

To the Editors: I know that the opinions expressed in *Worldview* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Council on Religion and International Affairs, but the article of Mr. Tracy Early under the caption "Turks and the Western World" does not accomplish the aim of the Council, which is to advance national and international understanding.

If anything, it simply exacerbates the questions that it purports to elucidate. Recording faithfully the "official" views of the Turkish information officer Mr. Kilic, who is plodding to present the innocuous role of the Turks through the ages, without concurrently reporting the view of the Greek side, is, to put it mildly, unfair.

In order to show that the "assertive sorrow" of Mr. Kilic does not bring forward the best of arguments, I shall refute only one claim. How does he account for the fact that the Moslem minority in Western Thrace has since the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne consistently increased in numbers (it was 102,621 in the 1928 census and 117,000 in the

1977 census), despite Mr. Kilic's allegation that it is "systematically persecuted," while the Greek Orthodox minority of Istanbul and the islands of Imvros and Tenedos has dwindled from 152,000 in 1936 to 9,740 (1976 census)? Maybe it will further illustrate this point if I mention that the Greek Government has protested to Turkey about the upset of the numerical balance of the two minorities (established by the Treaty of Lausanne) and has also sought recourse from the U.N. Security Council (September 5, 1964) for the massive expulsion of Greek citizens from Turkey as well as from UNESCO (August 31, 1964) for the closing down of minority schools in the islands of Imvros and Tenedos.

John Nicolopoulos

*Director, Greek Press
and Information Service
New York, N.Y.*

Tracy Early Replies:

I think American impressions of the actions by Turks in Cyprus also come

mainly from their enemies and from Western observers predisposed, by long tradition, to minimal empathy. And on Cyprus matters, as well as others related to the Turks, Americans could perhaps broaden their understanding by listening at least occasionally to what the Turks themselves have to say.

My purpose was not to determine the rights and wrongs of the Greek-Turkish tensions but only to report on how Turks view their overall situation vis-à-vis the West, a seldom-told story in the United States. Whether Turks living in Greece actually are persecuted I don't know. But Mr. Nicolopoulos might strengthen his case if he could go beyond merely giving census figures and cite testimonies from authentic representatives of that community. We know from experience in the United States that a minority may still have serious grievances even if its numbers are increasing.

Some undernourished Americans have never missed a meal.

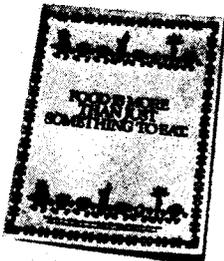
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Access to Education

To the Editors: In the few issues of *Worldview* that I have seen defenders of private schools, religious and otherwise, are quite prominent. I do not share their position.

The purpose of education is to provide information. Schools and universities make available knowledge—ideally in full scope on all conceivable subjects: the various branches of science, the different forms of art, philosophy, religion, history, literature, languages, and so on.

Ideally, once again, every person has access to man's growing fund of knowledge. If a student attends a private educational institution, it means that he or she is getting either more than children in the public schools or he or she is getting less. For instance, if the child is going to a private secular school, he may be getting more individualized attention. If he is attending a religious school, it may be that he is being denied a full range of knowledge of past and present religions—and of nonreligion.

Equality of opportunity in education can be achieved only by equal access to information, free from both privilege and dogma.

John Sheldon

Savannah, Ohio