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THREATS TO THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GREECE

Letter dated 26 November 1951 from the Head of the Delegation
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, addressed to
the President of the General Assembly

Paris, 26 November 1951

I have received a copy of the following appeal which was sent to I.V. Stalin, President of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, by a group of the mothers of sixteen Greek patriots sentenced to death and given other heavy sentences, one of the patriots being a deputy in the Greek Parliament:

"Our grief and anxiety about the fate of our children has become acute. Our children have received heavy sentences, and four of them have been condemned to death and are awaiting the decision of the Appeal Tribunal. After repeated trials, in which the baselessness of the charge and our children's innocence were proved beyond doubt, we had hoped to see our children free. But instead we found that there were now death sentences and heavy punishments. The Appeal Tribunal is now our last hope. The Tribunal must make a just decision since, other proofs of our children's innocence apart, one of those sentenced to death, Tsimbukidis, has been elected and declared a deputy. By what process of reasoning can our children be regarded as traitors and allowed to die in prison, when one of those sentenced to death has been elected representative of the people and entrusted by the community with the very highest post?

"It is time, Sirs, to help us dry our tears. It is time to return the children to our arms. We beg you to understand our profound grief and affliction. We appeal to you to help us and to use all the power and authority of your exalted position to put our minds, and the mind of the whole world, at rest.

/s/ Respectfully
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Respectfully,

Fotopoulos, Marangou, Gapa, Paspaliaris,
Kseftilis, Potamiapou, Hadjisavva, Voudouris,
Tsimbukidis, Panteliadis."

In bringing to your attention the text of this appeal, I request you to adopt the humane approach taken at the third and fourth sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations to the question of the protection of victims of the political terror in Greece, and through the United Nations to take timely steps to save the lives of the condemned Greek patriots.

I also request you to give directions for this letter 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
