

# GREEK FOOD RELIEF RIDES ON MARATHON

## Win by Kyriakides Can Boost Aid for Starving Country

By ARTHUR SIEGEL

The B.A.A. Marathon this Saturday may seem to be a lot of foolishness to logical people—such as ones who play mystic numbers trying to win the daily double at horse races—but the Greeks have a good word for it. And there is the significance in this year's race that if Styliamos Kyriakides of Greece can win, or be right there at the finish, that achievement will mean more food and clothing for impoverished Greece.

### GREEK NOT SEEKING PERSONAL GLORY

Such is the information offered by George Demeter, the Bostonian who is an avid marathon fan. Being of Greek heritage—very proudly—he is rooting for Kyriakides to do well and there isn't anything but an idealistic viewpoint. In the past, Demeter has had his brief moment of fame when he slapped a laurel crown on the sweaty brow of the marathon winner.

This year he doesn't care about that moment of glory. "Kyriakides is a representative of Greek athleticism," Demeter points out, "and while he is here as an athlete, his efforts in this marathon mean much more. As an athlete, he has been commissioned to pick up some athletic supplies to take back to Greece. It's almost pathetic how little they want back there. Three or four discuses, some shot for shot-putting, javelins, track shoes, spiked shoes, track suits.

Kyriakides wants a few of those, as he calls them, ski suits, although over here they're known as sweat suits. The athletes in Greece want to get started and they want something with which to get started. They want to interest the young boys and girls in track. After all, that was of Greek origin."

Then Demeter went on as he told how much the Greeks in this country wanted Kyriakides to win and how much Styliamos wanted that victory in the B. A. A. run. The average competitor this Saturday will be thinking of what it means to him personally. There may be the national pride. But Kyriakides has a whole nation depending on him. If he wins this Saturday—if he finishes among the first five in this great event—he'll go touring the country, with Greeks in the various sections supporting that tour.

### WIN MAY BOOST RELIEF FOR GREECE

"He'll be traveling to help raise funds for Greek Relief. A victory might mean, by the time he finishes his tour, a whole ship of supplies that are so desperately needed back in his home country. It's a terrible burden for just one small man. But Kyriakides is a Greek and he's proud that he's the man to carry that burden. That's why he may be a bit more serious Saturday, since he's running for food and clothing—even medicines—for millions of his countrymen."

So that's the true story of Kyriakides and his second visit to the United States. He came over here once before, merely as a competitor. This time he's here as a life-saving patriot.

Incidentally, Demeter revealed that the Massachusetts Greeks are planning to stage a marathon of their own in the future. Possibly a Kyriakides victory might move up the event a year. But the plans call for a Greek-sponsored marathon, to be staged on Memorial Day, from Lowell to Boston.