

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/2388
21 April 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventh session
Agenda item 70

COMPLAINT OF NON-COMPLIANCE OF STATES STILL DETAINING MEMBERS OF THE GREEK ARMED FORCES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION 382 A (V), ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 1 DECEMBER 1950, RECOMMENDING "THE REPATRIATION OF ALL THOSE AMONG THEM WHO EXPRESS THE WISH TO BE REPATRIATED"

Report of the President

1. At its 415th plenary meeting on 17 March 1953, the General Assembly adopted, on the report of the First Committee, a resolution under item 70 of its agenda: "Complaint of non-compliance of States still detaining members of the Greek armed forces with the provisions of resolution 382 A (V), adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 1950, recommending 'the repatriation of all those among them who express the wish to be repatriated'".
2. The resolution appealed to the Governments concerned to conform their attitude in this question with General Assembly resolution 382 A (V), and requested the President of the General Assembly "to consult to this end with the Governments in question and to report back to the General Assembly before the closing of its current session".
3. Accordingly, on 20 March 1953, the President of the General Assembly addressed the following letter to the Chairman of the USSR delegation and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia and Poland, who were leading their delegations to the Assembly:

"I have the honour to draw your attention to the provisions of the enclosed resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 March 1953. The resolution earnestly appeals to the Governments concerned to conform their attitude with General Assembly resolution 382 A (V) of 1 December 1950

recommending the repatriation of all those members of the Greek armed forces detained outside Greece who express the wish to be repatriated. It requests me to consult to this end with the Governments in question and to report back to the General Assembly before the closing of its current session.

I hope that we may complete our consultation at an early date, so that I might be in a position to report to the General Assembly accordingly."

(Signed) Lester B. PEARSON,
President of the General Assembly.

4. On the same date, the President addressed the following letter to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania:

"I have the honour to draw your attention to the provisions of the enclosed resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 March 1953. The resolution earnestly appeals to the Governments concerned to conform their attitude with General Assembly resolution 382 A (V) of 1 December 1950 recommending the repatriation of all those members of the Greek armed forces detained outside Greece who express the wish to be repatriated. It requests me to consult to this end with the Governments in question and to report back to the General Assembly before the closing of its current session.

Since the current session of the General Assembly is drawing to a close, I should be grateful if you would forward your reply urgently so as to make it possible for me to report to the General Assembly accordingly."

(Signed) Lester B. PEARSON,
President of the General Assembly.

5. In a letter dated 28 March 1953, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland replied as follows:

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 20, 1953, drawing my attention to the provisions of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on March 17, 1953, and in reply I have to make the following observations.

The position of my Government on the question of members of Greek armed forces allegedly detained outside Greece was clearly defined by the Polish Delegate in the Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. He made two speeches on this problem, one on March 9th, 1953 and the second on March 12, 1953. The full text of those speeches, I herewith have the honour to attach for your information and for the record.

My Government does not consider it necessary to add anything else to our position already formulated in detail."

(Signed)

Stanislaw Skrzyszewski,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Chairman of the delegation.

6. The Chairman of the USSR delegation replied in a letter received on 1 April 1953. The English translation is as follows:

"In connexion with your letter No. SC.264/4/07 of 20 March 1953, I have the honour to inform you that the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has already expressed its views in the First Committee on the so-called Greek complaint concerning 'Greek armed forces' and has nothing further to add."

(Signed)

A. Vyshinsky,
Head of the USSR delegation to the
seventh session of the United
Nations General Assembly

7. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia replied in a letter dated 1 April 1953. The English translation is as follows:

"The Czechoslovak delegation voted against the resolution referred to in your letter in the Political Committee on 12 March and in the General Assembly on 17 March because the Greek Government's complaint was absolutely unfounded, the real issue being the question of political refugees and their right of asylum."

(Signed)

Vaclav David,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Head of
the Czechoslovak delegation to the
second part of the seventh session
of the General Assembly.

8. Since no reply had been received from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, on 13 April 1953 the President addressed the following cable to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of those countries:

"I have honour to refer to my letter of 20 March 1953 transmitting resolution adopted by General Assembly on 17 March 1953 concerning repatriation of all those members of Greek armed forces detained outside Greece who express wish to be repatriated step. That resolution requested me to consult with Governments in question and to report back to General Assembly before closing of its seventh session step. Since seventh session is nearing its end I should be grateful if you would forward your reply urgently so as to make it possible for me to make my report to Assembly."

(Signed)

Lester B. PEARSON,
President of the General Assembly.

9. At the time of this report, the President had received no reply from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.