjury.

There is yet another lawsuit in the *Ethnos* mess, and it is the one that may blow the whole affair wide open. This is *Ethnos's* pending suit against the *Economist* in Britain, which was recently postponed until the fall at *Ethnos's* request. More than a year before Anastasi came out with his book, the *Economist* published its own charges of Soviet links to *Ethnos* in its "Foreign Report" newsletter. Naturally, the drama—or farce—would not be complete without the requisite countersuit; the *Economist* is suing *Ethnos* for the latter's claim that the former is a CIA front.