

SOCIETY FOR MACEDONIAN STUDIES

RESOLUTION

Since its founding, in 1939, the Society for Macedonian Studies has defended Macedonia with sound, factual arguments and incorruptible History.

As a scientific institution, through its able staff and with the support of its associates it has, often unseen, provided invaluable assistance to the Greek State in addressing national issues, and continues to do so. Self-evidently, it does not conduct foreign policy. Concern about the latest developments with regard to the pseudonymity of the neighbouring state has spurred the Society for Macedonian Studies to adopt a position.

The Society for Macedonian Studies is most assuredly in favour of good relations with neighbouring states, as it has shown in practice with its active participation in trust-building measures.

The Society for Macedonian Studies is aware of and takes great satisfaction in the resolutions of the Church of Greece, the local government authorities of this country, the associations of Greeks abroad and other social organisations, in favour of Macedonia. It is particularly aware of and moved by the determination of all the Macedonians, expressed in so many ways, to refuse our neighbour's usurpation of the historical and cultural heritage of Macedonia, which is an inseparable part of Greek History. For Macedonia speaks through her monuments, her venerable archaeological wealth, the sacrifices of the Macedonians and all the Greeks, and she is Greek. For Macedonia is the soul of the Hellenic people.

With this resolution the Society for Macedonian Studies expresses its deep disquiet over the rumoured possibility that the neighbouring state will be given a name containing the word 'Macedonia' or a derivative of it. Any Greek concession on this point will forthwith reinforce that state's unremitting irredentism, which is blatantly taught in its schools and diffused throughout its society.

The Board of Directors of the Society for Macedonian Studies, in view of the negotiations,

EXCLUDES

emphatically and totally the direct or indirect use of the name 'Macedonia' or any derivative of it. It is considered essential that all traces of irredentism be expunged, that the relevant provision of that neighbouring state's Constitution be revised, with all its expansionist designs on Greek regions, and that all mention of those same irredentist elements be removed from its schoolbooks.

We also consider that the existing schismatic "Macedonian" Church, which is not recognised by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the other autocephalous Orthodox Churches, creates a major problem for the Orthodox Church.

Any concession will therefore be a major historical fraud at the expense of Greece, and will result in the continuation of Skopjan irredentism.

With this resolution the Society for Macedonian Studies calls upon the Greek State to do its historic and patriotic duty and defend the history and the culture of Macedonia.

The Board of Directors

Thessaloniki, Tuesday 16 January 2018