

2. A RESPONSE TO VICTOR FRIEDMAN WAS PROVIDED BY A LETTER OF PROFESSOR MICHAEL GEOKAS OF UC, DAVIS TO ANDREAS STALIDIS OF ANTIBARO IN LONDON ADDRESSED TO MR. C. DELISO ON MARCH 3, 2009:

Dear Mr. Deliso:

It has been a long time since we have communicated by E-Mail or otherwise. From time to time I have seen some of your Reports. However I am writing to you today, because I am very upset with you and furious will be a better description. I have in front of me the Curriculum Vitae of Victor Friedman and next to it, Victor Friedman on Macedonia: The Balkanalysis.com, Interview. Please note the following:

1. Question: Who in the name of God you think you are, to play fast and loose, when interviewing someone, who is simply a Linguist, yet he is pontificating and mixing linguistic and Historical facts, concerning one of the notoriously complicated areas of the World?

2. This was not an Interview by a sophisticated reporter. You were not just interviewing. You were making your own faulty statements and persistently agreeing with Victor Friedman. In effect, you acted incitingly and with enthusiasm at that.

Example: CD: Interesting. Many Macedonians proudly claim to me that in Yugoslav times they were on a much higher social and economic level than the Greeks. THIS IS A PREPOSTEROUS AND GROSSLY UNTRUE STATEMENT AND YOU ACCEPTED IT ON FACE VALUE, FROM UN-IDENTIFIED PEOPLE AND THEN REPORTED IT AS A TRUE FACT.

Let me show you how enormously wrong was, what you reported:

PER CAPITA GNI PPP IN US \$

1981 GREECE	\$4,859.....	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.....	\$1,671
1985 GREECE	\$4,481.....	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.....	\$1,623
1990 GREECE...	\$8,676.....	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.....	\$1,574
1995 GREECE...	\$11,645.....	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.....	\$1,571
2000 GREECE...	\$10,578.....	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.....	\$1,057
2005 GREECE...	\$22,950.....	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.....	\$3,280
2008 GREECE...	\$32,520.....	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.....	\$3,280

[Data validated from the Population Reference Bureau Washington DC and other sources]

Do you know what this grossly untrue statement you have made, actually does? Renders unreliable all of your musings in this interview. Then comes at least one remarkable error of Victor Friedman, that I will describe it, because that significant error destroys the value of his interview, and I will mention only one, of several, because it is very striking, especially when coming from a Linguist:

-He says and insists in saying it :VF."One telling aspect, from a linguist's point of view, is that Greek is the only language in the Balkans that does not have a proverb to the effect that languages are wealth or the more languages you know, the more people you are worth. All other languages have some such saying that indicates a value placed on multilingualism.

CD. Are you sure this is true, that the Greek lacks such a value? Or could someone just invent one for the sake of it?

VF. To the best of my knowledge, there is no such expression. And over the years I have asked every Greek friend of mine for such a proverb and no one of them has come up with one. And I am talking about linguists, experts in the Balkans who are not subjective. WOW. THIS IS GROSS. THIS IS COMPLETELY AND ABSOLUTELY PREPOSTEROUS AT SEVERAL LEVELS. MAN, I LEARNED SUCH A PROVERB WHEN I WAS 10 YEARS OLD. SUCH A PROVERB IS WIDELY KNOWN BY GREEK PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LINGUISTS.

--IT GOES LIKE THIS: OSES GLOSSES EXEI, TOSA KEFALIA ECHEI.....which is absolutely beautiful, because it means: AS MANY TONGUES ONE HAS, AS MANY HEADS HE HAS! [which of course means, as many languages he speaks, as many Brains he has].

-AND HERE COMES A LINGUIST FROM THE WINDY CITY, CHICAGO, TO TELL THE WORLD THAT THE GREEK LANGUAGE DOES NOT HAVE SUCH A PROVERB, TO DENOTE THE VALUE OF MULTILINGUALISM? THIS IS RIDICULOUS AND IT NULLIFIES ALL THE REST OF HIS STATEMENTS. IN MY BOOK THEY MEAN, ZERO, ZILCH.

IN SUMMARY: Those are two serious errors, which are quite striking and render your interview worthless.

If you were back home, and you were working for one of the big Newspapers or a top TV Station, and you made two such errors, you will be fired on the spot. I suggest that you become much more careful for your own good. Remember, you are in the Balkans, the worst neighborhood in this planet. Do your research after your interview and validate your writings. And pay attention to details. Keep well.

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