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THREATS TO THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL  
INTEGRITY OF GREECE

Letter dated 23 July 1951 from the Acting Representative of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations,  
addressed to the President of the General Assembly

New York, 23 July 1951

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations has received from London the following cablegram and letter from Betty Ambatielos, wife of Anthony Ambatielos, one of the leaders of the Greek Seamen's Union, who is in a Greek prison, together with a letter from his mother, Asimina Ambatielou.

I. "I HUMBLY BEG DRAW YOUR ATTENTION ARREST IN ATHENS ASIMINA AMBATIELOU MOTHER CONDEMNED SEAMANS LEADER ANTHONY AMBATIELOS FOLLOWING ALMOST DAILY POLICE PERSECUTION STOP BEG IMMEDIATE UNITED NATIONS INTERVENTION SAVE MY 73 YEAR OLD MOTHER IN LAW FROM FURTHER PERSECUTION BETTY AMBATIELOS".

II. "I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter received from my mother-in-law, Mrs, Asimina Ambatielou, who is resident in Piraeus, Greece.

The letter describes how this seventy-three year old woman was forcibly taken to the police station and questioned about her efforts to assist in getting food and clothes sent to the political prisoners.

I trust that you will take this matter up with the General Secretary of the United Nations Organisation, Mr. Trygve Lie, to whom I have already sent a copy of the letter.

Yours faithfully,

Betty Ambatielos".

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/III. My dear  
A/1847

III. "My dear Betty,

At this moment I have just got out of bed with a high fever. Learn, Betty, that yesterday the Security Police came. There were four of them and they made such a search as they wouldn't have made even if I had been a man and an important leader. They took all your letters and all the letters from my boys. Later they came with a van - one of those covered with canvas - and they took me by force. There were four of them and the driver in plain clothes and me making six altogether. Then we arrived. Just think, my child, how I managed to climb all those stairs. Then my turn came and the Chief of the Security Police called my name. He began to ask me different things and I answered him and another one wrote down what I said. He called me 'sly Cefalonitissa' and said 'I think I'll send you down to the isolation cell - but there's your age and you seem to be an educated woman.' Sometimes he shouted but most of the time he pretended to be polite. Finally he said to me how could such a good woman produce such bad children and I gave him the appropriate answer. And then he asked me to make a denunciation of them. And so again I gave him the appropriate answer and I said 'How can you open your mouth to a seventy-three year old woman and say such things'. And he laughed, and then I was told to go and I felt as if my legs had been cut off at the knees. My dear Betty, this has taken ten years off my life, and now we shall have the rest - they will read all your letters. They remarked on the fact that I have given your address to different people and I told them I was proud to have done something to help people to get clothes so that the exiles and prisoners could be dressed. I haven't seen Nikos since Saturday but if I have no temperature tomorrow I will go to see him and take him a little food, poor thing. Thank you my dear for what you write me about the money. I will use a bit for Nikos and keep the rest aside for Tony. I did have a bit of work, but I shant be able to do it now, because my heart is giving me trouble again. I haven't had another letter from Tony. I wanted to telegraph you but I was afraid of them. Now I will not write more but you will understand my position. Nikos is still in the Vourla Prison, Piraeus, and I am trying to make sure that they don't send him back to Crete.

With love,

Asimina Ambatielou"

/It appears

It appears from the above letters that the seventy-three year old mother of Anthony Ambatielos is being subjected to persecution by the Greek police and, as the telegram shows, has now been arrested in Athens.

I would request you, Sir, to take appropriate steps to save Asimina Ambatielou, the aged and ailing mother of Anthony Ambatielos, from persecution by the Greek police.

Please have my letter issued as a General Assembly document and circulated to the delegations to the United Nations.

(Signed) S. TSARAPKIN  
Acting Representative of the Union  
of Soviet Socialist Republics  
to the United Nations

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