



GREECE

INFORMATION

*Bio
Book*

BIOGRAPHY OF MR. GEORGE RALLIS
PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE

Mr. George Rallis was born in Athens in 1918. After graduating in Law and Political Sciences at the University of Athens, Mr. Rallis practiced law. His first election to Parliament was in 1950 at the age of 31. He was elected on six subsequent occasions: twice under the banner of the National Rally (1951-1952), and in 1956, 1961, 1963, 1964 with the National Radical Union of Mr. Karamanlis. Among the ministerial posts he occupied: Minister to the Prime Minister; Minister of Public Works and Transport; Minister of the Interior. He was Minister of Public Order when the military coup of 1967 took place and, temporarily managing to elude arrest, he tried to organize resistance against the coup.

Like many other progressive politicians, Mr. Rallis continued fighting against the military dictatorship (1967-1974), was arrested three times and exiled. With the return of democracy in July 1974, Mr. Rallis was elected MP of the New Democracy party in November 1974. He was appointed Minister to the Prime Minister and, later, Minister of Education (1976-1977). During that time he was instrumental in introducing the demotic language in public administration and the educational system.

He was re-elected in the parliamentary elections of November 20, 1977, and was appointed Minister of Coordination, a post he held until he became Foreign Minister on May 10, 1978. He was Foreign Minister until the assumption of the premiership.

Rallis served with heroism as an officer in the 1940-41 war against the Axis and also in the Resistance during the Nazi occupation. His ten major awards and

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decorations include the Medal of Valor, Knight Commander of the Order of the Phoenix, and the French Legion of Honor.

The new Prime Minister speaks English, French and German. In addition, he is a published author having written extensively on political and economic matters. Mr. Rallis is married to Helen Voultsov and has two daughters.

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