19 June 1990

An uneventful day ends successfully. While sand clearing continued on the site, I continued on to finish the rest of my mail and judiciously copy all my notes to colleagues for evaluation. I purchased some time by inspecting the sheltering of the Pitsidia complex — it will be better than ours; and the concrete slab roof of our Apartments 3 & 4 will now reflect rather than absorb the heat.

At 12.30 a Phaistos guard appeared while I was reviewing a Temple C text and said that work on the site had been stopped since the permit did not allow us to use a machine to remove sand on the site. I told him that while it was true that the permit specified that, that a clarification of the permit, allowing us to remove down to the ancient layers, had been issued. (I showed him both, explaining that we had asked them to clarify the statement that otherwise would have made all our present plans to clean and dig impossible.) We then called Phaistos and zakynthos Spyrakos, one of the chief of Phaistos guards, said it was to go ahead and the guard who had come to Pitsidia was sent back to the site to allow the machine to continue, that taken care of, by chance I received an apology only to find that Ephor Kritsios, when I talked briefly after arriving in Crete when I cleared matters of the permit had passed by on a general inspection tour and had gone down to the site.

On the site the guard apologized on the inconvenience (the second permit had not yet arrived at Phaistos — apparently a guard
from there had passed by the Kourunno suite (in an entourage) and had reported back about 11-12, which led to the order. He also talked about specific small projects as specified in the permit (no problem). He was in support (along with Antonio Di Vittorio agreement) of my recently published theory about the significance of the tripillar shrine of Temple B.

He was aware of the extent of our property on the east, and supported our thought to reset the road outside as long as Daskalakis would not come trouble. I said that I didn't think that he would. For obvious reasons I did not mention that in the south, claimed by Daskalakis and Agilo, the situation was not so clear but things happen as they may. The result was, in any case, that the repositioning of the road received Governor mental approval.

Keitse was careful to make sure that the masonry has approved. Tomorrow we begin to lay in the new road, with general and local approval, something that I could not have been sure of only a week ago when we were struggling with the problems of what to do within a complex and this apparently conflicting situation.

"Call me if there are any problems," he said after a most cordial visit. I suspect that his cordiality (mentioned by others in Nkutura, and our previous George) was an analysis of character (no straight to the man) is a welcome change from the recent past when the cordiality was an irony for intrigue and slander.
24 June 1990

As usual after a successful day. Early in the morning the first load of soil for the new property on the east and south side of the road fell just outside the property line. I laid it there for it to follow by bringing a huge roll of string from Pittwick, then tying it between boulder markers that were laid in in 1986 by GB when we were consigning expansion and possible future land purchases. He was anxious that the work was finished by the end of the working day, the machine then scooped up earth and stones from the section of road put in earlier. By the afternoon the entire length (200m?) had a layer of dirt 3 metres wide, so the deed is done and the framework is set. The road remains gloved, however, for there was too much sand mixed in with the dirt -- it scooped too deeply -- and a new layer of earth from elsewhere in crushed stone must be arranged for perhaps in the next few days. Hopefully the fence can be set in by the end of next week. In the meantime we are free to continue to remain sand eastward a project that will continue until we have reached the new boundary or have decided that enough has been done to.
21 June 1990

The machine did not come today, so no progress was made on either the road or the sand cleaning. Georgios and the rest of the crew spent the day working on the site. The night guard left at 6:00 AM and returned only at 2:00 PM. In Pitsidia, the annual cleaning of the stoveroom area is nearly finished by Asterios Tsiakis who has whitewashed both of his rented houses, also fixed some holes in the walls.

I went to Kerasia in the morning and picked up M. S. who arrived from Athens. The small group for this year has begun to gather.
22 June 1990

According to the night watchman, yesterday evening C. Astirinakis came and said that part of his property is on the road.

At 12:00, George (?) Stathacos, a representative of Daskalakis, came to the apartment to read the land deed. He has come to check out who owns what and to mark the areas owned by Daskalakis. He does not seem bothered by the new road (you had the work done, we got the land'). He reads, concludes that the land around the excavation is Daskalakis', and leaves. Aristotele Facoulakis, who was present when the various deeds were signed in 1970, so goes with him.

At 2:30 I go down to the site. Stathacos has been there and talked to George, who, again, told him about A (Astirinakis). A was there, too, with someone else and quizzing, although I didn't talk to him (no point). He had been told where Stathacos is staying in Methana (in a week or so). She said George that he has no objection to the road, so the road is definitely clean as far as anyone but A is concerned. A does not want the road (even though he built an illegal one on someone else's property) and will probably block it.

In the meantime, during the morning, a truck has been carrying earth from a quarry in order to make the ground of the new road model. They have gotten almost to A's property. "What to do, Captain?" They ask. I say, let's postpone doing anything more until the two A. and D. have sorted things out. Early next week we may have to force the issue, however, so that the road can...
he completed but, especially, so that the
fencing can begin toward the middle of the
week. A's title should certainly be
searched in Tymbacion Mius.
23 June 1990

Enter new action. The people we saw last night putting stones in two groups. A was me—he walked out his land and "ours" also closed off the road. This was also Manolis Kyperides, however, who also claimed land that, as I understand it, was never bought by Descalvis. In went his stones, up to the road; but not, in the long run, onto ours property. Actually, apparently the stones did run onto ours property but they removed them. Reason: They didn't want to get tangled with:

- the archaeological service.

- and the people putting in the stones was (believe it or not) an employee of:

- the archaeological service who was "doing a favor." Our mistressman gave him a piece of his mind: how could he, an employee of the AS, place stones on the archaeological site? Any stones placed there earlier are now gone. Last night we actually saw the employee, a guard at marble, and he told us a long story, only partly truthful.

Early in the morning I go down to the site and see the new wires and stones. The road is blocked off at two places. The front loader comes to work, thank goodness.

Stratigos comes, with Aristote Filouzi who, even at 8:41, remember the details. Also, who here with me:

At this point, both George and I gather, there is no evidence to show that Descalvis bought the land in the south where A has staked out his claim. It may be, therefore, that his claim is valid. I am asked by 5 what I want. I say, "we bought the land from you people." "Please clean up the matter so that we can go on with our work." S smile and very likeable.

A guard from Dhristos comes by and sees the stones on the land bought by us.
and says that he will report same to Pha is too. Does he guard at Matchi know? He say we then 150, knowing full well that he was there when All forces went in.

Sand removal, although slowed up by setting in the road (1½ dm), continues. The sand is shallower than anticipated on the south (2m) and deeper than anticipated on the north (5m). See diagram.

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XXX = new border.
ooo = old border.

// // // // land to be cleared of sand, 1940.
area cleared down to alluvial earth.
A red line indicates progress so far. At least 1/2 has been cleared. Another week should complete the job.

At the point of least there is no question of property ownership when we are actually working, and our permit is clear, so I can think of no impediment unless, for instance, the machine breaks down. Aside from layering in the sand, scarp mashing periods of deproportion, there are no time indications. The scarp layering in the area has been studied carefully by a geologist (John Gifford) in the past. The alluvial layer under the sand seems higher than one would expect. This could and probably does, mean that there is over a meter of the alluvium above any remains of the Hellenistic period. I doubt that it is an indication of high Hellenistic walls below. Next year we will dig trenches down through this mass and, if hopeful, remove the remains with the front loader, in layers.

The new set of wooden boxes, to smooth and to large, arrive in Piraeus.
25 June 1990

To clarify the situation, I call Ephraim Keddam and, in the morning, catching him before he leaves to accompany an inspector who is arriving from Athens. First, he said he blamed himself for allowing not to put the road on public, expropriated property. He was mollified when I tell him that we have put it outside the property line. (We should now give government land to the township, he first saw).

Concerning the central issue of the fencing around the property, he said that we should fence it all around and, according to the report, the different parts of the property, as long as we let them know a day ahead. This is the assurance we need in order to do the deed, to finish what I set out to do on the site. When that is done, let this man take its charge and let David take over that in the case. I do not believe that the road will be a problem -- already me and the landowners (Kyprianos) who closed off the road has relented. I must now call Athanas who will put in the fence so that I know when. I should notify the archaeological service. On road to move downhill after some difficult days when it was hardly easier than now, would work out.

We arranged for copies. The general move for the few days begins tomorrow. Shopping for provisions in Thess.

Helena Whitman arrives. Her first job is to clean the books and bookshelves and plan for moving perhaps two more.