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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION  
CONCERNING GREEK FRONTIER INCIDENTS TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL DATED 17 JULY 1947 CONCERNING  
ALLEGED INCIDENTS AT SARANDAPOROS AND BANIA

July 17th, 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, for the information of members of the Security Council, the telegram received on July 17th 1947, from the Chairman of the Subsidiary Group concerning the investigation of the alleged incidents at Sarandaporos and Bania on the Greco-Albanian border.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(signed) Z. Gawrak

Z. Gawrak,  
Chairman of the Commission

Dr. Oscar Lange,  
President of the Security Council,  
Lake Success.

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COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION CONCERNING GREEK FRONTIER INCIDENTS  
TELEGRAM FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBSIDIARY GROUP TO THE CHAIRMAN  
OF THE COMMISSION RECEIVED 17 JULY 1947

I have honour informing you that Subsidiary Group had requested answer before 15 July to following telegram sent to Albanian Government on 5 July about Sarandaporos alleged incident and that no reply received to date.

"Subsidiary Group of Commission of Investigation of Greek Frontier Incidents has begun investigation of an incident brought to its attention by Greek Government and alleged to have occurred on Greco-Albanian frontier. In connection with this incident described as Sarandaporos Bania incident it is alleged (1) that on night of 19/20 May 1947 a band of about 35 Greek guerrillas pursued by units of Greek Army entered Albania from Greece (2) that crossing of frontier was effected by fording Sarandaporos River at a point between Greek villages of Derwent and Kalovrisi (3) that after crossing frontier band encountered Albanian frontier patrol which guided guerillas to a point on Albanian territory in vicinity of Albanian frontier post Banjae Koukesit (4) that band remained at this spot throughout day 20 May (5) that during day 20 May band was supplied with food and cigarettes by Albanian soldier from frontier post Banjae Koukesit (6) that during day 20 May 3 leaders of band visited frontier post Banjae Koukesit and made contact with Albanian garrison there as well as with an Albanian officer who also visited guerilla camp (7) that on night of 20/21 May band guided by members of garrison of frontier post Banjae Koukesit moved on Albanian territory in direction

/of Albanian

of Albanian village Radat (8) that at a point between Radat and Greco-Albanian frontier band rested in fields allegedly belonging to an Albanian named Alikos where they were given food (9) that early on 21 May band was led by same Albanian soldiers to a spot near Greco-Albanian frontier (10) that band then crossed Greco-Albanian frontier at a point opposite Greek village Amarandos (11) that on evening 21 May band again crossed frontier into Albanian territory and moving north again crossed frontier in to Greek territory at point between Greek villages Vourbieni and Plikati.

Subsidiary Group considers that in order to make complete investigation of alleged incident it will be necessary for Subsidiary Group to extend its investigation to both sides of the Greco-Albanian frontier. Subsidiary Group requests therefore the fullest co-operation of the Albanian Government in order to assure both completeness and impartiality of the investigation. Subsidiary Group believes that co-operation and administrative arrangements between Subsidiary Group and Albanian Government in connection proposed investigation would be greatly facilitated if Albanian Government could send qualified representative Salonika for consultation soonest.

Subsidiary Group desires to enter Albania at frontier post Kakavia on or after 17 July. Subsidiary Group will despatch telegram to Albanian Government three days prior to exact date of arrival at frontier post Kakavia. Subsidiary Group therefore requests Albanian Government to issue necessary instructions to ensure that on Subsidiary Groups arrival at frontier post Kakavia it will find that preparations have been made to facilitate (1) its crossing of frontier (2) interrogation of witnesses referred to below and (3) investigation of terrain in Albanian territory in following areas (a) area within radius of five kilometers of frontier post Banjae Koukesit (b) area between Albanian village Radat (inclusive) and Greco-Albanian frontier (c) such other places or localities as Subsidiary Group may later in course of

hearing evidence consider necessary for a complete investigation.

Albanian Government preparations should include necessary arrangements for transportation lodging and feeding the Subsidiary Group during its stay in Albanian territory and such other arrangements as are necessary fully to facilitate Subsidiary Groups work. Albanian Government is further requested to be prepared to present such witnesses in connection with Sarandapores Bania incident as Subsidiary Group wishes to hear including all members of garrison of frontier post Banjae Koukeshit who were on duty on 19, 20, 21 May also man known as Alikos mentioned above as owing fields between Radat village and Greco-Albanian frontier. Subsidiary Group proposes to bring with it for hearing in Albania the following two Greek witnesses Nitsotolis Kiriakos and Minas Ilias.

Albanian Government is invited to present such evidence and produce such witnesses as it may deem desirable in connection with Sarandapores Bania incident.

Copies of all documentation submitted by Greek Government as well as list of delegations members of Secretariat press Greek witnesses and other persons who will accompany Subsidiary Group will be forwarded by Subsidiary Group courier who will arrive at frontier post Kakavia 7 July. Albanian frontier authorities at that post should be instructed to accept documents on that date for quickest possible transmission to Albanian Government.

Subsidiary Group invites comments of Albanian Government on above programme and requests that proposals of Albanian Government regarding itinerary time table and hearings in Albania be communicated in time to reach Subsidiary Group at Salonika before 15 July. Subsidiary Group request favour of an immediate reply. Signed Christopher Kalkias, Acting Chairman, Subsidiary Group".

I further inform you that Groups courier sent to Greco-Albanian frontier post of Kakavia to deliver envelope documents concerning Sarandapores frontier incident vainly attempted to do so several times from Monday 7 July at 1700

hours till Wednesday 9 July at 1730 hours. Hereunder are quoted extracts

"On Monday 7 July 1947 at 1700 hours I arrived together with an interpreter at Greco-Albanian frontier post Kakavia for purpose of delivering to the officer in charge of Albanian post envelope containing documents concerning the Sarandaporos (Dania) frontier incident. Five Albanian soldiers were standing on their side of the frontier on hill overlooking Greek post. Depth of hill upon which Albanians standing was about 75 feet high and 50 yards away from frontier barrier. I instructed interpreter to shout to Albanian soldiers I was a courier of Subsidiary Group from Salonika and I desired to speak to Officer in charge of their post. No reply was received. Similar attempts to establish contact were made until eventually Albanian soldier came to within about 10 yards of where I was standing. Whereupon I through interpreter took opportunity of explaining to him purpose of my visit and requested that he call his officer. His only reply was 'no'. He then walked away. One further effort was made at 1815 hours to establish contact with officer in charge of post but the reply was 'Get into your car and return to the place you have come from'. I assumed that no instructions had been received by frontier post from Tirana hence reluctance of officer to come to frontier barrier to speak to me. Therefore further efforts to establish contact that evening would have been futile so I decided to return to Yannina. On Tuesday 8 July at 1300 hours I received telephonic instructions from Principal Secretary not to return to frontier until afternoon of Wednesday 9 July. I arrived at frontier post at 1630 hours on 9 July. Again I shouted to Albanian soldiers one of whom appeared to be an officer probably a 2nd Lieutenant, my mission and requested to speak to Officer in charge of post. The answer was 'no'. I then inquired whether or not instructions had been received from Tirana to accept documents but again answer was 'no'. Replies came from person presumed by me to be Officer. One last effort to deliver documents was made at 1730 hours. Again it was the Officer who spoke and all he said was 'if you want the documents to go to Tirana take the frontier barrier down walk there and deliver them personally'. At 1740 hours I returned to Yannina

and dispatched the following cable addressed to Principal Secretary  
'Albanian post state no instructions received from Tirana and  
categorically refuse accept documents returning Salonika approximately  
1100 hours Thursday'".

I further inform you that Greek Government brought to attention  
Subsidiary Group 13 July new frontier incident described as follows by Greek  
Liaison Representative in his letter 344 of 13 July "I have honour to bring  
your attention that according information received from my government  
detachments of "international brigade" coming from Albania have invaded today  
the Greek territory in the direction of City of Konitsa.

These detachments in close co-operation with armed bandits have blown up  
bridge of Bourazan in Region of Konitsa and have made contact with our troops.  
The city of Konitsa is threatened." At its 59th meeting held on 13 July Group  
decided to send on the spot team composed of delegates for Australia,  
United States, Soviet Union to investigate development of new situation and to  
report to Group. Delegates for Brazil and Syria have also joined investigating  
team. No information received to date from team.

Commandant Ecussa, Acting Chairman of Subsidiary Group.

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