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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NEWS FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF HELLENES ABROAD – NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA REGION

Our ΣΑΕ Region Responds to Renewed Attack on Hellenes by Talk Radio Network’s “Mancow” Muller

ΣΑΕ-Americas, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, Hellenic Congressional Caucus to Protest Characterization of Hellenes as “Laziest people on Earth,” “racist,” “dirty, filthy people,” and “scammers” on U.S. Radio Nationwide

Chicago, Illinois, April 4, 2005 – As part of his policy of having the N. & S. America Region of ΣΑΕ respond to all unfair media attacks on the image of Hellenes in the Western Hemisphere, V.P. and Regional Coordinator Chris P. Tomaras has written to Mark Master, CEO of the Talk Radio Network (TRN), demanding an on-air apology by WKQX’s (Chicago) Erich “Mancow” Muller for a particularly anti-Greek segment during his March 16 morning radio program, which is syndicated on TRN. The letter followed one by the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, the Very Rev. Demetri C. Kantzavelos, who heard the segment as he arrived at his Metropolis offices on March 16.

Tomaras wrote: “We wholeheartedly concur with [these] sentiments expressed in the recent letter to you from [Fr.] Kantzavelos:

Mr. Masters, we are not “Pollyanna’s” who do not understand the dynamics of talk radio and the essential role that sensationalistic rhetoric plays in driving audience numbers and advertising rates. But this is not cable TV, nor satellite radio, but rather our own public airwaves. Even you must agree, sir, that there is a point beyond which the public airwaves cannot be used to abuse the image and reputation of an entire nation, especially when they are not given an opportunity to respond... Because given that opportunity, we would have Erich “Mancow” Muller’s listeners know, for example, that the Chicago Sun-Times cited in a recent article an international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development survey ranking of the number of hours worked per person around the world in 2003 (the last year for which data is available). In that ranking, the U.S. ranked fourth, behind first-place Korea, second-place Greece and even behind Mexico. If the Greeks in Greece are as “lazy” as Mr. Muller told his millions of listeners they are, what are we Americans who rank two places behind them?

Mr. Master...there is no end to the clever ripostes our constituents would want us to write here, nor an end to the litany of other outrages uttered by Mr. Muller against other groups, both in the U.S. and elsewhere. **But on behalf of the 1.5 million Greek Americans in the U.S., the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (ΣΑΕ) must demand that the TRN undertake the following:**

1. **Instruct Mr. Muller to correct**, on-air, his misinformation regarding the history of the Colossus of Rhodes and the Greek people’s role in its preservation;
2. **Instruct Mr. Muller to apologize**, again on-air and not just to those Americans of Greek descent, for his characterization of them and their families as ‘lazy,’ ‘dirty, filthy,’ ‘racist’ and ‘scammers.’ “

Copies of Tomaras’ letter were sent to the FCC, the Hellenic Congressional Caucus and the stations that carry Muller’s syndicated program.

Transcript and ΣΑΕ response

The collage contains several key documents:

- Broadcast Monitoring:** A document from the Metropolis of Chicago dated 04/04/05, detailing a broadcast by Erich "Mancow" Muller on WKQX-FM on March 16, 2005. It notes that the broadcast was highly offensive to the Greek community and that the Metropolis has taken steps to protest.
- Letter from Andrew A. Athens:** Dated March 30, 2005, addressed to Mark Master, CEO of the Talk Radio Network. It expresses the ΣΑΕ's strong disapproval of Muller's remarks and demands an on-air apology.
- ΣΑΕ Response Letter:** A letter from Chris P. Tomaras, Regional Coordinator, dated April 4, 2005. It reiterates the ΣΑΕ's stance, provides a list of regional council members, and lists the specific demands for a correction and apology.

To read the entire transcript of the “Mancow” radio segment, and the text of our response, please visit www.saeamerica.org

Contact your Senators and Representative today!



**ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΑΠΟΔΗΜΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ (ΣΑΕ)
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΒΟΡΕΙΟΥ & ΝΟΤΙΟΥ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
WORLD COUNCIL OF HELLENES ABROAD (ΣΑΕ)
NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA REGION**

An Illinois non-profit organization - 501(c)(3)

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VIA FAX: 541.664.6250

March 30, 2005

* * *

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Regional Coordinator
N. & S. America Region
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Mr. Mark Master, CEO
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* * *

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Dear Mr. Master:

I am writing to you once again in my capacity as Vice President and Regional Coordinator for N. & S. America of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (ΣΑΕ). Ours is the umbrella for the many federations and other organizations representing more than 6 million persons of Greek descent around the world, more than 1.5 million of them in the United States of America.

My last letter to you was on Dec. 5, 2003, regarding comments about Atty. Mark Geragos, Greeks and their affinity for bestiality by your on-air personality Michael Savage. We have not had reports of any further inaccurate and/or unfair on-air references to our people since then, and thank you for whatever role you may have played as CEO of Talk Radio Network (TRN).

This letter is in response to an even more serious attack on the Greek community by another of your "stars," Erich "Mancow" Muller during his March 16, 2005 program on Chicago's WKQX-FM, which is syndicated on TRN around the U.S. We wholeheartedly concur with the sentiments expressed in the recent letter to you from the Very Rev. Demetri C. Kantzavelos, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, in which he says:

It has been exactly six years now since March, 1999 when Erich "Mancow" Muller last disparaged the Greek people on America's public airwaves. Attached is a Bacon's transcript of a segment from Erich "Mancow" Muller's March 16, 2005 program. As you will read in the Bacon's transcript, he used his position as a broadcast personality on Chicago's WKQX-FM, and on the stations where your Talk Radio Network syndicates his program, to give his listeners gross stereotypes, and more importantly, patently wrong information, on one of our nation's most socio-economically prominent groups and their families in Greece.



As documented in the transcript, Mr. Muller aspires to educate his listeners about one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, the Colossus of Rhodes, which he visited while on a Mediterranean cruise. He tells his listeners that he is scandalized the ancient

Greeks allowed the towering statue to collapse, that their “lazy” descendants never rebuilt it and today only offer a toe for tourists to gawk at. The truth, however, is the following:

The construction of the Colossus took 12 years and was finished in 282 BC. For years, the statue stood at the harbor entrance, until a strong earthquake hit Rhodes about 226 BC. The city was badly damaged, and the Colossus was broken at its weakest point -- the knee. The Rhodians received an immediate offer from Ptolemy III Eurgetes of Egypt to cover all restoration costs for the toppled monument. However, an oracle was consulted and forbade the re-erection. Ptolemy's offer was declined. For almost a millennium, the statue lay broken in ruins. In AD 654, the Arabs invaded Rhodes. They disassembled the remains of the broken Colossus and sold them to a Jew from Syria. It is said that the fragments had to be transported to Syria on the backs of 900 camels.

- (Source: Encyclopedia Britannica)

Mr. Muller then goes from bad to worse. He alternately refers to Greek-Americans and those who live in Greece as “lazy,” “dirty, filthy,” “racist” and “scammers.” For purposes that can only be characterized as malicious or designed to incite ethnic resentment, he even describes today’s Greeks as “muslims [sic] living outside the Middle East.” Once again, the truth is different. The vast majority of Greeks throughout the world are not adherents of Islam but rather of Orthodox Christianity. Their predecessors suffered four centuries of oppression and occupation under Islam, serving as a “buffer” for Western Europe from the Fall of Constantinople in 1453 to 1830 when Greece gained its independence with the help of the fledgling U.S., Britain’s Lord Byron and other luminaries. So you can understand why Mr. Muller’s characterization of Greeks as “muslims [sic] living outside the Middle East.” is particularly galling. Also galling is Mr. Muller’s likening the people of Greece to “muslims” (a transparent attempt at Muller-code for “terrorist”?), given that the people of Greece will be paying for the extreme security demanded by the U.S. at the Athens 2004 Olympics for decades to come.

During the same program, Erich “Mancow” Muller also referred to a specific Chicago restaurant owned by a Greek-American (“George at the Palace Grill”), whom he describes as “racist” due to his encyclopedic repertoire of ethnic jokes. Chicago’s Santorini Restaurant is similarly described in this transcript as an unclean establishment where patrons are victimized by “scammers.” We do not doubt that Erich “Mancow” Muller, WKQX and TRN will be hearing from the lawyers of the owners of those establishments and perhaps the Greek-American Restaurant Association as well.



Fr. Kantzavelos then continues, saying:

Mr. Masters, we are not “Pollyanna’s” who do not understand the dynamics of talk radio and the essential role that sensationalistic rhetoric plays in driving audience numbers and advertising rates. But this is not cable TV, nor satellite radio, but rather our own public airwaves. Even you must agree, sir, that there is a point beyond which the public airwaves cannot be used to abuse the image and reputation of an entire nation, especially when they are not given an opportunity to respond.

*Because given that opportunity, we would have Erich “Mancow” Muller’s listeners know, for example, that the **Chicago Sun-Times** cited in a recent article an international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development survey ranking of the number of hours worked per person around the world in 2003 (the last year for which data is available). In that ranking, the U.S. ranked fourth, behind first-place Korea, second-place Greece and even behind Mexico. If the Greeks in Greece are as “lazy” as Mr. Muller told his millions of listeners they are, what are we Americans who rank two places behind them? We also would have asked Mr. Muller why it is that he continues to patronize a Greek-American restaurant where he says he cringes at the constant barrage of admittedly “funny” but “racist” ethnic jokes told by the owner? One might ask: “Is he too lazy to go to another restaurant,” perhaps?*

While we do not endorse censorship or debate Mr. Muller’s interpretation of his own personal experiences while on vacation, we certainly find his stereotypical characterizations of the Greek people, both here in the U.S. and in Greece, to be both inaccurate and unnecessarily divisive at a moment when all Americans need unity instead. Mr. Muller has the freedom to air his views, but in a responsible manner. His remarks in this instance were patently irresponsible, as they are self-contradictory—claiming Greek-Americans are hardworking and counted among his “friends” but also “scammers.” Does TRN really endorse such references to our community, gross libels that would not be tolerated had they been made in reference to other ethnic or racial minorities in our nation?

We do not expect a response, nor a retraction or an apology from Mr. Muller, WKQX, or TRN. But as a group you can all expect that the same Greek-Americans who were able to secure a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award our nation can bestow, for our faith’s Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will also now do its best to see that the FCC imposes a substantial fine in this matter. In your line of business, we are certain you are familiar with the phrase, “we’ll do what we have to do,” Mr. Master.

Mr. Master, we reiterate everything Fr. Kantzavelos has expressed above, and congratulate him on his response. Of course, there is no end to the possible ripostes our constituents would want us to write here, nor an end to the litany of other outrages uttered by Mr. Muller against other groups, both in the U.S. and elsewhere. **But on behalf of the 1.5 million Greek Americans in the U.S., the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (ΣΑΕ) must demand that the Talk Radio Network undertake the following:**



1. **Instruct Mr. Muller to correct**, on-air, his misinformation regarding the history of the Colossus of Rhodes and the Greek people's role in its preservation;
2. **Instruct Mr. Muller to apologize**, again on-air and not just to those Americans of Greek descent, for his characterization of them and their families as "lazy," "dirty, filthy," "racist" and "scammers."

We will expect your positive reply within 10 days of receipt of this letter, Mr. Master. If we do not receive it, we will then formally ask the following to support the position taken here by the World Council of Hellenes Abroad: the FCC; the Mayors of the cities that your network is given the privilege to serve; our Greek-American political leaders and friends at the federal, state and local government level; our business community and their partners, finally, the many other organizations that have found it necessary to protest, economically and/or legally, the calumnies inflicted on their constituents by your "star," Mr. Muller.

Whether Mr. Muller has the legal right to spew what he does is for others to decide. As an organization, we have decided to join those who, like Fr. Kantzavelos, who believe that all Americans deserve better than Mr. Muller on our airwaves.

Very truly yours,

Chris P. Tomaras
Vice President
Regional Coordinator for N. & S. America

Copies to:

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
Hon. Olympia Snowe, U.S. Senate
Hon. Paul Sarbanes, U.S. Senate
Hon. George Gekas, U.S. House of Representatives
Andrew A. Athens, Pres., World Council of Hellenes Abroad (ΣΑΕ)
ΣΑΕ Regional Coordinating Council, N. & S. America
ΣΑΕ Member-Federations and Organizations
Hon. Mayors of the following cities, and Advertising Sales Managers
of the following radio stations serving them:
WABC, New York
KSFO, San Francisco
KLIF, Dallas
KPRC, Houston
WTNT, Washington
WRKO, Boston

WTMJ, Milwaukee
WPRO, Providence
WDBO, Orlando
WNIS, Norfolk
WOKV, Jacksonville
WHAM, Rochester
WRVA, Richmond
WAPI, Birmingham
WGY, Albany
KFAQ, Tulsa
WOOD, Grand Rapids
KKOB, Albuquerque
KFAB, Omaha
KTTH, Seattle
KFMB, San Diego
KXL, Portland

KFTK FM, St Louis
WKRC, Cincinnati
KSTE, Sacramento
KMBZ, Kansas City
KNRS, Salt Lake City

Maureen Del Duca, FCC
Anti-Defamation League
F.A.I.M.
F.A.I.R.



Broadcast Monitoring

Client: V. Rev. Demetri Kantzavelos, Metropolis of Chicago

Air Date: 03/16/05

Station: WKQX - FM Radio

Time: 9:00 AM

Program: Mancow

Subject: Mancow Bashes Greeks

MANCOW: That's like when you go to Rhodes, as I have been. I've been there, and the Colossus that stood like with its legs across this ocean, it was, well, one of the seven wonders, magnificent. It fell and laid there for a couple hundred years and people just stole chunks of it. They'd carve off a nose, and put it in their backyard. They'd take a finger.

SIDEKICK: Yeah?

MANCOW: This thing stood with its legs under, tall mast ships could go between its legs.

SIDEKICK: Right

MANCOW: Do you know what's left of it? If you go to Rhodes, do you - and this is how lazy the Greeks are. Okay? And again, I tell you, the laziest people on earth, the Greeks. No! I'm telling you. Awful, awful people. But there is a, there is an exception.

SIDEKICK: Mm hmm.

MANCOW. American Greeks are hardworking. American Greeks are hardworking people, and most of them own restaurants.

SIDEKICK: Yeah.

MANCOW: Some of my - George over at the Palace Grill.

SIDEKICK: Yes.

MANCOW: And if you like racist jokes, he'll serve you up one with your ham, egg and cheese sandwich.

SIDEKICK: Just ask him.

MANCOW: Oh, yeah. He's got the racist jokes.

SIDEKICK: Name any race. He's got 'em.

MANCOW: Oh, they're funny. They're funny.

SIDEKICK: They are really funny.

MANCOW: He tells a joke. You look at your sandwich and go, "God, I hope there's nobody. Is there anyone else here? Is anyone else here in the restaurant? Hmm. Where were we? Oh, yeah. So, everyone that had any kind of gumption, anyone that had any kind of motivation at all got the hell out of that dirt pit. And all that's left here is a bunch of scammers. They sit around and bitch about the Turks, and they haven't done anything for thousands of years. "We created theater." Four thousand years ago! "We had the Colossus." Four thousand however many thousands of years. And all that's left, if you go to see the Colossus of Rhodes is a toe, one of the toes, and they have a museum with a toe. Yeah! That was worth the cruise ship there, you dirty, filthy people. And then they, and they don't eat the crap they give you. I don't know what's in a gyro, and they don't eat gyros. That's not Greek.

SIDEKICK: I don't think they do either. Yeah, right.

MANCOW: Oh. it's_

SIDEKICK: Why, when you go to Greece there's not a bunch of gyro spits going around.

MANCOW: It's pig lips and rats, chopped up and put into this giant pressed, Spam-like meat that's brown.

SIDEKICK: That's why they break plates.

MANCOW: And they shove it in some crusty bread wanna-be. "Here you go, tourist!" And the cab, the cab drivers, they're thieving pricks. They'll take every dime from you. You want to go across the street, you're going to go to Rhodes. Hell, they'll drive you to Spain and back underwater just to get more money out of ya. "Oh, hey It's Zorba! Oh, and that's another thing they do, and they do that at Greek restaurants here in America, too. That pisses me off!

SIDEKICK: The dollar dance?

MANCOW: No. "Hey! You have some ouzo!" Dah, ta, dah, ta, dah, ta, dah! And they pour me. "Hey, ouzo my friends! My good friends!" And you know, the guy, his family's been here for a hundred years. "Hey!" He's some Greek guy, big, fat guy. "We dance! And the girls and the..." And then you find out, the end of your bill, they charge you twenty dollars a shot.

SIDEKICK: All those shots. Yep.

MANCOW: Scamming b... ugh. Anyway, there's Muslims more than just outside of the Mideast.

CALLER - UNRELATED PHONE CALL

MANCOW: I want to talk more about the Greeks and how much they suck.

MUSIC PLAYING - song listing Greek foods.

MANCOW: Except for the American Greeks are great people.

MUSIC CONTINUES

MANCOW: I'm at Santorini's, some big, fat Greek guy is sitting there complaining about the Turks, how they killed his whole family. I-ley, you going to do anything about that? You going to do anything about that? Huh? Eh, I'm just going to sit here in the filth. Hey, maybe you guys could sweep or something. Just a desert with an old toe sitting there, pillars all dropped over. They haven't done anything in - ah, anyway!

END