

**MASTER FILE**LEGATION OF THE POPULAR AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA.No. 25NOTE VERBALE

The Legation of the Popular and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has the honor to refer to the refugees coming from the Greek part of Macedonia and to communicate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria the following :

A long while ago, certain bulgarian authorities came unofficially in contact with yougoslav authorities in connection with the sheltering of a great number of refugees from the Greek part of Macedonia who, in order to escape from persecutions took refuge in bulgarian territory, saving thus their lives.

The Legation of the Popular and Federal Republics of Yugoslavia has the honor to state, on behalf and in accordance with the instructions of its Government, that the Government of the Democratic and Federal Yugoslavia is ready to receive round about the end of 1944 all those who, having taken refuge in Bulgaria, express the desire to settle in Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav Government hopes that its proposal will meet the ample approvement and comprehension of the Bulgarian Government.

In view of the fact that the situation of these persons is a situation of exiles and taking into consideration the fact that their interests are akin to the heart of the Bulgarian Government as well as to the Government of Democratic and Federal Yugoslavia, the question of their definit settlement should be settled as quickly as possible. To this effect, the Legation has the honor to request the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to intervene kindly to the competent bulgarian authorities on this subject and to bring to its knowledge in due time the point of view of the Bulgarian Govt. as well as its proposals, with a view of solving this problem. It is in this way that it will become possible to apply the appropriate measures which will guarrantee the transport of the refugees and their definit settlement in Yugoslavia.

Yours..... etc.

Sofia, May 30, 1945

To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria  
SOFIA.

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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS and RELIGION  
No. 18250-38-I

NOTE VERBALE

In answer to note verbale No. 25, May 30, 1945, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Religion has the honor to communicate to the Legation of the Popular and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that the Bulgarian Government consents in principal to facilitate the refugees that came to Bulgaria since 1944 from the Greek part of Macedonia, allowing them to go to Yugoslavia in case they express this desire.

Instructions relevant to this have been given to the respective authorities.

As soon as the necessary data will be gathered, regarding the number of refugees that formulated the desire to leave Bulgaria, the Ministry will examine together with the Honorable Legation the measures that will be applied in connection with the transport of these refugees to Yugoslavia.

Yours..... etc.

Sofia, June 16, 1945

To the Legation of the Popular and  
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Annex 9The Greek Invasion of Bulgaria in 1925 and  
The Intervention of the League of Nations!

The Greek invasion of Bulgaria in 1925, which was stopped thanks to the quick intervention of the League of Nations, is particularly characteristic of the Greek aggressive disposition towards Bulgaria.

An insignificant frontier accident, which occurred on 19th October 1925 in the region of "Demir-Kapou" on the Greek-Bulgarian frontier along the summit of Belasitza, 95 kms northeast of Solonica, was used as an excuse for this invasion. A Greek soldier entered Bulgarian territory, and fired at the Bulgarian post, the latter fired back in his turn and the Greek soldier fell dead on Bulgarian territory. Greek soldiers tried to carry away his corpse and a skirmish ensued.

Numerous attempts were made in vain on the part of the Bulgarians to establish connection with the Greek officer and to settle the incident.

On 21st October, the firing on both sides ceased. The Bulgarian military authorities ordered an inquiry and the Bulgarian Legation at Athens was instructed to propose to the Greek Government the appointment of a mixed committee to establish and determine the responsibility concerning the incident. The same proposition was made on three consecutive occasions through the Greek Legation in Sofia.

On 22nd October, the Greek Government, without acknowledging the Bulgarian proposition, ordered their troops to enter Bulgarian territory on a wide front. This invasion was made through the Struma valley with large contingents, including infantry, artillery and aviation forces. The weak Bulgarian frontier posts withdrew to the interior. The panic stricken population of the nearby villages abandoned their homes and started fleeing to the town of Petrich. Greek airplanes flew over Bulgarian territory and threw bombs over railroad bridges. The Greek artillery fired at the villages of Marinopole, Marikestinevo and the town of Petrich.

Developing their advance the next days, the Greek forces entered Bulgaria on a front 32 kilometers long and 12 kilometers deep reaching as far as the river Melnik. On 24th October, the Greek artillery bombarded the village Pipernitsa-bania and the town Petrich. On 25th October, Petrich and other villages were attacked by heavy artillery. Until then the Bulgarian losses went up to 48 killed and wounded, 26 of whom were soldiers and 22 civilians, men, women and children.

Simultaneously, Greek armed civilians, who had accompanied the Greek military forces, devastated the occupied localities beyond all description, looting the cattle and property of the people who had escaped.

On 22nd October, right after receiving information about the ingress of strong Greek military forces on Bulgarian territory, the Bulgarian Government approached telegraphically the League of Nations, requesting, by virtue of articles 10 and 11 of the Pact of the League of Nations, the urgent convocation of the Council of the League of Nations in order to take the necessary measures in the premises. At the same time, the Bulgarian Government stated that they had ordered the Bulgarian army to offer no resistance to the aggressors.

From that time on began the quick intervention of the Council of the League of Nations. The President of the Council of the League of Nations, Aristid Briand, before the Council assembled even, wired his demand for discontinuation of the military operations on both sides. The Bulgarian answer to that telegram was that the Bulgarian forces were withdrawing in compliance

with the order not to offer any resistance to the Bulgarians, while the Greeks gave a very evasive reply.

On 26th October the Council of the League of Nations met at a special session in Paris and decided, on the basis of Mr. Chamberlain's report, the following:

1. To demand that the two governments advise the Council within 24 hours, that they had ordered their forces to withdraw behind their respective frontier; and within 60 hours that all forces had been withdrawn and that the military operations had ceased.

2. In order to assist the Council and the two interested parties, the Council requested France, England and Italy to make arrangements in commissioning immediately their officers, stationed near the places of where the incident broke out, with the purpose of informing the Council about the situation.

The measures of the Council of the League of Nations were immediately accepted by Bulgaria and Greece and thus the first phase of the conflict was settled, i.e., the conclusion of the military operations, the cessation of the Greek invasion and the withdrawal of the Greek army from Bulgarian territory.

The Council of the League of Nations then proceeded with the solution of the second part of their problem - the appointment of an inquiry committee. In their session of 29th October, based on Mr. Chamberlain's report, the Council decided to appoint a committee who would examine fully on the spot the incidents which took place on the Bulgarian-Greek frontier, north-east of Salonica, and should determine in the best possible way the exact origin of these incidents and the pertinent facts.

The Committee should note, then, the facts which determined the corresponding compensation and reparation. Furthermore, the Committee should make the necessary recommendation to the Council on the means for the elimination or limitation of the causes of these incidents.

In anticipation of their arrival, the British, French and Italian attaches, assigned at the time to the place of the incidents, should continue their observation and place themselves at the disposal of the Committee, who should present their report before the month of November. In accordance with the decision of the Council of the League of Nations, the Investigation Committee assembled at Geneva on 6th November 1925, under the chairmanship of the British ambassador in Madrid, Sir Horace Rumbold. As members of the Committee were appointed the following persons:

1. A French Divisional general - Serrieny
2. The Italian Division general - Ferrarie
3. The Swedish Minister at the Hague - de Adlecreutz
4. The member of the Dutch Parliament - Dr. Cleevers Fortuyn

As secretary of the Committee was assigned Major Abraham of the League of Nations' staff.

The Committee decided to leave for Belgrad, where they were to be received by the military attaches, who were instructed beforehand to make a study of the situation on the spot and to report to the Committee.

After the meeting with the military attaches in Belgrad, the Committee accompanied by them left for the spot and arrived in Demir-Hissar on 12th November, having reviewed on the way the report of the military attaches. From Demir-Hissar the Committee crossed over to Bulgarian territory, where they were divided into three sub-committees who visited the ten villages and the town of Petrich, which were in the zone of the military operations.

The Committee then received in Demir-Hissar the representative of the Greek Government and listened to the reports of many Greek military persons. In the course of a few days, the Committee made constant visits in the zone of the military operations, examined many people and places and terminated their investigation on the very spot.

The Committee visited Athens and Sofia, where they got in touch with high Government authorities. On 26th November the Committee arrived in Belgrad and began to work on their report.

The report of the Committee is a document of about 15 pages consisting of four parts: inquiry, liabilities and reparations; recommendations.

The part of the report dealing with the inquiry is in two sub-divisions: 1. investigation of the incident at Demir-Kapou and 2. inquiry about the Greek military operation on Bulgarian territory.

The Committee observed that the incident at Demir-Kapou had been only an ordinary frontier incident, which was incredibly exaggerated and complicated on the part of Greece.

In connection with the part concerning liabilities and compensations, the Committee established that the Bulgarian Government had acted in accordance with the Part of the League of Nations.

Concerning Greece, however, the Committee stated that Greece, having occupied part of the Bulgarian territory, had violated the Pact. Because of that, the Committee was of the opinion that:

1. The demand of the Greek Government for compensations should be rejected (except in the case of captain Vasiliadis, who was killed on Bulgarian territory in his capacity as conferee).
2. The Greek Government was responsible for the expenditure, the losses and the sufferings of the Bulgarian people and Government caused by the invasion of the Greek army, and that it should pay reparations to the Bulgarian Government, on that account.

The Committee established two categories of losses and reparations:

The first category referred to the great losses, suffered by the population in the damage of their personal property (furniture, cattle, food-stuffs, implements etc.).

The Committee decided that for the said damages the Greek Government should pay to the Bulgarian Government a compensation of 20.000.000 leva.

The other category of reparations, which should be paid to the Bulgarian Government referred to:

- a) persons killed and wounded,
- b) damages of material and moral character. For this category of damages, the Committee recommended to the Council the assignment of a compensation of 10.000.000 leva to be paid by the Greek Government to the Bulgarian Government.

In their report the Committee also made a number of military and political recommendations with the purpose of preventing further incidents.

In their session of 14th December 1925, the Council of the League of Nations, after hearing the report of a Committee of three persons charged with a study of the findings of the Inquiry Committee, approved unanimously the findings and conclusions of the Inquiry Committee.

Sofia, 17 January 1947.