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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION CONCERNING GREEK FRONTIER INCIDENTS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DATED 26 JUNE 1947

June 26th, 1947.

President of the Security Council,

At the 89th meeting of the Commission of Investigation concerning the Greek frontier incidents, held in New York on June 25th, the following directives were adopted by the majority, and it was decided to cable these directives to the Chairman of the Subsidiary Group in Salonika:

"In view of the fact that the Subsidiary Group has full authority under the directive given by the Commission on 30 April 1947 to conduct its investigations on both sides of the Greek Frontier, and to request the full co-operation of the interested governments in all visits on their territory which it may desire to make in carrying out its investigations, the Subsidiary Group is hereby directed;

1. To complete its investigation of the incidents on the Bulgarian frontier;
2. To inform the Bulgarian Government that it has been so instructed by action of the Commission in New York, and to request its full co-operation in fulfillment of Paragraph 8 of the letter of Boyan Athanassov, Bulgarian delegate to the U.N., to Arkady A. Sobolev, Assistant Secretary-General of the U.N., dated 7 June 1947, a copy of which is attached; and

/3. To report

3. To report the result of its investigation to the Commission. A summary of the report of the Subsidiary Group of 16 June 1947 and a copy of this directive are being transmitted to the Security Council for its information.

The U.S.S.R. Delegate declared he could not agree to this directive because he considered that the Commission was not empowered to issue this directive to the Subsidiary Group as the consideration of the whole question regarding the work of the Subsidiary Group had been postponed by the Security Council until the submission of the Commission's report.

The U.S.S.R. Delegate further stated that the Soviet Delegation considered that the U.S. draft of a directive to the Subsidiary Group was in substance directed to a broadening of the powers of the Subsidiary Group even beyond the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Commission itself, which the Commission had been given by the Security Council in its resolution of 19 December 1946. The Soviet representative was of the opinion that the Subsidiary Group should be guided by the previous instructions given to it by the Commission on 30 April 1947.

The Delegate of Poland also opposed the directive as in his opinion the Commission did not have the power to act independently of the Security Council in this matter. The Polish representative stated further that the Commission had already in Geneva agreed that the question of the relations between the Subsidiary Group and the four interested governments of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia - was not within its competence.

The report of the Subsidiary Group of 16 June 1947 mentioned in the directive contains a summary of the events on the Greek-Bulgarian border at the time of the investigation of alleged

border incidents by the Subsidiary Group.

Paragraph 8 of the letter of the Bulgarian Delegate to the U.N., also mentioned in the directive, reads as follows:

"As a matter of fact, although the Bulgarian Government had stated that the Subsidiary Group should make its investigations only on the request of the Security Council, we were and are always ready to grant any and all facilities to the Subsidiary Group in order to show our desire to co-operate with the U.N."

Pursuing to the decision of the Commission, I have the honour to transmit to you a summary of the report from the Subsidiary Group "on the events which took place at Mount Lipa on 3rd June and at Koula on 11th June 1947".

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed) Francisco Urrutia

Francisco Urrutia  
Chairman of the Commission

/SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY GROUP DATED 16 JUNE 1947

In pursuance to the resolution of the Security Council of 18 April 1947, the Commission established a Subsidiary Group on 30 April 1947.

I. (a) At its fourth, fifth and sixth meetings, the Subsidiary Group considered documentation relative to two border incidents, which were brought to its attention by the Greek Liaison Representative, and decided to investigate incidents allegedly involving violations of the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, namely that at Angistron-Lipa and at Kapnotopos;

(b) The Subsidiary Group has sent a telegram to the Bulgarian Government requesting that facilities be granted for crossing the Greco-Bulgarian border and to hear witnesses in Bulgaria. Having despatched all documents relating to those two alleged incidents submitted by the Greek Liaison Representative, the Subsidiary Group invited also the Bulgarian Government to submit its own evidence.

II. The Commission received three telegrams from the Chairman of the Subsidiary Group dated 4 June, 5 June and 12 June.

The telegram dated 4 June contained the following information:

(a) The Subsidiary Group has sent, on 28 May 1947, a telegram addressed to the Government of Bulgaria, in which it stated that it is engaged in examination of two alleged border incidents - one, that of Angistron-Lipa which concerns the supposed harbouring of Greek guerillas in Bulgarian territory; the second alleged incident at Kapnotopos involves the evacuation of four wounded guerillas.

In the same telegram, the Subsidiary Group requested the Bulgarian Government to facilitate the crossing of the Greco-Bulgarian border and informed it of its scheduled arrival at the frontier on 2 June. It invited the Bulgarian Government to present witnesses of its own and to make available any witnesses whom the Commission would like to hear;

/(b) The Subsidiary

(b) The Subsidiary Group has arrived at the Greco-Bulgarian border on 3 June in order to investigate the Angiatron-Lipa incident and requested entry into Bulgarian territory from the Bulgarian N.C.O. in charge of the frontier post. This N.C.O. informed the Subsidiary Group that, lacking instructions, he could not authorize the crossing of the border;

(c) In reply to this telegram of the Subsidiary Group, the Bulgarian Government answered on 31 May that it is ready to provide assistance to the Subsidiary Group, but requested postponement of ten days of the arrival of the Commission in order to be able to make arrangements for the Commission's work;

(d) In reply to this telegram, a message containing the following information was delivered on 2 June to a Bulgarian Officer at Koula frontier post for transmission to Sofia. The Subsidiary Group noted the readiness of the Bulgarian Government to provide assistance in the investigation of two alleged incidents and stated that, as a result of arrangements made prior to the receipt of the telegram of 31 May, it will depart from the frontier region on 2 June and confine itself to hearing witnesses presented by the Greek authorities. It requested that the frontier posts at Koula and Lipa should be instructed to facilitate the crossing of the border. It notified the Government of Bulgaria that the Subsidiary Group will return on 11 June in order to proceed with the examination of the alleged incidents.

III. The telegram dated 5 June contained the following information:

In response to the message delivered on 2 June, at the frontier post at Koula, the Bulgarian Government, in a telegram dated 4 June, renewed its assurances to assist the Subsidiary Group in its work on its arrival at the frontier on 11 June and expressed its regret that, owing to insufficient time, it was unable to be of help to the Group on previous occasions. It requested also that the work of the Subsidiary Group be

/accomplished

accomplished on 11 June.

IV. The telegram dated 12 June contained the following information:

The Subsidiary Group has arrived at the Greco-Bulgarian border on 11 June in order to investigate the alleged incidents of Angistrion-Lipa and Kapnctopos. The Subsidiary Group intended that its work should include:

- (a) Hearing of eleven witnesses requested by the Subsidiary Group;
- (b) Presentation of the case by the Bulgarian Representative;
- (c) Visit to places where the alleged incidents took place;
- (d) Visit to Camp of Berkovitsa.

The Subsidiary Group has met the Bulgarian Representative at Koula and was informed that:

- (a) Greek witnesses shall not be allowed to cross into Bulgaria;
- (b) He has no instructions regarding the visit to Berkovitsa;
- (c) Bulgarian witnesses should be heard at Koula on the afternoon of 11 June and that the work of the Subsidiary Group should be completed the same day.

The Chairman of the Subsidiary Group asked the Bulgarian Representative whether a telegram dated 9 June, requesting a visit to Berkovitsa, had been received by the Bulgarian Government and received a reply that having contacted Sofia by telephone his instructions remained unchanged.

The Subsidiary Group then decided by majority with the Delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics dissenting and the Delegates of China and Belgium abstaining with reservations to return to Salonika. The abstention of the Belgian Delegate was explained as a conciliatory attempt aiming at taking the Bulgarian Representative and eleven witnesses requested by the Subsidiary Group to Salonika for examination.

The abstention of the Delegate of China was explained on two grounds:

- (a) Lack of knowledge of the technical facilities which would be available to the Subsidiary Group if it decided to stay overnight at Sidirokastron;

/(b) The understanding

(b) The understanding that the British proposal is based on procedural matters connected with those arrangements.

The Delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics voted against the return to Salonika on the following grounds:

- (a) Eleven witnesses made available by the Bulgarian Government at the request of the Subsidiary Group should be heard;
- (b) Area of the alleged Lipa incident on the Bulgaria side should be investigated;
- (c) Views of the Bulgarian Representative on further investigation of this alleged incident should be heard.