Clive, right, with his Greek in armos Mario Mantakis, in 1944

Nigel Clive

AS AN intelligence officer, director of MI6, and author, Nigel Clive had a distinguished public and private life. Born on 8 September 1940, Clive was the son of Sir David Clive, an English diplomat, and his Greek wife, Maria Tambakopoulou, from a prominent Athens family with Spetsai bandit roots, a marriage that was a wonder. He was always of the Establishment.

In Clive's last years he continued his life, and he was an active member of the Anglo-Hellenic League and the Royal Institute of International Affairs and wrote reviews and articles for several journals. A Greek Experience was recognized on its publication as a landmark in the British literature of the civil war. In 1944 he published an English translation of Marianne Golitsyn's The Trial of Odysseus, based on Yiankos Danielopoulos's memoir of a naval captain on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria.

In recent years Clive took a close interest in the emerging Balkan crisis, and travelled widely in the region until he was a very old age. In Albania, he decided to start afresh and he was an unorthodox member of the Greek Civil War. His memoir Clive got Leonard Shapiro at LSE to write his life, and he was an active interpreter of Soviet Cold War propaganda. But when Michael Goodwin, its Director, rejected his advice he resigned.

In 1966 Clive was transferred to the Foreign Office to head a department that disseminated unattributable analyses of political events and forecasts. But three years later the Commonwealth Office was amalgamated with the Foreign Office. Posts had to be found for former Colonial Service officers and Clive was asked to return to MI6. He was informed that he was too old now for a post abroad and that no suitable post was vacant in London. Oldfield had his revenge. Clive decided to start afresh and in 1970 he was appointed special adviser to John Kerr von Leines, the Secretary-General of OECD, a brilliant though difficult man to work for; and Clive's diplomatic talents were needed to sweeten relations between his head and his staff.

He held this post until 1980, when he returned to London, and until 1982 he became editor of the Institute for the Study of Conflict in order to change his reputation as a centre for fanatical Cold War propagandists. But when Michael Goodwin, its Director, rejected his advice he resigned.

In Clive's last years he continued to contribute articles to the Times Literary Supplement and other periodicals. He took particular pleasure in writing for the DNF a notably fain-the-minded appraisal of Sir Maurice Oldfield.


**Lord Annan died 21 February 2000**