



The War Archive is pleased to invite you in the presentation of the film

Nikos Zahariadis : Aspects of his life and work
Saturday 25 June 2016 at 7.30 pm

The director of the film **Thanasis Papakostas** will honor us with his presence and will be available to talk with us at the end of the presentation.

The film and presentation will be in Greek

Institutions, and even individuals, presenting the work of third parties usually add the familiar disclaimer in the announcements of the presentations that «The views presented here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect or represent those of the institution».

The War Archive is pleased to inform its friends that it has never made use of these disclaimers as, from the very beginning of its activities, the Archive had no positions or views as to make it necessary to distance itself from the views of the people it invited to present !

The film we will be showing, thanks to Thanasis Papakostas, touches on people and periods of Greek history which were, and even possibly today still are, controversial and even painful.

Nikos Zahariadis, as the general secretary of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) during 1936-1949, played a very important role in the political and military events of the time, and at

the end paid with his own life his involvement. The work of Thanasis Papakostas opens a page on the life and work of a man who, notwithstanding his political beliefs, make him one of the most important political figures of the modern Greek history

An introduction to the film by the director

The film follows the life of Zahariadis from his life at the start of the 20th century till 1973 when he committed suicide. He was educated in the USSR and returned to Greece in 1934 when he was imprisoned by the Metaxas regime. After the declaration of war in 1940, and as general secretary of the KKE, he wrote to the Greek people urging resistance to the fascist invaders: «The prize of this struggle for the working class must be, and will be, a new Greece of labour, freedom and liberated from any foreign imperialist dependence»

With the occupation of Greece by the Germans, he was handed over by the police to the Germans and was sent to Dachau concentration camp from where he returned in triumph to Greece in May 1945 after the defeat of the left uprising in December 1944 in Athens and the Varkiza agreement.

The subsequent persecution of the left and of the participants of left resistance movement, forces Zahariadis to lead the KKE to armed conflict. The three years of civil war and the final defeat of the left in Greece, forces his exile to the USSR. In 1957, four years after Stalin's death, he is deposed from the post of secretary and expelled from the KKE. His internal exile in the USSR finally results to his suicide in August 1973 in protest of his treatment. In 2011, the KKE reinstated him fully.

Zahariadis's role in the first half of the twentieth century in Greece's history is controversial but nonetheless very important. In this film his life and political career is traced by historians George Margaritis, Nikos Papageorgakis, Nikos Marantzidis and Thanasis Sfikas. There are also contributions by his son Sifis Zahariadis, and also from Angelos Sideratos and Vasilis Ganatsios, a general in the Democratic Army of Greece, the army of the left.

The music of the film was based on an unknown folk song about Zahariadis.

Thanasis Papakostas

He has directed and acted as a musical supervisor in numerous TV series and individual films mostly for the Greek State Television Service. (2000-2013)

He produced for the Ministry of Culture a historic documentary «The years of exile» (2008) as well as a series on parliamentarians for the television channel of the Greek Parliament.

Has presented, and has received prizes, for documentaries in various festivals.

The Arheion is looking very much forward to your presence in this event.

We ask you however to let us know whether you will be coming either by replying to this email at aferris@wararchivegr.org and/or by contacting Maka Dokhnadze at the phone of the Arheion, 210-8676390, or mobile phone 69-98088220 **by latest 22/6/2016**. Please do note that space is limited.
