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THREATS TO THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GREECE:

- (a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BALKANS
- (b) REPATRIATION OF GREEK CHILDREN

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. In accordance with the terms of the General Assembly resolutions 109 (II), 193 A (III) and 288 A (IV), the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans, on 31 July 1950, submitted a report (A/1307)\* to the General Assembly. On 8 September and 12 October, the Special Committee submitted supplementary reports (A/1423 and Add.1; A/1438 and Corr.1, A/1438/Add.1). Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 288 B (IV) concerning the repatriation of Greek children, a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies (A/1257) and a report by the Secretary-General (A/1480) were also circulated.
2. The General Assembly, at its 285th plenary meeting held on 26 September 1950, referred the Greek question to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. The First Committee considered the question at its 346th and 392nd to 398th meetings.
4. The following draft resolutions were submitted:
  - (a) A draft resolution submitted at the 346th meeting by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.1/559) which proposed that the Committee should request the President of the General Assembly to enter into negotiations with

\* Official Records of the General Assembly,  
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/the representatives  
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the representatives of the Greek Government concerning the repeal of death sentences passed by the military courts in Athens on Greek patriots, including the eleven patriots named a letter dated 18 September 1950 from their mothers and the eight trade union officials named in a memorandum dated 16 September 1950 from various relatives of those officials (A/C.S.I/561).

(b) A draft resolution submitted at the 392nd meeting by Greece (A/C.S.I/620), which (i) recommended the repatriation of all those members of the Greek Armed Forces, captured by the Greek guerrillas and taken into countries north of Greece, who expressed the wish to be repatriated; (ii) called upon the States concerned to take the necessary measures for the speedy implementation of the resolution; and (iii) instructed the Secretary-General to request the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to ensure liaison with the national Red Cross organization of the States concerned, with a view to implementing the resolution.

(c) A draft resolution by Australia, France, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America (A/C.S.I/602/Rev.1) submitted at the 392nd meeting and revised at the 395th meeting, which (i) approved the report of the Special Committee on the Balkans; (ii) continued the Special Committee in being until the sixth session of the General Assembly, in accordance with the terms of reference and administrative arrangements contained in General Assembly resolutions 109 (II), 193 (III) and 286 (IV), unless meanwhile the Special Committee should recommend to the Interim Committee its own dissolution; and (iii) authorized the Interim Committee to act on such a recommendation as it might think proper.

(d) A draft resolution submitted at the 393rd meeting by the USSR (A/C.S.I/623) which recommended (i) the declaration of a general amnesty in Greece and the abolition of the concentration camps for Greek democrats; (ii) the holding of universal and free parliamentary elections on the basis of proportional representation; (iii) the cessation of military and political intervention in Greek affairs by the United States of America and the United Kingdom; (iv) the establishment of diplomatic relations between Greece and Albania and between Greece and Bulgaria; and (v) the dissolution of the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans.

/(e) A draft

(e) A draft resolution submitted at the 395th meeting by Australia, Denmark, France and the Netherlands (A/C.1/627), which (i) requested the Secretary-General and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to continue their efforts in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions 193 C (III) and 288 B (IV) concerning the repatriation of Greek children; (ii) urged all States harbouring the Greek children to make all the necessary arrangements, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the international Red Cross organizations, for the early return of the Greek children to their parents and, whenever necessary, to allow the international Red Cross organizations free access to their territories for this purpose; (iii) established a Standing Committee to act in consultation with the Secretary-General, and to consult with the representatives of the States concerned, with a view to the early repatriation of the children; (iv) requested the International Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to co-operate with this Standing Committee; and (v) requested the Secretary-General to report from time to time to Member States on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution, and also requested the international Red Cross organizations and the Secretary-General to submit reports to the sixth session of the General Assembly.

5. At the 398th meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted amendments (A/C.1/628) to the four-Power draft resolution mentioned above (A/C.1/627). Those amendments (i) deleted the first paragraph of the preamble; (ii) deleted the words "and, whenever necessary, to allow the international Red Cross organizations free access to their territories for this purpose" from the second operative paragraph, and substituted the words "in conformity with the resolutions referred to above"; and (iii) deleted the third and fourth operative paragraphs relating to the establishment of a Standing Committee.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of Australia proposed, on behalf of the sponsors of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/627), that the Standing Committee should be composed of the representatives of Peru, the Philippines and Sweden.

7. On the proposal of the representative of Greece, at the 393rd meeting, the Committee decided, by 28 votes to 6, with 16 abstentions, to close the debate on the USSR draft resolution (A/C.1/559) concerning death sentences imposed by military courts in Athens.

The first draft resolution proposed by the USSR (A/C.1/559) was rejected by 31 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions.

8. At the 396th meeting, the draft resolution proposed by Greece (A/C.1/620) was adopted by 53 votes to 5, with one abstention.

9. At the same meeting, the revised joint draft resolution of Australia, France, Pakistan, United Kingdom and United States of America (A/C.1/622/Rev.1) was adopted by 52 votes to 6, with no abstentions.

10. Also at the same meeting, the second draft resolution proposed by the USSR (A/C.1/623) was rejected by 51 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

11. At the 398th meeting, the Committee voted on the joint draft resolution submitted by Australia, Denmark, France and the Netherlands (A/C.1/627) and the USSR amendments thereto (A/C.1/628), with the following results:

The USSR amendment deleting the first paragraph of the preamble was rejected by 43 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions.

The preamble of the four-Power draft resolution was adopted by 52 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The first operative paragraph was adopted unanimously by 57 votes.

The USSR amendment to the second operative paragraph was rejected by 46 votes to 5, with 7 abstentions.

The second operative paragraph was adopted with 53 votes to 5, with no abstentions.

The USSR amendment deleting the third and fourth operative paragraphs was rejected by 44 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions.

The third and fourth operative paragraphs (revised to provide that the Standing Committee should be composed of the representatives of Peru, Philippines and Sweden) were adopted by 53 votes to 5, with no abstentions.

The fifth operative paragraph was adopted unanimously, by 58 votes.

The four-Power draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

12. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following three resolutions:

THREATS TO THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY  
OF GREECE

A.

The General Assembly,

Having considered the unanimous conclusions of the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans concerning those members of the Greek armed forces who were captured by the Greek guerillas and taken into countries north of Greece,

Having noted that, with the only exception of Yugoslavia, the other States concerned are still detaining these members of the Greek Armed Forces without justification under commonly accepted international practice,

1. Recommends the repatriation of all those between them who express the wish to be repatriated;

2. Calls upon the States concerned to take the necessary measures for the speedy implementation of the present resolution;

3. Instructs the Secretary-General to request the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to ensure liaison with the national Red Cross organizations of the States concerned, with a view to implementing the present resolution.

B.

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans and noted that, although a certain improvement has taken place in the situation on the northern frontiers of Greece, there nevertheless remains a threat to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece,

1. Approves the report of the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans;

2. Continues the Special Committee in being until the sixth session of the General Assembly, in accordance with the terms of reference and administrative arrangements contained in General Assembly resolutions 109 (II), 193 (III) and

286 (IV), unless meanwhile the Special Committee recommends to the Interim Committee its own dissolution; and

3. Authorizes the Interim Committee to act on such recommendation as it thinks proper.

C.

The General Assembly,

Noting with grave concern the reports of the International Red Cross and of the Secretary-General, and particularly the statement that "not a single Greek child has yet been returned to his native land and, except for Yugoslavia, no country harbouring Greek children has taken definite action to comply with the resolutions unanimously adopted in two successive years by the General Assembly",

Recognizing that every possible effort should be made to restore the children to their homes, in a humanitarian spirit detached from political or ideological considerations,

Expressing its full appreciation of the efforts made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement resolutions 193 C (III) and 288 B (IV) of the General Assembly,

1. Requests the Secretary-General and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to continue their efforts in accordance with the aforementioned resolutions;

2. Urges all States harbouring the Greek children to make all the necessary arrangements, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the international Red Cross organizations, for the early return of the Greek children to their parents, and whenever necessary, to allow the international Red Cross organizations free access to their territories for this purpose;

3. Establishes a Standing Committee, to be composed of the representatives of Peru, Philippines and Sweden, to act in consultation with the Secretary-General, and to consult with the representatives of the States concerned, with a view to the early repatriation of the children;

4. Requests the International Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to co-operate with this Committee;

/5. Requests

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report from time to time to Member States on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, and requests the international Red Cross organizations and the Secretary-General to submit reports to the General Assembly at its sixth session.

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