



The mission delegation with Israeli President Rivlin (seated at right).

# American Hellenic, American Jewish Groups Hail Third Leadership Mission

**A**n 18-member delegation of leaders of the American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations completed a third, three-country Leadership Mission to Greece, Cyprus and Israel, to explore the major political, economic and security developments underway in the eastern Mediterranean and to advance the interests of the United States in the region. Meetings were held January 14-19, 2018 with more than 20 high-ranking government and military officials—in addition to policy analysts and community leaders—from the three countries and the United States. In addition to AHEPA, the participating organizations included: the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In a post-mission statement, the groups noted: “Our meetings clearly revealed that the trilateral relationship between Israel, Cyprus and Greece is on a sustained course and is expanding on all levels.

“We believe the relationship has developed into a partnership, helping to foster peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean and the broader region where instability exists. Further, the partnership possesses the potential to allow the eastern Mediterranean to become a community of nations based on shared common values and aspirations. To this end, we hope the trilateral partnership blossoms into a multilateral one. We applaud the leaders of these three countries for their ongoing and increasingly close cooperative relationship, and we look forward to a fourth Trilateral Summit in 2018. The American Hellenic and American Jewish communities are committed to advancing the trilateral partnership.

“We will continue to work to foster closer cooperation with the United States and support the common efforts to achieve tangible and measurable outcomes. For example, we are optimistic about initiatives involving youth exchanges. Finally, we are grateful to the many leaders who afforded us the opportunity to exchange views and ideas. The friendship and hospitality shown to us made the trip even more meaningful and productive.”



The mission delegation with Admiral Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National Defense Council, at a dinner reception the admiral hosted.

## Leadership Mission: Listing of Meetings, Briefings & Visitations

### Greece

- President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos
- Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras
- American Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt and Deputy Chief of Mission Kate Byrnes
- Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos. Defense Minister Kammenos also hosted a luncheon for the joint delegation at the Ministry of Defense where several high-ranking military officials attended
- Minister of Energy, Environment George Stathakis
- Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura
- Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff, who hosted the joint delegation for a reception and dinner at the Hellenic Armed Forces Officers' Club
- The joint delegation visited and toured Hellenic Naval Fleet Headquarters – Salamis Island
  - ◆ Vice Admiral Ioannis Pavlopoulos, commander-in-chief of the Hellenic Fleet, who provided a briefing
  - ◆ Lt. Commander Dimitris Bogiatzis, Papanikolis submarine
  - ◆ Commander Dimitris Labiris, Spetses frigate
- The Hellenic Entrepreneurs Association, with special appreciation to HEA President Vasilis Apostopoulos and HEA Vice President Christian Hadjiminias, hosted the joint delegation for a dinner
- AHEPA Hellas District 25 hosted a reception for the joint delegation

- President of Demco Group Dimitri Contominas hosted the joint delegation for a luncheon

### Cyprus

- Defense Minister Dr. Christoforos Fokaides
- President of the House of Representatives Demetris Syllouris
- Presidential Commissioner Photis Photiou
- Commissioner Photiou hosted the joint delegation for a luncheon at where American Ambassador to Cyprus Kathleen Doherty, Greek Ambassador to Cyprus Ilias Fotopoulos and Israeli Ambassador to Cyprus Shmuel (Sammy) Revel, attended and addressed the joint delegation
- AHEPA District 27, Cyprus, hosted a dinner for the joint delegation

### Israel

- President of Israel Reuven Rivlin
- Member of Knesset Avi Dicter, chairman, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
- Head of the Political-Military Bureau of the Israeli Ministry of Defense Zohar Palti
- The joint delegation received a briefing at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs with:
  - ◆ Deputy Director General Alon Ushpiz
  - ◆ Akiva Tor, head, Bureau for Worldwide Jewish Affairs and World Religions
  - ◆ Ambassador David Roet, North American Affairs
  - ◆ Iris Ambor, director, South Europe Department
  - ◆ Sharon Regev, director, Department for World Religions
- The joint delegation visited Israel Navy Base – Haifa



Members of the AHEPA and AHI delegations share an emotional moment at Yad Vashem.



## AHEPA Delegation Visits Patriarchate of Jerusalem

An AHEPA delegation, led by Supreme President Carl R. Hollister visited the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and had an audience with His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine, January 20. Canadian President Christos Argiriou, Chairman of the Board Nick Aroutzidis, Executive Director Basil Mossaidis, and Consultant Andrew Kaffes, accompanied the supreme president. Supreme President Hollister presented Patriarch Theophilos with an American Flag, which was flown over the U.S. Capitol, thanks to U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis. Patriarch Theophilos presented Supreme President Hollister with the Icon of the Nativity. Following the meeting, the delegation toured the Holy Sites of Jerusalem.



Supreme President Hollister presents Patriarch Theophilos with an American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol.

- ◆ Brigadier General Gil Aginsky, base commander, provided a briefing
- ◆ The joint delegation toured a missile boat
- The joint delegation received a policy briefing from Professor Efraim Inbar, founding director, Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and Dr. Eran Lerman, former Deputy for Foreign Policy and International Affairs and former member of the Israeli National Security Council Dr. Eran Lerman, at a dinner hosted by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

### Leadership Mission: Participating Organizations

**American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA)** is a leading membership-based grassroots service association for American citizens of Greek heritage and

Philhellenes. Its mission is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism.

- Supreme President Carl R. Hollister
- Canadian President Christos Argiriou
- Chairman of the Board of Trustees Nikolas Aroutzidis
- Supreme Governor Dr. Alfred Barich (Greece only)
- Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis
- Consultant Andrew G. Kaffes

**American Hellenic Institute (AHI)** is a non-profit Greek American think-tank and public policy center that works to strengthen relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus, and within the Greek American community.

- President/COO Nick Larigakis



The AHEPA delegation with Cypriot Presidential Commissioner Photiου (second from left).



With Vice Admiral Pavlopoulos (center) are (l-r): Board Chairman Aroutzidis, Canadian President Argiriou, Supreme President Hollister and Executive Director Mossaidis.



The entire Leadership Mission delegation with Vice Admiral Pavlopoulos and his staff.



The Memorial at Hellenic Navy's Fleet Headquarters, Salamis Island.

- AHI Foundation Chairman Constantine Galanis
- Vice President James Lagos, Esq.
- Secretary of the Board of Directors Konstantinos Alexakis, Esq.
- Board Member Demitri Halakos
- Board Member Athina Balta (Greece only)
- Legal Counsel Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq. (Greece only)

**B'nai B'rith International** is a worldwide Jewish community service organization widely known as one of the world's most influential humanitarian, human rights and advocacy organizations.

- International President Gary P. Saltzman
- CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin
- Executive Committee Chairman Peter Perlman
- B'nai B'rith International Foundation Chairman Irving Silver
- Director of B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Alan Schneider

The **Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations** is the central coordinating body representing 53 national Jewish organizations on issues of national and international concern.

- Chairman Stephen Greenberg
- Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Malcolm Hoenlein