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THREATS TO THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GREECE

Letter dated 24 November 1951 from the Head of the Delegation of Greece, addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Paris, 24 November 1951

At the request of the Head of the Delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a letter sent by him to Your Excellency on 18 November 1951 has been distributed to all delegations as document A/1964 of 19 November 1951.

Taking as a pretext a telegram from the gang leader Beloyannis and his eleven associates complaining that they had been sentenced, although, as they allege, they are struggling "to achieve peace and democracy", Mr. Vyshinsky asks the General Assembly to take urgent steps to save these twelve persons from imminent execution.

In this connexion I think I should submit the following observations:-

(1) The letter in question reopens, without the slightest variation, a topic which the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has had already enlarged in the Ad Hoc Political Committee which rejected his request by a large majority after his allegations had been shown to be ridiculous.

(2) All the persons in question, some of them hardened criminals, are agents of the subversive conspiracy hatched with the connivance of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies to impose communism on Greece by fire and bloodshed.

(3) A brief account of the antecedents of Beloyannis who is the first of the signatories of the telegram cited by Mr. Vyshinsky is given below:-

"Beloyannis, leader of gangs in the Peloponnesus, convicted of crimes against the State and common law offences, guilty of pillage, arson and massacre; a hardened terrorist; an accredited agent of the subversive organization, he fled from Greece after the collapse of his terrorist rule in the Peloponnesus. Some two years later he returned there. He returned

clandestinely under an alias carrying an Argentine passport, forged of course and a quantity of gold coin. He tried to re-open his headquarters and resume his nefarious activities under the orders of the subversive and terrorist Organization protected and supported by the People's Democracies which come under the political and moral tutelage of the Soviet Union".

(4) That is the way these people conduct, as they allege, the struggle for "peace and democracy". Nor does Mr. Vyshinsky hesitate to endorse this false allegation. Such are the special reasons also why these twelve agents of the red terror have merited the tearful solicitude of the Soviet Delegation, whereas the victims of these terrorists, who number more than 100,000, have never been deemed worthy of any humanitarian interest on the part of Mr. Vyshinsky.

(5) In spite of the detestable crimes of which the persons in question stand convicted they are all benefiting from the clemency shown by the Greek Government towards all condemned persons in this category, a fact of which Mr. Vyshinsky cannot be unaware, especially after the discussions initiated by his own delegation in the Ad Hoc Political Committee. It is therefore false to assert, as the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has done, that the persons in question are under imminent threat of execution. His letter would thus appear ab initio to be devoid of all motive and purpose.

(6) Last year Mr. Vyshinsky did exactly the same thing. On the pretence of saving the lives of some twenty persons who were in no danger of execution, he raised the matter first in the Security Council, then in the General Committee, next in the Assembly, afterwards in the First Committee and finally again in plenary session. All these bodies decided to take no action and they were right. None of the twenty was executed.

From the foregoing remarks which I consider sufficient for the present I think it can be concluded what are the true aims underlying the hubbub made about this matter.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have this letter distributed as a General Assembly document.

(signed) J. POLITIS

Head of the Delegation of Greece