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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 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, addressed to
the President of the General Assembly

Paris, 24 November 1951

I have received the enclosed memorandum, containing a fervent appeal for peace, from a group of Greek political prisoners. I shall be glad if you would give instructions for my letter and the enclosed memorandum to be issued as a General Assembly document and distributed to all delegations.

(Signed) A. VYSHINSKY,

Head of the Delegation of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

MEMORANDUM BY A GROUP OF GREEK POLITICAL PRISONERS

Gentlemen,

In the name of the living and the dead we political prisoners appeal to you, the defenders of peace. We are sufferers from tuberculosis, and have summoned up the last strength left to us by our dread disease to write this memorandum. Our hospital is 200 metres away from the sacred spot where executions by shooting are normally carried out, and where a great number of heroes and heroines have already sacrificed their lives.

From the day of the first shooting, the execution of the heroine Evstafia Leventi which was carried out in March 1948, to what we hope has been the last, that of Georgios Iliopoulos in August 1951, a voice has been heard from that blood-stained ground demanding freedom, democracy and peace. Those who perished there were men and women who longed for peace. With their dying breath they called: "God grant that my blood may be the last to be shed. I die for the ideals of my people. May my blood water the tree of freedom and democracy. I leave my children orphans, but may my death put an end to the bloodshed. Brothers, farewell! Fight for peace! A curse on the warmongers! Tomorrow, when the bells give forth tidings of peace, even you who are shooting down the fighters for freedom, democracy and peace will cover our graves with flowers."

The fighters for peace and democracy uttered these, their last behests, with their dying breath, as the execution squads opened fire on them for the benefit of the warmongers who hope to prolong their existence by dint of blood and atomic bombs.

We suffered indescribable grief and sorrow when our sick comrades Patrikos, Zigouris, Kouremenc, Tsoulouchopoulos and others were torn from our arms and led off to execution. In their last moments before execution they too demanded peace, until the volleys of the execution squads stopped their voices.

At the thought of these, our lost brothers, our hearts are wrung with grief and misery. We swore to the dead that we would fight for the fulfilment of their hope, which is also the sole hope of all peoples. We promised them that the whole world would hear their last words. We, the living, repeat the demand of the dead: Peace! Peace! Peace! For our country is buried beneath its ruins; the very stones have been destroyed by fire and steel. Thousands of patriots have been killed or have been left disabled and unfit for work.

/Hundreds

Hundreds of thousands of mothers, wives and children are in mourning. Hundreds of thousands of unhappy orphans have been robbed of the love of their fathers and mothers. The peasants are desperate and the workers starving. The economy of Greece has been destroyed. 25,000 fighters for freedom and peace are rotting in prisons and concentration camps. They are dying because they fought for freedom and democracy. Most of them are suffering from tuberculosis and other incurable diseases caused by their deprivations and experiences. We are among these thousands. We know that our end is near, but we wish to use our last hours of life to fulfill the vow which we made to our executed comrades, and with our last strength to raise our voice -- the voice of the living and the dead: Peace! Peace! Peace!

Iannakopoulos, Armiris, Moliannis, Karpouzoglou,
Boumbouras, Kolaras, Evkarpidis, Papageorgiou,
Karadimas, Bairamian, Kastikis, Agridis, etc.

54 signatures in all.
